

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 30, 2020**

7:00 pm

Google Meet

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Dan Conti and Leslie Patterson, Strategic Planning Steering Committee; Joshua Gilman, ExecTA; Monica Singletary, METCO Parent.

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Public Comment

There is no public comment.

Presentation

Strategic Planning Steering Committee Report

Ms. Wong introduced Dan Conti, English Department Coordinator, and Leslie Patterson, Associate Principal, representatives of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and thanked them for their leadership in this endeavor.

Dan Conti introduced the mission of the committee, which was begun in April 2019 and is tied to the NEASC Self-Reflection Report. The mission of the Steering Committee is to develop a vision of the future based on a snapshot of the present conditions of an institution. It is a roadmap of where we would like L-S to go based on where L-S is now – its strengths and its areas for growth – where do we want L-S to be in 3-5 years, and how do we get there? It is a focused path forward. Our work began with data collected from several big-picture initiatives that informed our process including the LS Portrait of a Graduate and the LS Core Values. Strategic plans are a good way to engage stakeholders and to build community among stakeholders. The Steering Committee is composed of: Virginia Blake, Dan Conti, Nancy Dion, John Flynn, Mike Guanci, Carole Kasper, Tracey Lyon, Dawn McCullough, JK Park, Leslie Patterson, Seth Weiss and Bella Wong.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee has developed 4 Strategic Objectives to coincide with the NEASC Priority Areas previously determined in the L-S Growth Plan. A draft of the Strategic Plan for L-S has been introduced to the L-S Academic Council, the Administrative Council, Faculty/Staff, the Racial Climate Task Force, the Student Senate, School Council and now, finally, the L-S School Committee. The objectives of the Strategic Plan are:

Connectedness: creating a school climate that fosters a sense of belonging and connectedness.
Narrowing the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps: enhance access to excellence and equity.
Curricular and programmatic Engagement: create, maintain, and deliver meaningful, robust, current, accessible curriculum and programming.
Student and Staff Well-Being: Prioritize student and staff well-being and positive self-identity development as essential components to sustainable personal growth and life-long learning.

Specific actions have been identified to be pursued over the next 3-5 years with regard to the objectives. **For Connectedness**, there will be an assessment for a formal four-year advisory program; professional development programming that fosters connectedness and models cultivating community; implementing programming designed to cultivate community for groups that have traditionally reported not feeling a sense of belonging; and implementing programs and school events that enhance an inclusive school climate. **Actions to address narrowing the achievement gap** are: exploring ways to ensure that all students are enrolled in appropriately academically rigorous coursework while receiving effective support; developing a family financial information system; and evaluating current academic support programs as well as curricular offerings to ensure they meet student needs; and providing professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. **To support curricular and programmatic engagement**, reviews of department curricula for relevance and culturally responsive practices will be initiated and homework practices will be examined to ensure they are achieving the desired outcome, a review of the current block schedule and the schedule of exam weeks. Lastly, **to support student and staff well-being**, assessments of institutional challenges and evaluating current integration of social/emotional learning across curricula as well as creating institutional-wide opportunities for mentoring and collaboration among students and staff.

The Committee will endeavor to complete the “road map” for strategic planning by fall 2020.

School Committee members inquired about the extent of access to equity and excellence and learned that it would extend to the co-curricular program including athletics. The Strategic Plan will be submitted to the NEASC as the LS Growth Plan as a result of Ms. Wong’s communications with the Director of NEASC.

Recognitions

Ms. Wong recognized the retirement of Alfonso Abadia, World Language teachers; Sandy Crawford, Associate Principal; Paul Sarapas, former Department Coordinator for FATA; Chris Belmont, Wellness Teacher; Pat Graham, Special Educator; Bruce Millet, Buildings and Grounds; Elizabeth Knieper and Ellen Goodman, Teaching Assistants; Diane Kaufman, Business Office; and Mike Vayda, member of our Buildings and Grounds team – all members of LS Staff that are retiring this year. Sandy Crawford will remain with LS as an Emerita to continue her liaison work, evaluations, and initiatives she has undertaken. We are fortunate that she will be able to add capacity to the Administrative Team.

Paula Myers has finished her tenure as Co-President of the Teachers' Association and Ms. Wong expressed gratitude for Paula's efforts and support of LS in her role as Co-TA President. Peter Rowe, our Interim Director of Finance and Operations, will be "retiring" from LS again. Ms. Wong stated her deep appreciation and that it was so fortunate for LS that Peter Rowe was able to be with us this year.

Student Representative Report

There was no student representative report.

METCO Parent Representative Report

The METCO Parent Board has welcomed incoming METCO students.

Teachers' Association Report

There was no Teachers' Association Report.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Joachim recommended that the School Committee members watch the Sudbury Conversation on Race which was very worthwhile and thanks to Bella Wong for her involvement with the Conversation. Ms. Joachim also thanked Peter Rowe for his efforts and expertise during the past year. The Committee Members added their thanks to Peter Rowe.

Liaison Report

Candace Miller reported that work had resumed on the policy manual.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Our last day with students was June 18 and the last day with faculty and staff was June 19. Ms. Wong offered her thanks to Kathleen Thompson, Amanda Klein and Lori Hodin for their efforts in creating a virtual end of year meeting. There were 186 people meeting virtually. Ms. Wong addressed departing staff to acknowledge the extraordinary year that everyone has endured, strived, supported one another, and entirely addressed needs as they were found. She acknowledged the members of Learning Continuity and Tech Teams for their work above and beyond to prepare for these unusual circumstances. The work of all was magnificent and inspiring. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the Administrative Team who continually step in to address needs of LS as an institution, as well as the needs of students and staff. It has been a year of profound events beginning with EEE and ending with the pandemic. The extent to which everyone rose to address these extraordinary events has been nothing short of heroic. We are caught in an overwhelming arc of history. Ms. Wong is proud and grateful to all in the LS family and wishes them moments of calm and restoration during the coming weeks. She believes that educators have the power and mission to create the best future possible through their ability to shape students.

Updates regarding COVID 19

Initial guidance from DESE, the Commissioner states that final guidance will be provided at the end of July at a date to be determined. The initial guidance requires that LS and other

Massachusetts schools create three plans: 100% students in the building with 3' social distancing; a hybrid model combining in school and online learning; and entirely remote learning. Final guidance on transportation, food service, athletics and performing arts has not been provided yet. Work is being done at LS to examine capacity for 100% of students returning to the building, what impacts will exist for our current curriculum, and what additional expenses will be incurred. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to have students return to school in the fall on a full-time basis. Planning at LS is underway and has, in fact, never stopped since school closure in March. Plans will include input from all stakeholders.

Ms. Singletary expressed the concerns of parents regarding transportation and requested guidance from Ms. Wong particularly in the event that parents are reluctant to return their students to school. Ms. Wong acknowledged that student and family safety was of paramount importance. A medical advisory board is directing the recommendations of DESE to public schools. Ms. Wong also acknowledged that families and staff will have to decide their ability to return to school. Surveys will be sent to staff and student families to learn what their needs and concerns are. There will definitely be a remote learning program for students that are unable to return to school.

Ms. Miller inquired whether there was a way in which the School Committee members could advocate for LS. She also inquired whether there were resources that Ms. Wong can draw on to plan for the coming year from fellow superintendents. Ms. Wong reported that school superintendents actively advocate - the Commissioner to inform him about the requirements and benefits of certain plans for high school students. An example is the fact that hybrid models for high school students are far better when there is direct contact with students each week as opposed to a hybrid model that has students at school on a week on, week off schedule.

Graduation

Graduation will be held on July 25, 2020 at 10am on the LS baseball field. A rain date has been established for Sunday, July 26, 2020. We have received guidance from the Board of Health that includes social distancing of 6 feet. Each student will be limited to 4 household guests that will be seated in pods. Registration in advance is a requirement. Peter Elenbaas has assumed responsibility for graduation.

METCO

Ms. Wong announced that on June 22, in a virtual event, the new LS METCO students were welcomed to LS.

Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Rowe announced that approval had arrived on June 30, 2020, for the 1/12 budget. LS will be able to spend \$2,741,000 monthly for the beginning of FY21. This will allow LS the flexibility needed to operate until Sudbury Town Meeting takes place.

Mr. Rowe inquired whether the School Committee members had any questions regarding payments to First Student Transportation Company for services not rendered as a result of school closure. Sudbury Public Schools will not be offering the company any remuneration for services not rendered.

Mr. Matthew asked what solutions may exist to cover a possible shortfall in state contributions to the LS budget. Mr. Rowe suggested that there may be some level of surplus at the end of the current fiscal year, that there remain funds in the ED&E account and it may be possible to make deeper cuts in certain line items and finally, if the out of district costs trend in our direction there would be funds available to repurpose. Ms. Wong introduced the stimulus funds available per student as a possible source of funds.

Action Items

VOTE: Annual Re-Appointments for Peter Hoenig, School Physician; Kevin Mahoney, District Treasurer; Donna Cakert, District Clerk; and Franczy Zingale, School Committee Secretary.

Patty Mostue offered a motion which Kevin Matthews seconded, to re-appoint Dr. Peter Hoenig as School Physician. All were in favor based on roll call, there was not further discussion.

Kevin Matthews offered a motion to reappoint Kevin Mahoney as District Treasurer, Patty Mostue seconded the motion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Carole Kasper offered a motion to reappoint Donna Cakert as District Clerk, seconded by Candace Miller. There was no discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Carole Kasper offered a motion to reappoint Franczy Zingale as School Committee Secretary. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no discussion and all were in favor via a roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for May 21, June 3, and June 16, 2020 were approved on a motion from Patty Mostue which was seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran. The minutes were approved based on a roll call vote.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Future Agenda Items

Candace Miller inquired on methods to respond to students regarding issues brought to the Racial Climate Task Force. She would like the School Committee to devise a response to student concerns in general and to keep them informed about what the School Committee is doing. Ms. Kasper believes the question well-placed and an important subject for the School Committee to explore. Mr. Matthews added that it would be important and instructive for

students to understand the purpose and function of a school committee. In particular, the subject of school policies is very important for students to understand -because decisions-made by the school committee would affect them. Ms. Kasper also brought up the subject of future dates for School Committee meetings during the summer months. Ms. Joachim advised the committee to hold all dates proposed: July 14, 28, August 11 and August 25, 2020. Ms. Joachim indicated that if the school committee holds a retreat with the Administrative Team, it will be virtual. A date for a retreat will be determined at a later date.

Calendar

LS School Committee Meeting	July 14, 2020
LS Graduation Ceremony	July 25, 2020
LS School Committee Meeting	July 28, 2020

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Executive Session

Ms. Joachim requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to not return to open session. Carole Kasper moved that the Committee move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or potential litigation as well as to review and approve Executive Session Minutes as the Chair has so declared. Patty Mostue seconded the motion which was approved based on roll call. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session not to return to Open Session at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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