

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

**Conference Room B
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School
390 Lincoln Road
Sudbury, MA 01776**

7:30pm

Present

Ellen Joachim, Chair; Carole Kasper, Vice-Chair; Cara Endyke-Doran, and Patty Mostue. Candace Miller and Kevin Matthews were absent.

Also Present

Bella Wong; Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Lisa Gutch and Ron Bromback, Liaisons to the Sudbury Finance Committee; and Jennifer Glass, Chair of the Lincoln Board of Selectmen.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes for June 11, 2019

Vote: On a motion made by Carole Kasper and seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran, the minutes for June 11, 2019 were approved. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Presentation

There was no presentation.

Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's report.

Liaison Reports

There were no liaison reports.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Bella Wong reported an update on the status of the LS Academy. The project costs have increased from \$350,000 to \$850,00 based on an estimated projection. Ms. Wong has communicated this change to the Town Managers of both Lincoln and Sudbury as well as Jennifer Glass, Chair of the Lincoln Board of Selectmen, and Andy Payne, Chair of the Lincoln Finance Committee. She has also sought to communicate with Pat Brown, Liaison for the Sudbury Board of Selectmen. The project has not gone out to bid yet so there is a Possibility that the costs may be less than the estimated high of \$850,000. Ms. Wong recommends proceeding despite increased costs.

The cost avoidance in the first year will be \$630,000 and that is added to the \$350,000 approved from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (E&D). Sherry Kersey, Bella Wong, and Kevin Rossley discussed the overestimate with the architect. Projects carried out during

the summer months are always more expensive and the new design includes an additional staircase and some accompanying demolition. The last two hurdles are a variance hearing and a visit from the members of the Sudbury Historical Commission. We are ready to request bids which will solidify what the actual costs will be.

Patty Mostue stated that the external access to the second floor should have been anticipated. She is concerned that the number of students attending LS Academy may decline, which would diminish the savings projected for LS Academy.

Ms. Wong agrees that the architect should have realized that a second staircase would be required and that projected labor costs should have been anticipated. The variance for the sprinkler system is the only variance that had not been achieved. The Historical Commission has a right to opine on the aesthetics of the project because the building is abutting the Historical District. The interior of the building has been gutted, the exterior surfaces have been repaired and the roof has been replaced. She stated that LS is working closely with the Sudbury Building Inspector.

Ms. Kasper supports the project and feels that the development of the L-S Academy program is a direction the district should be initiating. She requested additional information regarding the \$850,000 current cost projection, as it varies so vastly from the original \$350,000 estimate.

Ms. Wong reminded the members that to not proceed would incur a cost to LSRHS. There are a number of reasons to bring the program as close to school as possible. Ms. Joachim added that if the bids submitted for the project are out of range, then the project can be reconsidered. Ms. Wong adds that the Estimator's total may very well be an estimated high. Ms. Joachim summed up by reminding the committee members that the LS Academy would result in savings on a yearly basis, it would provide good support to LS students in serving them in-house and provide them with opportunities to participate in LS after school activities, and that even with the cost increase, there will still be a cost savings this year as well as a cost avoidance factor. She added that being able to use the building requires the renovations and the LS academy is the best way to use the space. Ms. Mostue and Ms. Joachim were in agreement that the project is highly desirable.

In terms of changes to the project, Ms. Wong has informed all liaisons immediately to keep all parties well informed. She has appreciated the availability and instant response of relevant parties. Ms. Wong is looking forward to the program beginning. The student program during transitional housing at First Parish Church in Sudbury will be well supported by LS, including transportation, hot meals, and a school nurse at a cost for three months of approximately \$20,000.

Tuition savings of \$683,000, cost avoidance of students not in out-of-district programs, and use of approved E&D funds, as well as transportation savings of \$12,000 per student, adds up to a total of \$939,000. Ms. Gutch suggested looking for funding to supplement the increased costs, particularly if the Historical Commission requires changes that incur additional cost.

Ms. Glass thanked Ms. Wong, and asked her to keep the Lincoln Board of Selects and Lincoln

Finance Committee informed, particularly during the upcoming summer months.. The Lincoln Board of Selects strongly supports the LS Academy Program. The Board as a whole has not yet had the opportunity to discuss the increased costs. Ms. Wong responded that despite an additional cost, L-S Academy will generate considerable savings and that student trends will increase the savings. This is a critical moment for starting the program because initial students will already be familiar with the program director, Tracy Lopez. Ms. Wong intends to replenish the E&D Fund. Ms. Wong will keep the committee members and liaisons to town boards informed as the process proceeds. Ms. Wong extended her appreciation for support of the program from the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Student Representative Report

There was no student representative report.

METCO Parent Report

There was no METCO Parent Report.

Teachers' Association Report

There was no Teachers' Association Report.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Sherry Kersey said the Business Office is currently wrapping up the financial year. The pre-audit has begun by Powers & Sullivan. A new staff person in accounts payable role will be starting on July 1st as will Peter Rowe as Interim Director of Finance and Operations. The business official can move budget items within categories for the FY19 budget. Transportation costs are over budget by about \$200,000. However, there is a surplus in retiree insurance budget as a result of a change in the insurance renewal rate which is now lower than the previous year. Consequently, Ms. Kersey requests that the School Committee authorize a transfer of \$200,000 funds from the Retiree Insurance category to the Transportation Budget category.

VOTE:

Carole Kasper offered a motion that a transfer of \$200,000 be authorized from the Retiree Insurance category to the Transportation Budget category, Patty Mostue seconded. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Sherry Kersey took the opportunity to thank members of the LS School Committee, she has enjoyed working in conjunction with the school committee members as well as the town officials of both towns.

Recognitions

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School congratulates Sandeep Shankar and Daniel Cigale of Lincoln-Sudbury for winning the 2019 National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament held in Dallas, Texas. In the final round, Cigale and Shankar defeated All Saints Episcopal's competitors Bradley Tidwell and Evan Pan on

June 21st, on a 13-2 decision, the widest margin of victory in the event's history. Over the prior week of competition, Sandeep and Daniel debated 15 rounds against the finest speech and debate teams in the nation, winning their final 9 rounds consecutively en route to the Championship. This capped off their historic postseason run, which also saw them win 2nd place at April's National Tournament of Champions. For their victory, Sandeep and Daniel were each awarded a \$5,000 scholarship toward the college of their choice.

The National Speech & Debate Tournament is the largest academic competition in the world bringing together competitors representing the top 4% of more than 150,000 student members at approximately 3,500 schools. Two teams from LS participated in the tournament: Brooks Howell and Jesse Sun; and Daniel Cigale and Sandeep Shankar.

The LS Speech and Debate Team thanks Tim Nikula, LS History Teacher, for being coach and mentor. The team has appreciated his cool candor in dealing with student issues as he volunteered his time running the LS Speech and Debate Tournament for the past two years which is held in December.

End of Year ACE Awards were awarded by SERF (the Sudbury Education Resource Fund) to 57 LS Teachers!

Rami Alwan, Kimberly Bennett, Virginia Blake, Maureen Bolton, Mary Brunson, Rebecca Chen, Rachel Cooke, Chris Collins, Dan Conti, Arielle Cox, Sandy Crawford, Karen D'Amore, Colleen Demers, Kayla DeWees, Nicole Digenis, Brandon Dorey, Jen Dubois, Sean Duncan, MJ Galano, Jennifer Garland, Joshua Gilman, Nancy Goldstone, Mel Gonsalves, David Grace, Tom Grandprey, Kevin Greene, Mike Guanci, Caroline Han, Conor Hanover, Chris Herbert, David Hosford, Shari idelson, Amy Jacobs, Tim Jason, Jake Jones, Shea Justice, Nicole Kistra, Jay Levine, Tom Lewis, Tracie Lopez, Lisa Lupinacci, Mark Mason, Jason Medeiros, Hannah Olshan, JK Park, Hanka Ray, Art Reilly, Dot Samsi, Melisa Shen, Matt Skelly, Kathleen Thompson, Matt Warner, Lisa Weiss, Seth Weiss, Danielle Weisse, Matt Wentworth, and Brendan Wimberly.

LS Students are presently in Vilshofen, Germany, for the German Exchange. Teachers Joan Campbell was the chaperone. Students will enjoy a home stay with their German host students and will have the opportunity to visit sites in the area.

Caroline Singler is leading a trip with 4 LS students to Utah to join Earth Watch and follow forest owls to help researchers study the nesting behavior of Flammulated Owls to understand how this species of owl is being affected by climate change. Flammulated means having flame shaped markings on feathers.

LS students will be attending the Global Student Leadership Summit in Davos, Switzerland. The topic of the meeting is Communication with a side tour to Eastern Europe. Shawn Lingley is the chaperone.

Congratulations to Varsity Boys Baseball team who lost in semifinals and Matt Wentworth. Girls Rugby played in a championship game on Saturday and lost by only 1 point (27-26) and they played amazingly well. Many of them will continue to play in college. Sarah Greeley is the coach.

Congratulations also to the Boys Varsity Lacrosse team who won their championship for the fourth year in a row. Congratulations to Brian Vona and the boys.

Information and Discussion

Vote LS School Committee Secretary Francy Zingale. Carole Kasper offered a motion, seconded by Patty Mostue. All were in favor, no discussion.

Vote LS Assistant Treasurer Diane Kaufman, Patty Mostue offered a motion, seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran. All in favor, no discussion.

Vote LS District Clerk Donna Cakert. Carole Kasper offered a motion, seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran. All were in favor, no discussion.

Vote Public Records Officer, Peter Rowe to replace Sherry Kersey. Patty Mostue offered a motion, seconded by Carole Kasper. All were in favor, no discussion.

LS School Committee Liaison positions must be approved. Kevin Matthews and Candace Miller have not yet expressed their preferences. A school committee liaison to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee must be chosen soon because the group will be meeting on July 11, 2019. Carole Kasper has volunteered to become the liaison.

Vote: Moved to appoint Carole Kasper as liaison to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee with Cara Endyke Doran as an alternate. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Superintendent/Principal Evaluation will be postponed until September, 2019. The Superintendent/Principal Self-Assessment will be due no later than August. Dorothy Presser is available to lead a workshop with LS School Committee members the weeks of July 22nd and July 29th, 2019, to discuss evaluation processes. A survey of present members indicated that the week of July 22nd would work best for nearly all members.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2019-2020 LS School Committee Meetings Calendar. The draft calendar takes into account the Sudbury Board of Selectmen meetings for the fall.

VOTE: Ms. Joachim requested a motion to approve the LS School Committee Calendar for 2019-2020. Patty Mostue moved to approve the LS School Committee Calendar for 2019-2020, Cara Endyke-Doran seconded. The motion passed, Carole Kasper abstained.

Ellen Joachim brought up the subject of the LS School Committee Newsletter ***LS Matters*** for next year. It was decided to discuss the matter at the beginning of September.

Action Items

Vouchers # 1148 -1151 were approved and signed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar

Teacher Workshop Day	August 26, 2019
9th Grade Orientation	August 27, 2019
First Day All Students	August 28, 2019

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Executive Session - Ellen Joachim asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session and not return to Public Session to discuss strategy with respect to ongoing litigation because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position.

Carole Kasper moved to adjourn to Executive Session and not to return to Public Session because the Chair so declared. The motion was seconded by Patty Mostue. A Roll Call was taken and all members present voted in favor; there was no discussion. Public Session adjourned at 9:45PM.

To view video of the meeting, please go to: <https://sudbury.vod.castus.tv/vod>

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Benhaim, School Committee Secretary