

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA  
Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**7:30pm**

**Hartwell Multipurpose Room  
Lincoln Public Schools**

**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; Paula Myers, TA Co-President; Nicole Digenis, Dept. Coordinator Science; Maureen Bolton and Caroline Singler, LS Science Teachers; Harold Engstrom, Lincoln Parent; Ron Brumback, Sudbury Finance Committee

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm

**Presentation**

Nicole Digenis, Science Department Coordinator, Maureen Bolton and Caroline Singler reported on new initiatives in the Science Department. The current work of the Science Department has been to support and enhance the qualities described in the portrait of an LS graduate as well as a focus on cultivating community. New courses include a Practical Chemistry course that is less math-centric yet concentrates on student understanding of chemistry concepts. Engineering courses have transitioned from the FATA Department to the Science Department with engineering concepts incorporated into most science courses. Additional semester long courses new this year are: the Science of Disasters, the Science of Survival, and Build it Better. These courses are project-based courses that encourage problem-solving throughout the semester and conclude with a capstone project. The project-based courses encourage group work, white boarding, and facilitate conceptual model building so that students make their thinking visible. The department is also piloting opening AP Biology to 11th graders as well as to 12th graders. The Science Department has also applied for grants from SERF that facilitate learning and are grateful for DNA Lego Kits, Breakout Boxes, and an earthquake shake table.

Other initiatives within the Science Department include: Community Connections during Celebrate the Sciences in which guest speakers from the community (LS alumni, friends and personal connections of the LS Faculty) offer lectures in the STEM field to students. AP Biology students attend a career exploration conference as a field trip; Science clubs

such as the National Ocean Science Board team, Women in Science, and the Science Olympiad provide LS students with opportunities to compete against other high school students. There are opportunities for LS students to experience science-themed travel such as the Iceland Trip and Earthwatch trips. Science faculty have concentrated recently on professional development with a focus on engineering integration and course design as well as professional development in project-based learning.

The Science Academy is in its third year in which science faculty provide additional instruction or assistance to students during the lunch block. The Science Academy has enjoyed significant use by students.

Ms. Wong added that integrating science, technology and engineering in the Science curriculum has been a two year effort of the department to comply with new state mandates in science. As in most departments, faculty often extend themselves beyond the classroom: Maureen Bolton manages Advanced Placement testing; Earth Science teachers organizing the Iceland trip have developed an extension of the curriculum that showcases the geography and geology of Iceland as the entire country is a remarkable teaching laboratory.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Recognitions**

The LS Boys Hockey Team were scheduled to compete at TD Garden as part of the finals in Boys Hockey. Congratulations to the team!

The World Language Declamation was held on March 5th, 2020. The winners were:

LEVEL 1 = Talia Szwarc

LEVEL 2 = Liza Levin

LEVEL 3 = Max Borden

LEVEL 4 = Esha Dudhewewala

GRAND PRIZE = Maria Hamandi

We congratulate all participants in the Declamation.

The LSPO graciously treated LS Faculty and Staff to afternoon “Sweets and Savories.” The delicious repast was appreciated by all. Our thanks to LSPO.

Ms. Wong commended three LS students who accompanied her to the most recent Lincoln Parent Teacher Organization meeting on February 28th. Francesca Liu, Andrew Craig, and Tamerat Broglio graciously and informatively answered questions posed by Lincoln parents regarding transition to LS.

### **Student Representative Report**

There was no Student Representative Report

### **METCO Parent Representative Report**

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report

### **Teachers' Association Report**

Paula Myers thanked the LSPO for the Sweets and Savories event and noted that the teachers enjoyed the event as an opportunity to socialize with one another. Ms. Myers commended the World Language Teachers who had planned and organized student travel for April vacation and who continue planning for possible cancellation of the trips.

### **Chairman's Report**

Ms. Joachim reminded the School Committee Members to indicate their preference for either April 15th or 28th for visiting classes at LS.

Ms. Joachim also reminded School Committee Members of the Tri-District Meeting scheduled for March 31st at which State legislators would be present. School representatives from Lincoln Public Sudbury Public and Lincoln-Sudbury will address three topics: Student health and wellness; Bus transportation; and Coronavirus planning. The meeting will begin at 7pm and will provide an opportunity for the state legislators to learn of issues that Lincoln and Sudbury schools are facing, particularly the cost of student transportation and concerns for student health and wellness.

Ms. Joachim will be polling members for dates for having dinner with LSTA representatives, and dates for summer workshops as well.

Ms. Joachim expressed her gratitude for Ms. Wong's work on Coronavirus planning including planning and advocating for online learning plans as well as Ms. Wong's communications with the Department of Public Health, our Community members and families.

### **Liaison Reports**

Ms. Kasper reported on Listening Sessions planned for March and reminded members of the Lincoln Town Meeting scheduled for March 28th beginning at 10:30am.

Ms. Kasper continues work on assembling new School Committee member materials.

Ms. Miller reported that the Policy Committee had met with MASC representatives Dorothy Presser and Kathleen Kelly regarding policy manual development. A standardized policy manual from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees costs \$10,000 over three years. Dr. Miller recommended this purchase and that the School Committee authorize Ms. Joachim to enter into a contract for purchase of these services.

***VOTE: Candace Miller moved to authorize Ellen Joachim to enter into a contract with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to update the LS policy manual. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion and all were in favor.***

Ms. Miller reported that the Racial Climate Task Force would follow up on the two forums held in Boston and at LS.

Mr. Matthews reported on the LS OPEB Trust Fund Trustee meeting. The current contract with KMS Actuaries will end in Spring 2020. Kevin Mahoney, District Treasurer, will be following up on investment opportunities for the Trust.

### **Superintendent/Principal Report**

Ms. Wong reported that on February 25th, all schools in Massachusetts were directed to create a pandemic plan for their school district as well as plans for alternative education of district students. Ms. Wong found that the best resources regarding pandemic planning were from the international schools that had experienced SARS. Accessing their plans saved her a great deal of time. A Communications Committee and Learning Continuity Committee have been formed to plan for eventual school closing.

Buildings and Grounds has been supervising closely the contracted cleaning service which has always used products designed to eliminate the CoronaVirus as well as other pathogens. All surfaces and high touch areas are cleaned with care. A thorough disinfection is scheduled for the coming weekend using 360 degree spray equipment. First Student transportation reports that buses are cleaned thoroughly before the first run of the day and before the last run of the day. The nursing staff have communicated with students and families regarding methods for defending against infection through hand-washing, use of hand sanitizers, social distancing and general self-care.

Ms. Wong is also maintaining networks and constant communications with colleagues in other districts, local networks, and the Department of Public Health in Massachusetts to keep up with ever-changing conditions. Ms. Wong appreciated the work and support of the Executive Teachers Association members: Joshua Gilman, Paula Myers, and Danielle Weisse.

A Learning Continuity Committee has been formed that includes Jim Berry, Dan Conti, Nicole Digenis, Peter Elenbaas, Tom Grandprey, Meg Notari, Dan Schuler and Virginia Blake. They will be using the template of the American School in Singapore which was particularly well resourced to create impressive planning and comprehensive systems thinking. The American School in Milan shared its pandemic plan immediately. Ms. Wong has taken full advantage of and is grateful for the shared expertise of her colleagues at the international schools that have experience in pandemic planning. Surveys regarding what technology is available at home for our students have been evaluated and plans are in place to provide chromebooks for students in need.

Conference calls with the Commissioner of Education have clarified that schools will not have to extend past the 185 day requirement. Further conversations via conference calls will be imminent in the next few days.

Students are experiencing increased anxiety which makes imperative creating and maintaining connection between students and faculty. At this point, staff is evaluating what platforms and technology we possess and what our student families have available. Dennis Phillips, our Director of Technology, is exploring use of hot spots and other means of extending our existing platform. While we will not be able to replicate our curriculum, we will be able to offer stability and continuity of learning.

All events at LS have been cancelled for the week and work in projecting cancellations through April is underway. All international trips have been cancelled with efforts to return monies to affected families which may or may not be possible.

Ms. Wong commended the local Department of Public Health for its assistance in guiding decisions made at LS.

Interviews of Associate Principal for West House have been underway with several candidates.

EDCO Update - an auditor has determined that there is an operating deficit of \$900,000. The Business Manager has resigned and an intensive operational review of the current fiscal year is underway.

### **Director of Finance and Operations Report**

Peter Rowe reported that work was ongoing in researching a health insurance bid to possibly replace the current health insurance group. There will be a meeting with the Insurance Advisory Group to present High Deductible Plans. The business office continues to educate the faculty and staff of cost cutting health insurance opportunities. Mr. Rowe met with First Student regarding school year 2020-2021 transportation issues, especially regarding the bus schedule for Boston students, taking into account traffic patterns for the new school start time.

Finally, Mr. Rose reported that he expected the Excess and Deficiency Funds to be finalized in the coming week.

### **Information and Discussion**

There was no information and discussion.

### **Action Items**

Vouchers #1088-1090 were signed.

***VOTE: Candace Miller moved to approve the terms of agreement regarding Superintendent Wong's contract to continue as LS Superintendent/Principal for***

***three years, 2020-2023. The motion was seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran. There was no discussion. Five members voted in favor, Carole Kasper abstained.***

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Minutes for February 25, 2020 was postponed until March 24, 2020 meeting

**Future Agenda Items**

Dr. Miller requested consideration of a presentation on the teacher evaluation process for School Committee members - possibly during the summer meetings. She also requested an update on the new school start time to be inaugurated in September 2020.

**Calendar**

8th Grade Parent Night	March 12, 2020
Junior Music Districts	March 13-14, 2020
Pops Concert	March 19, 2020
Miss'Ter LS	March 20, 2020
SERF College Fair	March 21, 2020
LSSC Meeting	March 24, 2020
MCAS	March 24-25, 2020
FELS Talk	March 26, 2020
Lincoln Town Meeting	March 28, 2020
Tri-District Meeting	March 31, 2020

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session

**Adjourn**

Candace Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran. There was no discussion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Francy Zingale

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