

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

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Conference Room B

7:30pm

LSRHS, Sudbury, MA 01776

Present

Ellen Joachim, Chair; Carole Kasper, Vice-Chair; Cara Endyke Doran; Kevin Matthews (arrived at 8:21 pm); Candace Miller; Patty Mostue

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Virginia Blake, Curriculum Coordinator; Paula Myers, Co-President TA; Emma Spector, Student Senate; Takia Myers and Monica Singletary, METCO Parent Representatives; Ron Brumback, Sudbury Finance Committee; Pam Jones, Tracy Campbell, India Berry, LS Parents.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

Presentation

Virginia Blake, Curriculum Coordinator, provided a report on Class Size and Staffing as well as a report on MCAS results and Accountability (see attached power points).

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7uWJSaURg8mQTZJS2ZaUXhwU1pILWdEclJIRTIuZEZmV2xB/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7uWJSaURg8maXIsVUd3STBRsk92RHVEMkNYaGFXZ3pOd1ZV/view?usp=sharing>

Ms. Blake reported that overall LS class sizes are trending smaller and a great majority of students received their first choices during the course selection process. The new student information system, ASPEN, has a scheduling algorithm that is superior to iPASS and requires reduced data entry while yielding fewer errors.

New courses that have been added for the 2019-2020 school year are a new 9th grade history course and History of American Culture; 3rd year Mandarin; Treble Choir; science courses Science of Survival and Practical Chemistry; Wellness courses Ballroom Dancing; Fundamentals of Cooking; and Mentors in Violence Prevention to name a few. Courses offered vary from year to year as enrollment requests from students illustrate courses of interest. Coordination with departments based on enrollment requests drives the number of sections of a given course offered. Ms. Blake distributed a chart showing the large percentage of students scheduled for a first choice (see attached powerpoint slide presentation).

Ms. Wong added that the report created after the October 1 enrollment data sets have been submitted is a significant driver of the new year's budget. The second most important factor affecting the new year's budget is the budget submitted by the Office of Student Services which includes out-of-district placements.

Ms. Blake went on to report on the MCAS results which have shown growth and improvement so that LS is currently in the highest categorization at the 94% percentile. LS is ranked 14th among 260 Massachusetts high schools. LS is classified as meeting or exceeding targets and needing no assistance nor intervention. Affecting MCAS percentile for LS are attendance and attribution of students out of district because LS has no control regarding educational progress of students placed in other institutions. The Strategic Skills classes and Intervention work have positively affected MCAS scores at LS. Training provided by Aida Ramos to provide faculty with intervention and strategic skills has also led to an improvement in student success. The MCAS system is being reclassified so that it will be difficult to compare student scores from the previous generation of exams and the next generation.

Ms. Wong pointed out that the efforts listed above have also resulted in LS returning to Level 1 classification from Level 2. LS was listed as Level 2 when Ms. Wong began her tenure as Superintendent/Principal of LS. She is proud and grateful for the efforts of staff and administrators to develop methods, strategies and skills to enhance the academic success of LS students.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Congratulations to the LS Football team for becoming 2019 DCL Champions, as well as winning the D2 North Championship! Congratulations also to the Boys' Varsity Soccer team for also becoming 2019 DCL Champions, as well as prevailing against Medford High School, despite controversy within the Medford team, to win the DI North Championship! The Assistant Director of the MIAA sent a letter commending the LS administration, team members, and students and parents for exhibiting great respect for educational sportsmanship despite the circumstances regarding the game.

As part of our work to *Prevent Educate and Empower students to Respond to Substance use*, PEERS brought Dr. Marisa M. Silveri to L-S to speak to faculty and staff. Dr. Silveri is a behavioral neuroscientist and the Director of the Neurodevelopmental Laboratory on Addictions and Mental Health at McLean Hospital, and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr Silveri shared current research about the teen brain as it relates to decision-making, impulsive behavior, taking dangerous risks, and substance use.

The Lincoln-Sudbury METCO Program took 11th and 12th grade students to New York City to attend the Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair on November 16th and 17th, 2019. Included in the trip was a Harlem Heritage Walking Tour.

Sara Fine Wilson, FATA teacher, is exhibiting her work at the Fountain Street Gallery in Boston through November 24, 2019. Sara's work evokes "the temporality and sense of reach inherent to elements, but often obstructed by their predictable, rigid construction."

LSB Players will perform "Be More Chill" on November 20-23, 2019 in the LS Kirschner Auditorium at 7:30pm each evening. The original production was directed by LS class of 1998 alumnus, Stephen Brackett. Stephen Brackett visited LS on November 7th to watch LS students rehearse, followed by a sit-down with cast and crew to give feedback and answer questions. He directed all three professional productions of Be More Chill (Two River Theatre in

NJ, off-Broadway, and Broadway) and is now director of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* on Broadway.

Lincoln-Sudbury presented the “Break Free from Depression” program to all 10th graders on Thursday, November 14th. The program is designed to increase students’ knowledge and awareness of adolescent depression and suicide. It is an important topic for students and sends a strong message to our community that we care about adolescent mental health. Our thanks to Susan Shields, Emily Phillips, Debbie Aiello, Ginny Blake, Charles Despotopoulos, and the 11th & 12th grade student leaders for organizing this event as well as thanks to the history department teachers whose classes were impacted by the workshop.

Student Representative Report

Emma Spector reported that Quarter 1 has just ended at the beginning of the month. Seniors have been working on early action applications. A number of seniors led the depression workshop for 9th and 10th grade students and valued the experience. Students will be participating in the Anti-Vaping Event planned for this week. Students are planning to cheer on Boys Soccer in Norwell on Wednesday night and the LS Football team at Gillette on December 6th. She reminded the members of *Be More Chill*, the Fall Musical, with performances beginning Wednesday, November 20th in the LS Auditorium.

METCO Parent Representative Report

Takia Myers and Monica Singletary, METCO Parent representatives, introduced themselves to the School Committee members. They are members of the Racial Climate Task Force at LS.

Teachers’ Association Report

Paula Myers reported that Faculty Observation Day would be held on November 21st in which new faculty have an opportunity to visit the classrooms to benefit from watching experienced LS teachers at work. Nurses, counselors, faculty and staff will be participating in the Anti-Vaping Event at LS on November 21st.

Chairman’s Report

Ellen Joachim has been in discussions with Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln Public Schools Committee Chairmen regarding matters of common interest. They are exploring having another Tri-District Meeting and holding a joint legislative forum with our current legislators. She reminded the School Committee members of the scheduled workshop on December 13th at 8:45am at LS. She mentioned a request from a member to hold LS School Committee meetings earlier in the evening. It was clear from the discussion that more thought was required regarding evening schedules.

Liaison Reports

Cara Endyke-Doran reported that the Racial Climate Task Force is moving forward with specific plans for action. The next meeting will be in Boston to accommodate our Boston families. She added that a number of students were attending Task Force meetings.

Carole Kasper reported that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee met on Monday, November 18th and worked with Jay Vogt, a consultant. The Lincoln Finance Committee met with the Sudbury Finance Committee on November 4th and shared methodology regarding estimates of Required Minimum Contributions (RMC).

She detailed listening sessions for the remainder of November and the month of December. Questions asked at listening sessions included requests for updates on the LS

Academy and bus transportation. She added that planning for 8th grade transition to 9th grade for Lincoln students via the annual Life at LS program has begun. She will also be meeting with Ginny Blake to plan the annual Intro to LS program for 6th and 7th grade middle school parents.

Kevin Matthews is participating in the search and review committee for the ten candidates applying for the position of Sudbury Town Manager.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong reminded the School Committee members that the Anti-Vaping Event would be taking place on November 22nd with mandatory 9th and 10th grade assemblies. On December 4th the League of Women Voters would be sponsoring a panel discussion on the danger of vaping in a program designed to educate families and community members.

The school year's first Professional Development Day will be December 2nd and the subject will be LGBTQA+ issues with morning and afternoon sessions planned.

Ms. Wong participated in a Global Education program at Education First for superintendents of other districts. Desiree Butter, Chris Collins, and Caroline Singler attended the conference. One focus of the conference was the development of an agile mind as a way to prepare students for the future. An agile mind is skilled at learning, unlearning and relearning. LS student Sarah Klein will participate on a student panel at Education First on November 20th about the transformative aspects of travel.

Ms. Wong shared that she was a speaker at the recent New England Children's Center which raised \$1,000,000. The evening reminded parents that we all have different learners in our life and seek ways to support them.

EDCO has issued a statement that Board members were informed by auditors of the FY19 deficit loss of a Title I grant, and decline in enrollment in its programs. By the end of the calendar year, recommendations will be made to current members.

Ms. Wong provided an update on the LS Academy which she has also shared with the Finance Committees of Lincoln and Sudbury, our Lincoln and Sudbury BOS liaisons, as well as both Town Managers. The bids for renovation of 420 Lincoln Road were too high at \$1.2 and \$1.4 million and have been rejected. Current research is being done regarding renovating in a piecemeal fashion as a way of lessening the cost. The Academy launch has been very successful with expected cost avoidance of \$800,000 in the aggregate during its first year. Consequently, it makes sense to move forward and enjoy the benefits of establishing the Academy close to LS where teachers can easily provide curriculum to the students there. The Academy is currently located at 144 North Road in Sudbury.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Peter Rowe reported on projected student enrollment over the next five years (see attached powerpoint slide presentation). Student enrollment at LS will slowly decline over the next five years.

Information and Discussion

Ms. Joachim introduced the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation by noting that the School Committee is quite late in providing the evaluation. She expressed gratitude to Patty Mostue for

compiling the summative evaluation and proposed that the School Committee work to refine the evaluation process in the future. There was discussion regarding the goal of the evaluation and ways in which the process could be improved. Members reviewed the report and were asked to vote on accepting the draft document. Ms. Wong thanked the members for their time and care in providing comments regarding her work as superintendent/principal and indicated that she would carefully read the comments and incorporate suggestions into her future goals.

Vote: Candace Miller offered a motion to approve the summative evaluation of the Superintendent/Principal. Ellen Joachim seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor except Kevin Matthews and Cara Endyke Doran abstained.

Action Items

Vouchers #1047-1053 were signed.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes for October 15, 2019, was postponed until the December 10, 2019, meeting.

Ms. Joachim requested a motion for approval of the Minutes for October 29, 2019. Candace Miller put forward a motion to accept the minutes and Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Other Business

There was no other business

Calendar

"Be More Chill" Fall Musical	November 20, 2019
Senior Citizen Thanksgiving	November 27, 2019
Thanksgiving Recess	November 28-December 1, 2019
Teacher Workshop	December 2, 2019
LSSC Listening Session (Lincoln)	December 4, 2019
Parent Coffee with Bella	December 5, 2019
Choral Concert	December 5, 2019
Speech & Debate Tournament	December 7, 2019
LSSC Listening Session (Sudbury)	December 9, 2019
LSSC Meeting	December 10, 2019
Instrumental Concert	December 12, 2019

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Ellen Joachim requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, Candace Miller offered the motion, seconded by Patty Mostue. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Francy Zingale

