

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

**Conference Room B
7:30pm**

**LSRHS Conference Room B
390 Lincoln Road
Sudbury, MA 01776**

Present

Ellen Joachim, Chair; Carole Kasper, Vice-Chair; Cara Endyke Doran; Patty Mostue; Kevin Matthews (arrived at 8:05pm). Candace Miller was absent.

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Josh Gilman, Co-President TA; METCO Parent Representative; Ron Brumback, Sudbury Finance Committee.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The memorial service for Yoshitaka Ando, LS Athletic Trainer, will be held on Saturday, December 14, at 10am in the LS Auditorium. Ando was a much beloved fixture of LS Athletics for 32 years. He will be deeply missed and we anticipate a large attendance for this event.

The LS Varsity Football Team played in the Championship game at Gillette Stadium on Friday, December 6th. They played valiantly in cold temperatures but lost to Mansfield High School. Congratulations to the team for a successful season.

Congratulations to 9th Grade Student Alija Williams who placed 2nd at the National Association of Black Engineers Math Competition!! Alija is now qualified for the International Math Competition in San Antonio, Texas in the spring of 2020.

The Sudbury League of Women Voters will hold Voter Registration at LS on December 11th and April 29th. The event has been organized by the League of Women Voters, LS student Sabrina Hoenig, and Virginia Blake. The League sponsors voter registration events yearly and will hold an additional registration in September of 2020.

The Speech and Debate Tournament took place on Saturday, December 7th. The tournament was a great success with nearly 800 students participating and judges from 36 schools in Massachusetts. Ponah Gillespie is the Faculty Advisor for the Speech and Debate Team.

Congratulations to Carter Haydon who has been named recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award. Each year the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution offers a scholarship to an LS senior called the Good Citizenship Award. The LS faculty nominate students from the Senior Class which the class then votes on. The chosen student represents the qualities outlined by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution :

Dependability - Truthfulness, Loyalty, Punctuality
Service - Cooperation, Courtesy, Consideration of Others
Leadership - Personality, Self-control, Ability to Assume Responsibility
Patriotism - Unselfish Interest in Family, School, Community and Nation

Student Representative Report

There was no Student Representative Report.

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report.

Teachers' Association Report

Josh Gilman reported on visiting *The BodyWorld Exhibit* at the Museum of Science with 150 LS Students from Biology, Forensic Science, and Aquatics classes. It was fascinating to watch the engagement of LS students with the exhibit. Shawn Lingley and Joan Campbell travelled to the Goethe Institut in Washington recently. Teachers are at the Mid-Quarter mark and Warnings Week. Mr. Gilman credits Seth Weiss with tailoring the system to facilitate the work of LS teachers.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Joachim met with Lisa Koujtkian and Tara Mitchell from Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln Public Schools regarding the Tri-District Meeting, specifically regarding inviting the region's legislators to the meeting. Ms Joachim asked the School Committee Members for their participation. The LS School Committee Policy Manual is now on the website as is the Teachers' Association Contract, Past Presentations, and the Regional Agreement. It is still a work in progress as additional documents continue to be added to the site.

Ms. Joachim attended a listening session which one parent attended. The parent expressed interest in knowing the schedule of the late buses, particularly for students who are not involved in athletics but may want to stay at school late.

The Sudbury Finance Committee discussed budget pressures for next year and concerns for the current budget year. The members of the Finance Committee were pleased with the progress of the LS Academy.

Ms. Joachim lauded the LSB Players Production of *Be More Chill*. She was impressed with the level of talent of all involved.

Liaison Reports

Cara Endyke-Doran reported on the Anti-Vaping Panel hosted by the Sudbury League of Women Voters. It was a very informative evening. The Panel presentation was recorded by Sudbury TV, Ms. Doran recommends watching it. She was impressed with the number of programs provided by LS to educate students in the hazards of vaping. Kevin Matthews and Cara Endyke-Doran hosted a listening session at Goodnow Library.

Ms. Kasper reported on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee which is working on confirming milestones, desired outcomes. They are figuring out their process going forward, with the next meeting coming up on December 11th. On Monday, February 3rd, in Lincoln, Life at LS, a program with veteran LS parents speaking to the parents of younger students, will convene for the 4th year, to facilitate a smoother 8th-to-9th-grade transition to LS.

LS was on the Lincoln Capital Planning Committee agenda at their December 3rd meeting last week. All LS FY21 requests are still under consideration. Ms. Kasper will be organizing listening sessions for January via email.

Kevin Matthews reported attending a meeting for screening applicants for the Sudbury Town Manager position. A finalist will be recommended to the Sudbury Selectmen after January 21, 2020.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong discussed meeting with 6-7th grade parents regarding transitions to LS. She suggested that there be a meeting dedicated to 6-7th grade parents rather than being combined with 8th grade parents. LS' first snow day was December 3rd! The Staff Professional Day was also cancelled due to snow on December 2nd.

Ms. Wong attended the 15th Annual METCO Directors Association Educators Conference on "Climate Matters: The Effect of Race in the 21st Century." by keynote speaker Christopher Emdin on Friday, December 6th. It was a very well attended conference with over 600 people in attendance.

Bid renewal for LS Health Insurance was recently considered by the Executive Teachers' Association to take advantage of favorable financial results if a change was made. Ms. Wong commended the ExecTA, Brandi Mahlert, and the representative from the MTSB. In the end the Association voted to not make a change in health providers. It will be reconsidered again next year. There wasn't enough time for faculty to evaluate the changes in coverage for this year given the short time frame to consider the change.

Ms. Wong was invited to be on a Superintendents Panel on School Leadership held at the Coolidge Corner School in Brookline sponsored by Boston University. All panel members had a connection to Brookline Schools.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

The National School Lunch Program auditor completed examination of our School Lunch Program two weeks ago. The evaluation takes place every 3 years. We will receive their report in a few weeks. Powers & Sullivan begins work next week on the audit review for the end of year.

Presentation FY21 Budget

The FY21 Budget was presented to the LS Faculty and Staff yesterday afternoon. Bella reviewed the budget, its basis on LS Core Values, the school goals, enrollment projections and financial assumptions. The FY21 Budget presentation is posted on the LS School Committee Website. Operational aspects include LS Academy and transportation costs for students. LS Academy has 10-12 students which results in \$391,000 in tuition savings and \$1,025,000 in cost avoidance. Despite receiving additional students out of district, we are not seeing an increase to that budget. There is no change to the current student fee structure. Debt service continues to decrease and the debt will be retired in 2026. Ms. Wong addressed projected adjustments to address the budget gap which includes natural attrition through retirement and reduction in force, actions taken to lessen operational costs, and a continued contribution to OPEB funding for this year. There is a possibility of an increase in Chapter 70 funding and a lessening of the special education budget which may result leaving the level of OPEB funding untouched. Kevin Matthews cautioned against turning toward the OPEB funding as a means of lessening the budget gap of over \$400,000. Ms. Wong balanced this argument with the fact that the students are our "here and now" and with us for only four years and that she would argue for maintaining level funding for programs, despite the potential deficit faced this year. The assessments to the Town of Sudbury and the Town of Lincoln are proscribed formulas. Capital expenses are apportioned to each town. (FY21 Budget Presentation Powerpoint attached.) For FY21, a flat rate set by Sudbury at 3.5% growth over the FY20 Assessment is \$26,712,280. Lincoln has utilized a new formula for modeling which has yielded a

preliminary assessment of \$3,647,523. Capital expenses, per regional agreement, are apportioned at 87.83% for Sudbury and 12.17% for Lincoln. Capital requests for FY21 are all replacement requests.

On February 4, 2020, the FY21 Budget must be voted on by the LS School Committee in order to submit to the Lincoln Town Meeting in March. A budget hearing will be held on January 28th, 2020 by the LS School Committee.

Information and Discussion

There was no information or discussion.

Action Items

Vouchers #1054-1060 were signed.

Approval of Minutes

Patty Mostue moved to approve the Minutes for October 15 and November 25th, 2019. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Other Business

There was no other business

Calendar

Instrumental Concert	December 12, 2019
Memorial Service for Yoshitaki Ando	December 14, 2019
December Recess	December 23, 2019-Jan. 1, 2020
Special Town Meeting	January 2, 2020
LSSC Meeting	January 7, 2020

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Ellen Joachim requested a motion to adjourn the meeting and to commence Executive Session. Kevin Matthews moved to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Jane Roe) because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position and the chair so declared. Further, to review and approve executive session minutes related to collective bargaining, contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel, the deployment of security personnel and/or devices, and/or litigation issues because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position. The motion was seconded by Patty Mostue. Roll call approval taken to approve adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Francy Zingale