

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Minutes

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Conference Room B
390 Lincoln Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

7:30 pm

Present

Radha Gargeya, Chair; Patricia Mostue, Vice-Chair; Ellen Joachim, and Carole Kasper. Craig Gruber and Kevin Matthews were absent.

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Paula Myers, TA Co-President; Virginia Blake, Coordinator of Curriculum, Scheduling and Assessment. LS Seniors: Jack Hawk and Arial Liu and their mothers. Also present Sudbury Public School parents: Sarah Olson Liberman, Stacie Gulko and Krati Jhaveri.

Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations, was absent.

Call to Order - 7:32pm

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes for September 11, 2018
On a motion from Patty Mostue and seconded by Carole Kasper, the Minutes from September 11, 2108 were approved. All were in favor; there was no discussion.
- Approval of Minutes for September 26, 2018
Approval postponed to 10/23/18 meeting so that all edits can be made.

Presentation

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents 2018 Certificates of Academic Excellence to Aria Liu and Jack Hawk - Bella Wong opened with announcing that tonight's meeting is a special night for the School Committee. We honor two seniors who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of academic excellence during their high school career: Jack Hawk and Aria Liu. She noted that both Jack and Aria have impressive academic achievements but also have contributed in many ways to our school and community. Bella read the below biographies of each student and then presented them with their certificates on behalf of the committee.

Jack has maintained a perfect 4.0 throughout his career at LS in the most rigorous classes offered. He is known as a student who appreciates differing opinions, is inspired by alternate points of view, and surrounds himself with others who share a love of learning. Jack has completed the requirements to become an Eagle Scout and has been involved in the Mentors in Violence Prevention Program at LS as well as working as a peer mediator. Additionally, Jack is completing the requirements for the LS Global Scholar

Program. At LS, Jack is the current Captain of the LS Varsity Volleyball team. He has been a member of the team for all 4 years.

In the summer of 2017, Jack travelled to North Ghana to assist in building a school for local disabled children. Last summer, Jack worked as the only high school intern at the Athinoula A. Martinos center for Biomedical Imaging which is a cooperative endeavor run by MGH, Harvard, and MIT assisting post-doctoral candidates with 3D printing, building circuits and designing coils for cutting edge MRI technology.

Aria Liu has worked hard at LS, taking its most demanding classes while participating in competitive gymnastics and dancing for 3 of her 4 years in high school. Aria has developed impressive time management skills which are coupled with hard work and a determination to make the most of every moment.

Despite the dual time commitment of academics and gymnastics/dance, Aria has found particularly rewarding her volunteer work with a therapeutic equine program called Friends for Tomorrow that provides horseback riding for disabled children or children recovering from long-term illnesses. She has also been a teaching assistant at the Acton Chinese School for several years. Her hopes for the future include work in the biomedical engineering field. She hopes to study medicine and engage in research that will assist those who suffer from chronic pain. Aria is also a skilled pianist.

Congratulations to both Aria and Jack.

Radha Gargeya introduced Virginia Blake, Coordinator of Curriculum, Scheduling and Assessment who presented on ED&E (Educational Development & Evaluation) and MCAS results.

2018-19 Educational Development & Evaluation - Ginny expressed that the building was so active over the summer due to the 70 workshops offered to faculty and staff. The ED&E programs included both departmental and interdepartmental courses. The majority of programs offered addressed new course development, curriculum redesign and revision. These programs allow LS teachers to develop and maintain a living, breathing curriculum, one that's constantly evolving. Teachers are always rethinking and updating their curriculum; this is what keeps the teachers vital and the students challenged. Ginny gave some examples of the sessions offered. Carol Kasper asked if teachers have time to share with colleagues what they've taken away from the ED&E course. Ginny said yes they share in a variety of ways: through faculty meetings, interdepartmental meetings and also during planning time throughout the year.

MCAS results and Accountability Level - Ginny then moved on to review the MCAS test results and Accountability Level reports. The MCAS and the resulting reports have been revamped and everything is new. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DSE) tools have vastly improved, especially in the way districts can analyze

Accountability Percentage	86	Progress toward improvement targets	60% - Partially meeting targets
Reason for classification		Partially meeting targets	
Overall classification		Not requiring assistance or intervention	

Accountability Information

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

Our overall classification based on the new standards is *Not requiring assistance or intervention*.

Ginny reviewed the new accountability indicators for high schools which are: Absenteeism and Advanced Course Completion. Each indicator is given points from 0-4, based on progress toward target for both the aggregate and the lowest performing students.

Our overall classification based on the new standards is *Not requiring assistance or intervention*.
Ginny reviewed the new accountability indicators for high schools which are: Absenteeism and Advanced Course Completion. Each indicator is given points from 0-4, based on progress toward target for both the aggregate and the lowest performing students.
Ginny moved on to discussing the New Accountability Standards. She said DESB has discontinued Accountability and Assistance Levels 1-5. The new focus is on raising the performance of each school's lowest performing students. The new standards look to close gaps by raising the achievement floor. It is really evaluating the curriculum versus individual performance. Bella Wong interjected that the new standards are very different than before. Last year we achieved a Level 1 status based on a range of scores of a group of students. The new system is looking at the lowest scores. Bella said that Ginny has done a fantastic job getting ready for the new standards. She's participated in many courses and training sessions. Because of the complexity of the new program, we can't compare the new results with what we were evaluated on before. The new standards look at school performance beyond test scores.

New Accountability Standards

based test.
2020 & 2021, the Science and Technology/Engineering tests will move to the computer-graders have already experienced this version of the MCAS when they were 8th graders. In totally computer based. It will be our first time overseeing this type of test. The 10th This coming Spring, 2019, the Math and EL MCAS administered to the 10th graders will be having DESB dictate the numbers to us.
down to the student level, which is a great tool. We are in charge of the tools rather than publicly available. Ginny answered yes it is but on a district level. However, she has access comparing data and collaboration with other schools. Radha Gargaya asked if the data is can be used to examine the data. Participating on this committee is a great opportunity for focus of their last two meetings was on understanding the analytical tools and how they results and learn from them. Ginny is a member of the BDCO Advisory Committee, and the where we need improvement. It also lets us look at other districts and compare their their scores. It now provides us with the opportunity to see what we are doing well and

performance gave rise to a wonderful discussion afterwards. And so Shepard's year student at Harvard. She was enthralled, and given her open-mindedness, the homosexuality is in the air one breathes, the smog, as Tatum said...she is now a first-year student at Harvard. She was enthralled, and given her open-mindedness, the story continues to make changes, we hope." Bella also added that it was recently

- The Laramie Project was performed on Friday evening, October 12th. It was a moving and impactful performance which included LS staff and students. Math teacher, Erica Willen wrote this in response to seeing the performance, "I am so grateful that our LGBTQ students see their history honored and discussed in this way. I brought one of my students from Tanzania, where a loathing of homosexuality is in the air one breathes, the smog, as Tatum said...she is now a first-year student at Harvard. She was enthralled, and given her open-mindedness, the story continues to make changes, we hope." Bella also added that it was recently
- Science teachers B] Pegrum and Kevin O'Grady along with 30, 9th grade Earth Science students visited Block Island on Friday, October 5th, for a day of geologizing, releasing newly-banded birds, and exploring an historic lighthouse.
- The Sudbury League of Women Voters registered LS students for voting on October 10th during lunch block and ACA block. A total of 57 students (50 Sudbury; 4 Boston; 3 Lincoln) were registered. Of the students registered, 19 are currently 18 years old or will be before the elections on November 6th. The deadline for voter registration is October 17th. Bella particularly wanted to acknowledge the MLK Project for creating a moving and inspirational voting display in the AB connector that illustrated voting milestones and conflicts through US history.

Recognitions – Bella recapped recent LS activities that she wanted to recognize.

Science teachers B] Pegrum and Kevin O'Grady along with 30, 9th grade Earth Science students visited Block Island on Friday, October 5th, for a day of geologizing, releasing newly-banded birds, and exploring an historic lighthouse.

The Sudbury League of Women Voters registered LS students for voting on October 10th during lunch block and ACA block. A total of 57 students (50 Sudbury; 4 Boston; 3 Lincoln) were registered. Of the students registered, 19 are currently 18 years old or will be before the elections on November 6th. The deadline for voter registration is October 17th. Bella particularly wanted to acknowledge the MLK Project for creating a moving and inspirational voting display in the AB connector that illustrated voting milestones and conflicts through US history.

Project for creating a moving and inspirational voting display in the AB connector that illustrated voting milestones and conflicts through US history.

Project for creating a moving and inspirational voting display in the AB connector that illustrated voting milestones and conflicts through US history.

Project for creating a moving and inspirational voting display in the AB connector that illustrated voting milestones and conflicts through US history.

Project for creating a moving and inspirational voting display in the AB connector that illustrated voting milestones and conflicts through US history.

Project for creating a moving and inspirational voting display in the AB connector that illustrated voting milestones and conflicts through US history.

announced that on October 26th, Matthew Shepard's remains will be buried in a secluded niche of the Washington National Cathedral, in Washington, D.C. Radha Gargeya shared that he was in attendance and that the performance was so moving the audience sat in silence after it concluded digesting the powerful message of the story.

- Sixteen German Exchange students arrived on Friday, October 12th, 2018 from Gymnasium Vilschofen, accompanied by teachers Christian Grobe and Martin Matzinger. They will be with us until November 2nd. Joan Campbell, Department Coordinator for World Languages, organizes this yearly event.
- Thirty-one LS students have been awarded Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program for outstanding performance on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in 2017. Congratulations to the following students: Karen Allen, Lucas Block, Chloe Bridgemohan, Nicholas Carter, Abigail Chittenden, Emma Christman, Emily Cohen, Ashley du Toit, Joshua Ellis, Caitlynn Feng, Seamus Frey, Siobhan Frey, Emily Hyer, Karina Jaffer-Diaz, Mathew Joachim, Nicole Keller, Connor Lachman, Jake Laguerre, Aria Liu, Connor Orr, Jessica Parmenter, Emma Rao, Emma Rits, Brennan Rotar, Grace Saville, Camille Slattery, Jess Sun, Irene Terpstra, Colton Volpe and Steven Wang.

Student Representative Report - No report was given.

MFTCO Parent Report - No report was given.

Teachers' Association Report - Paul Myers, Co-TA President said she had only one item to add to what Bella said about the Laramie Project. Paula wanted to recognize Carly Evans, who proposed that LS do The Laramie Project and she also directed it. The LSB Players, partnered with Project LS and the GSA, to present this faculty/student staged reading of The Laramie Project. In all, 20 students and 20 adults represented by faculty, staff, and administration participated. It was a great community effort. Paula also thanked the School Committee members who attended. On Thursday, October 11th, the day before the main performance, an assembly was held for interested classes which included a preview of The Laramie Project. After the preview, a panel of 6 students shared their experiences of being LGBTQ+ students at LS. Over 500 students saw the performance. This performance and panel was put together by Lori Hodin and Carly Evans; Paula also wanted to note that Ginny Blake helped with scheduling the assembly.

Chairman's Report Radha Gargeya relayed that Sudbury's Special Town Meeting was held on 10/15/18. The Sudbury Board of Selectmen at their 10/9/18 meeting reaffirmed their support for the LS Academy by taking no action and not moving the article at town meeting. The article was indefinitely postponed at the Sudbury Town Meeting, which means that both towns have given their approval. We are waiting for the FY18 E&D to be certified before we can move forward with using the funds. On Friday 10/19/18 the Finance Sub-Committee will have its first meeting to begin review of the FY20 budget.

Liaison Reports - Ellen Joachim and Carole Kasper attended the SPS Start Time Subcommittee meeting last Thursday. That sub-committee wants to move forward. Ellen noted that were quite a few people in attendance who were not part of the committee. The sub-committee wants to expand its membership and talked about including an LS representative. Ellen remarked that SPS may move on their own without LS. Bella interjected that no one has looked at the financial impact if only one district went forward; bus costs would be detrimental.

Carole Kasper relayed that she and Sherry Kersey attended the final MARS meeting. Jeff Reilly spoke and provided the group with a summary of legislative and budget updates.

Patty Mostue noted that on Saturday, Oct. 20th, Lincoln was holding its meeting on the State of the Town and focusing on the proposed new school building.

Radha Gargeya shared that he held office hours last week and a parent from SPS dropped in. They had a good conversation about the approach to learning at the high school. A town official also dropped by to discuss LS finances.

Superintendent/Principal Report - Bella shared:

- This year is the 20th anniversary of Thoreau's cabin.
- Bella, Mike Malone, Dan Conti, and Ginny Blake spent the day at NEASC. Bella emailed a note to families regarding the Equity assessment which was given to students during class and faculty at their weekly meeting. Survey is closed now. She is emailing parents tonight about the upcoming NEASC survey. Students will take the survey during their English classes this week; the parent survey will be going out soon.
- Bella expressed appreciation to all involved around the 420 Lincoln Road project. Next step is to start to begin marketing it. She expressed that we can begin to go out to bid on the project. We are definitely moving forward so we will be ready for the beginning of next school year.
- Bella shared that she was in Iceland last week for the Global Scholars program. She visited 3 schools while there. She said it was very informative. She noted that she observed in Iceland that the school had no teacher on duty during lunch and would like to know what their secret is.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Bella Wong stated that Sherry Kersey was not available to attend tonight's meeting. No report was given. Bella did note that Sherry hopes to have the 1st Quarter Financial Report for the next meeting.

Information and Discussion

Radha Gargeya introduced the topics for discussion; School Committee Goals for 2018-19, Tri-District School Committee meeting and a SC representative of the Sudbury Master Planning Committee. He asked committee members to review the topics and be prepared for a fuller discussion at the next meeting which is next Tuesday, October 23rd.

Action Items

Vouchers #1012-1016 – Continued to next meeting.

Other Business – No other business was discussed.

Public Comment - No public comment was offered.

Adjourn

Radha asked that tonight's Executive Session be postponed.

On a motion by Patty Mostue and seconded by Carole Kasper, the Executive Session was postponed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55PM. All were in favor; there was no discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Benhaim