

**Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District  
School Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

**Present**

Heather Cowap (Chair), Cara Endyke Doran (Vice-chair), Candace Miller, Kevin Matthews

**Also Present**

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal, Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations.

**Location**

METCO, INC Headquarters Office, 11 Roxbury Street, Boston

**Call to Order**

The meeting started at 6:59

**Public Comment**

No Comment

**Information and discussion**

**METCO Program Presentation**

A presentation was made by Milly Arbaje-Thomas, CEO of METCO, Inc about the METCO program and the history of METCO. More information can be found at [Metcoinc.org](http://Metcoinc.org)

The METCO program was started in 1966. It is a voluntary school integration program for the Boston area. The program was started through the advocacy of parents in Boston and in Boston's suburbs. The program was a deliberate effort to address racially segregated schools in Boston and the racially isolated schools in the Boston suburbs. The METCO program aims to create an environment where students, parents and teachers of different backgrounds can appreciate diversity, find common ground through shared experiences, build lifelong inter-racial friendships, and strive toward the mutual goal of preparing young people to become global citizens. The mission of METCO has not been fulfilled. We are not transforming our communities for a diverse world nor are we breaking down racial barriers.

A movie on the history of METCO was shared. METCO is one of the largest voluntary school integration programs. METCO currently enrolls 3,100 students. Approximately 77 buses leave Boston every day and bring students to 33 different participating districts.

Today, the METCO program has 4 main activities: 1) student recruitment and referral; 2) student and family support; 3) convening Boston and suburban communities; and 4) fulfilling the promise of integration.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, METCO will be hosting an Advocacy Day in Boston to ensure funding for the upcoming school years.

### **Math Department Presentation.**

Melanie Palma, Department Coordinator, presented an overview of the Math Department. The presentation can be found at [Math Dept School Committee Presentation Mar 7 2022](#). The department highlighted the variety of courses being offered at LS. They also highlighted the new space used for Café Mathematica. The space is in the center of the math department area. It has become very popular, and many students are participating in the Café Mathematica activity. The math department will also be hosting another Reality Fair for seniors. This is based on teaching financial literacy and managing a household as they get older.

### **Student Senate Representative Report**

Olivia Gottlieb was present at the meeting. There was no update to share for the meeting.

### **Teachers Association Report**

Helen Sotiriou shared updates from the Teacher's Association. There were several school trips that took place over the winter vacation. There will be a pop culture field trip to NYC in March. There is a job fair for students seeking summer employment on March 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a field trip centered around team building for METCO students on March 8<sup>th</sup>. LS will be hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night as well. Our orchestra group will be hosting several concerts next week.

### **Chairperson and Liaison Updates**

Kevin Matthews gave an update on the Superintendent Search Committee: The committee is reviewing CVs for potential candidates and will start interviewing candidates for the superintendent/Principal position. The subcommittee anticipates being about to share finalists with the Committee during the March 21, 2023 meeting.

Candace Miller reported that a wellness meeting was held. The wellness policy is being updated and will come to the committee for approval.

### **Superintendent /Principal Update**

Bella Wong gave the update. She reported that several school trips were held over the February break. Among them included the WWII tour.

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

Kirsteen Patterson gave the update. The use of the P-card is well underway. To date, the program has reduced staff out-of-pocket expenses by about \$45,000. The Governors House's first budget was received. Chapter 70 is approximately \$270,000 higher than we expected. The supplemental budget will continue to support free meals at LS. This program has been successful at LS. LS is serving more lunches and breakfasts than it has in recent history. This is helping to reduce stigma in the lunchroom. We recently learned that the Sudbury Public School System will be requesting an override from the Town of Sudbury in the upcoming election. SPS may be making changes to their transportation offerings for students less than 2 miles from their school. Because we share a bus contract with SPS and bus pricing is tiered based on the number of routes, this could potentially influence LS. LS is following up with SPS to get clarity on the situation.

### **Action Items**

Heather Cowap will sign vouchers 1123-1139.

**Adjourn**

Candace Miller made a motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm. Cara seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All four members presented were in favor via a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM. All approved.