

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

7:30pm

**Conference Room B
LSRHS
Sudbury, MA 01776**

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Director of Finance and Operations; Danielle Weisse, Teachers' Association; Leslie Patterson, Martha Wall and Judy Merra of the Racial Climate Task Force; Monica Singletary, Takia Myers, and Marie Wilson of the LS METCO Parent Organization; Ron Brumback of the Sudbury Finance Committee; and Nancy Marshall of the Lincoln Finance Committee

Call to Order

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:34 pm.

Public Hearing on FY21 Budget and School Choice

Ms. Wong presented the updated FY21 Budget which included figures from the Governor's Budget.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lpJWSX4prsuSLJn3q3BDzGfuG5mX6xp_/view?usp=sharing

Mr. Rowe provided background on the School Choice Program in Massachusetts and explained that the Committee may choose not to participate in the program by a vote of the Committee.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:37 pm.

Presentation

Leslie Patterson, Associate Principal; Martha Wall, Director of the ACE Program, and Sudbury parent Judy Merra presented the current work of the Racial Climate Task Force.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f4gkWUriJEQxYkNShLx-1nqtpXy7D8QZ/view?usp=sharing>

The task force was founded to address racial incidents at LS and to promote a sense of belonging and connectedness among all students. Its mission is to foster a racial climate that is safe and respectful and to support full and equitable access to the entire curriculum and co-curriculum experiences for all LS students. Goals include narrowing achievement gaps, cultivating community, and improving the connectedness among identity groups to improve student feelings of safety and belonging. Additional goals focus on recruiting, hiring and retaining educators of color, providing professional development for staff, listening to students and responding to their experiences, and fostering family/community engagement.

To augment professional development for faculty and staff, there will be a presentation by Keith Maddox and Sam Summers regarding implicit bias in March. Additionally, two faculty meetings

per year will be devoted to continued professional development on race related topics. To foster family/community engagement, the task force has included parents and students on the Committee to actively support the mission of the task force. Parent Judy Merra eloquently encouraged all parents to be open to the efforts of improving the racial climate at LS because it does affect all students in ways that are not always obvious.

The task force has arranged for Richard Cole to present findings of the racial climate survey to parents in Boston on February 6th and at LS on February 13th. All families and students are encouraged to attend one of the presentations.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Recognitions

The Seventh Annual Winter One-Acts were presented on January 31 and February 1 in the Rogers Theatre. "Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit," directed by Kathryn Kimble, is a hilarious parody of crime TV shows and fairy tales. "The Other Room," directed by Marisa Singh, takes a peek inside the mind of Austin, a high school student on the autism spectrum.

Student Representative Report

There was no Student Representative Report

METCO Parent Representative Report

Monica Singletary reported that the Boston parents have been discussing possible ramifications to Boston students of the change in school start time, which will go into effect beginning in September 2020. Traffic concerns dominated the discussion. If Boston students left later in the morning, increased traffic might prove problematic in getting to school on time. Yet if the student transportation kept the present schedule, the Boston students would need support at LS for the time they were at school before the school day started. Ms. Singletary inquired whether it would be possible to arrange tutoring, breakfast, supervised study for the Boston students each morning. Questions also arose concerning the late bus schedules. Ms. Wong requested that questions and concerns be sent to her and that there be occasions for discussion with Boston parents to make the transition a smooth one.

Teachers' Association Report

Danielle Weisse reported that the faculty is busy completing grading for Semester I and has prepared for the beginning of Semester II. She commended the faculty for the tasks that they routinely shouldered for student's benefit including Shea Justice's Memory Project in which LS students and faculty completed portraits of students in Malaysia; Dan Lewis' Outdoor Club field trip to Sunday River; Ponah Gillespie's work on a Chinese Student Exchange Program; National Math Competitions organized by teachers in the Math Department for LS students; and the Christmas Tree pickup fundraiser organized by Kathleen Thompson and Shari Idelson to name just a few.

Chairman's Report

Ellen Joachim reported on the meeting of the Evaluation Subcommittee and plans for the coming year as well as proposed changes in the process. The Master Plan Steering Committee is meeting in Sudbury over the next four weeks regarding social services; traffic; economic development; and housing. Meetings take place on Fridays at 8:45am at the Sudbury Police Station. She reminded School Committee members of the Lincoln Budget Workshop scheduled for January 29th at 7:30pm.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Kasper reported on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee meetings and the intention of the Committee to include the strategic goals reported in the NEASC study. The next meeting will be on February 12, 2020.

The Safety Council met on January 13th to discuss the findings of the Metrowest Youth Health Survey. There are a number of connections to the efforts of the Safety Council and the school goal of ensuring the connectedness of all LS students. The Safety Council will meet again later in the spring.

Ms. Kasper reported that the transition meetings for 6th and 7th grade students were successful and complemented Virginia Blake and Bella Wong for their addresses to the parents. The 8th grade parent night at LS will be held on March 12, 2020.

Ms. Kasper reported that the listening sessions included questions and discussions of the FY21 Budget and concerns that the music and art programs continue to be supported at the current level.

Candace Miller reported on progress regarding the School Committee Policy Manual and discussions held with Dorothy Presser. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees offers a policy manual that may be the most efficient and effective way to update the Policy Manual. The total cost is \$10,500 divided over three years (\$3500/year). Ms. Miller has invited Ms. Presser to come to an upcoming School Committee meeting to give the Committee more information.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong reported on the warrant articles that may be submitted for the Sudbury Town Meeting as place holders. Ms. Wong also brought the School Committee Members' attention to her memorandum on the OPEB liability. There will be a meeting of the OPEB Trust on February 26, 2020 and Ms. Wong encouraged School Committee members to attend.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Peter Rowe reported on the Q2 Expenditure Report which projected a surplus of \$163,000. Changes since the Q1 report included a more positive outcome on health insurance, an increase in out of district placements, and increased costs related to salaries of two additional personnel.

Mr. Rowe called the members' attention to the "Cherry Sheet" and a revised page 16 for FY21 Budget that reflected the information from the Governor's Budget.

The Action Plan submitted by LS for the National School Lunch Program audit was accepted.

Information and Discussion

There was no information and discussion.

Action Items

Vouchers were signed.

VOTE: Cara Endyke Doran moved to approve the 2020-2021 LS School Calendar. Carole Kasper seconded the motion. All were in favor.

VOTE: Patty Mostue offered a motion to accept the revised Superintendent evaluation as amended. Carole Kasper seconded the motion. Four were in favor. Cara Endyke Doran abstained.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes for December 13, 2019 were tabled until the meeting on February 4, 2020. The Minutes for November 19, 2019, and for January 7, 2020 were approved on a motion from Kevin Matthews, seconded by Cara Endyke Doran. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Future Agenda Items

Information packet for new School Committee Members
Community communications

Calendar

One-Act Plays LSB Players	Jan. 31-Feb 1,, 2020
Life at LS	February 3, 2020
LS School Committee Meeting	February 4, 2020
Last day to file Intention to Run LS School Committee	February 6, 2020
Last day to submit Nomination Papers to Registrar	February 10, 2020
College Admissions Seminar	February 11, 2020

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Cara Endyke Doran moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Patty Mostue. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale