

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

7:30PM

**CONFERENCE ROOM B
LSRHS**

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Director of Finance and Operations; Joshua Gilman, TA Representative; Phil James, History Department Coordinator; Conor Hanover, History Teacher; Emma Spector, LS Student Senate

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

Presentation

Phil James, History Department Coordinator, and Conor Hanover presented for the History Department and reported on the innovation of combining the two 9th Grade History classes – World History and Modern World History. Currently 10 LS teachers are teaching the new History class to LS 9th graders. Conor Hanover described the Modern World History class, which is the title of the new combined history class. Discussion regarding the new course began in 2015. Over the next 5 years, a great deal of effort and time was invested in developing the purpose and scope of the course including conferences, department retreats, and departmental meetings. It has been a tremendously collaborative effort by all 18 members of the History Department.

The purpose of the course is to provide a global perspective of history beginning in 1500 through the beginning of the 21st century. The course includes study of how societies organize themselves in order to survive and thrive, how societies interact with one another and the environment and how societies cooperate and confront each other to create the Modern World. Student work is designed to teach historical, social, and geographic content as well as to develop analytical skills. The course replaced Modern European History, a narrative of European history from 1500 to the present, and Modern World History, an area studies course of China, Africa and the Middle East. The combined course provides greater opportunities to make connections between historical events and today as well as provide students with a common academic experience leading to the American History courses.

The units of study of the new course are Urban Centers in 1500; the Age of Exploration; the Age of Empires; Revolutions; Global Conflict; and Globalization. It emphasizes organizing and time management, note taking, analytical, argumentative, and research writing, and

projects/presentations. Media Literacy Skills are also introduced and reviewed with students in concert with the Library staff before written assignments are required. The History Department is very proud of this class and has found satisfying the work involved to make it a formidable class. Exams developed by the 10 faculty teaching the class share questions in common. Course evaluations by students are requested during the year as the class progresses. The department anticipates students creating a capstone project that allows them to follow their interests as developed through the course.

Ms. Wong complimented the History Department for one of the most exciting and transformative curricular events in her 25 years as an educator. It is expected that such a large transformation would take time to accomplish. Ms. Wong remarked that Science is about how things work; Math is a way of thinking; English and Art are forms of expression; and the study of History is what makes us who we are. We have been drawn together in social ways and history illuminates themes of how we organize ourselves, develop our belief systems, resolve conflicts, manage power and find ways in which to live together without mutual destruction. Ms. Wong appreciated the themes chosen for this history course as those most important to the understanding of our shared human history. The challenge for those who teach academic subjects is how to choose areas of study that organize the subject matter. Ms. Wong believes that this is one of the most important classes for our 9th grade students. Ms. Wong stresses the importance of the study of History as an investment in the future.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Fifteen LS students and 3 chaperones spent the February vacation in Baltimore working for Habitat for Humanity on three housing projects involving demolition and installation of fencing, installation of 2x4's for new walls, and removal portions of a concrete driveway. The local Habitat for Humanity organization estimated that the hard work of LS students saved the organization \$10,000 in labor costs. Susan Frommer, lead chaperone on the trip, reported that once again the local Habitat for Humanity was impressed by the work ethic and energetic spirit of LS students. In addition, the students (6 from Lincoln, 2 from Boston, 7 from Sudbury) visited the Einstein Museum, the World War II Museum, the Vietnam Museum, and the African American Museum of History and Culture, the National Zoo, and Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Matthew Baird will be awarded the 2020 MetroWest Leadership in Diversity Award by the John P. Garrahan MetroWest Community Prayer Breakfast Committee at the 28th Annual Breakfast on Friday, May 8th at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel. Students receiving this award are recognized for helping people from diverse backgrounds to feel more included or accepted in their school or community, or how they have increased awareness or overcome prejudice around diversity issues.

Student Representative Report

Emma Spector reported that the Job Fair would be held at LS in the coming week. The World Language Declamation is being held on Thursday, March 5th. LS Boys Hockey has won its game

against Danvers; and Nordic Skiing competed in Vermont. Spring sports begin in early March with an opening athletics meeting on March 10th.

Teachers Association Report

Joshua Gilman reported for the Teachers' Association. Vicky Caburian, Wellness, was asked to introduce the opening ceremony in Boston of Girls in Sports Conference on February 14, 2020. Many teachers have chaperoned or will chaperone students on travel trips during the February and April vacations. World Language week begins March 2nd and continues throughout the week. A Professional Development Day will be held at LS for faculty on February 26th.

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report

Chairman's Report

Ms. Joachim reminded members that the Lincoln Town Meeting will be on Saturday March 28nd beginning at 9:30am in the Brooks Auditorium and the Sudbury Town Meeting will begin Monday May 4th at 7:30pm in the LS Auditorium. LS School Committee Members are expected to attend the meetings in both towns. The Tri-District Meeting and Legislators Forum will be held on Tuesday March 31st at 7pm. Senator Mike Barrett, Representatives Carmen Gentile and Tom Stanley will be present.

Liaison Report

Carole Kasper reported that the next Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting will take place on March 4th, 2020. The Strategic Planning Working Groups will be meeting during the coming week. The MARS Legislative Breakfast will be held on Friday, March 13th, at Nashoba Valley Technical School in Westford. Ms. Kasper inquired about interest in the Listening Sessions for March.

Candace Miller reported that the Policy Subcommittee will be meeting on Friday, February 28th, in Conference Room A to discuss the School Committee Policy Manual with Dorothy Presser and Kathleen Kelly. The next Racial Climate Task Force meeting will take place on March 6th at LS and will debrief on the two Racial Climate forums.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong reported on the Racial Climate Task Force forums, which took place in Boston and at LS and that both forums were well attended with 45 students, parents, faculty, LS alum and community members attending the forum in Boston and 65 people attending the forum at LS. Feedback from the forums will be reviewed and incorporated into professional development going forward. Listening to student experience and responding to the information and engaging the students in solutions and endeavors to improve the racial climate at LS will be a goal for LS as an institution. In March, a professional development presentation on Implicit Bias will be offered using the information from the Racial Climate Task Force forums.

Ms. Wong informed the committee members that hiring committees are active for two important searches: Director of Finance and Operations and a new Associate Principal to

replace Sandy Crawford when she retires at the end of the year. Peter Elenbaas is leading the team for hiring an Associate Principal. There are nearly 100 applicants, which speaks well for the reputation of LS as a workplace. Ms. Wong is reviewing the credentials of applicants for the position of Director of Finance and Operations, and interviews will begin in the near future.

There was no foreign travel during the February vacation. Ms. Wong and the Administrative Team are cognizant of the concerns regarding the Coronavirus. April vacation trips are the Rome trip for Latin students, an Art Trip to be led by Ms. Wong, and the Spanish exchange trip. The trips are under review for possible changes. There will be financial penalties if LS unilaterally decides to cancel a school trip. To date, the CDC guidance does not cover the countries LS students will be visiting in April. Information may change to take into account possible future conditions.

Ms. Wong provided an update to the renovation of 420 Lincoln Road. The current best bid is \$1.2 million so while she plans to step back from initiating renovations, she remains committed to bringing LS Academy to accommodations on campus. LS is responsible for the asset of 420 Lincoln Road; it continues to be something that we must address in future. To date, we hope to draw from our existing resources but the current cost of renovation will necessitate reaching out to the member communities for financial support. Ms. Wong will no longer be seeking use of Excess and Deficiency funds for this purpose.

Ms. Wong anticipates certification by the state of the Excess and Deficiency Funds. Once certified, she will be requesting permission from the School Committee members to use funds to pay for 50% of the cost for replacement of the Stadium Field and the chain link fence. Ms. Wong will present her request to the Sudbury Board of Selectmen at their March 17th meeting.

Ms. Wong reminded the members that the OPEB Trustee Meeting would take place as an Open Meeting on February 26th at LS at 7:30pm. It is an opportunity to understand the factors underlying the aggregate responsibilities of our OPEB liability.

Director Finance and Operations Report

Peter Rowe was not present.

Information and Discussion

School Committee communications were discussed and a suggestion was made that it might be best to set up a Communications Subcommittee. Ms. Miller voiced the benefit of reaching out to the community to inform the public about budget decisions, school start time, and strategic planning to name a few subjects. More discussion will be required. Discussion ensued of changes incurred by the change in school start time, particularly the Boston students' schedule.

Ms. Joachim asked School Committee members to start planning for the summer meetings after this current school year ends.

Action Items

Superintendent Contract Extension of three years was discussed. Ms. Joachim informed members that voting on a new contract for the Superintendent will occur at a subsequent meeting.

Candace Miller offered a motion to extend the Superintendent/Principal's contract for three years beginning on July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Cara Endyke Doran. There was no further discussion. All were in favor except Carole Kasper who was opposed.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes for February 4, 2020. The minutes were approved on a motion from Candace Miller and seconded by Cara Endyke Doran. All were in favor.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Future Agenda Items

Ms. Kasper will be assembling an orientation packet for new LS School Committee members.

Calendar

OPEB Trust Meeting	February 26, 2020
Savoyards - HMS Pinafore	February 28-29, 2020
Q3 Warnings	March 4, 2020
World Language Declamation	March 5, 2020
LS School Committee	March 10, 2020

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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