

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, November 6, 2024

6:30PM

REMOTE

Present

Ravi Simon, *Chair*; Cathie Bitter, *Vice Chair*;
Maura Carty, Cara Endyke-Doran, Kevin Matthews, Lucy Maulsby

Also Present

Meghan Notari, *President of the Teachers' Association*
Kirsteen Patterson, *Director of Finance and Operations*
Leslie Patterson, *Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Professional Development*
Jasmine Rice, *LSRHS METCO Student Representative*
Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

Public Comment

Maura Carty of Sudbury, MA.

"As a parent, I want to give a huge thank you to Sarah Farrell and everyone else involved in the German Exchange program. I'm sure all of the organizers dedicated a lot of their time in creating a once in a lifetime experience for all the students. There were many goals achieved within the last three weeks."

"We in the LS Community are constantly working towards inclusiveness learning, especially when it comes to learning about different cultures, and social emotional experiences. The LS Community warmly welcomed the German Exchange students. Thank you for making this program truly inclusive for everyone, as well as allowing our students these lifetime experiences."

Student Senate Updates

No Updates

METCO Program Report Updates

Jasmine Rice, *LSRHS METCO Student Representative*

- On Wednesday, October 15th, Author Jennifer de Leon was invited to LS to speak to students and staff about her newest book '*Borderline*', which depicts the life of a young Hispanic girl. After the event, author Jennifer de Leon distributed signed books to LS students and staff.
- In celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, METCO hosted '*Fun Friday*' on Friday, October 18th. There were various art activities, music, games, and food to celebrate the Hispanic culture.
- METCO students had the opportunity to attend a METCO Leadership Conference on Friday, November 8th at Bentley University. Students toured Bentley University, while also building connections with other peer district METCO programs.
- LS METCO welcomes a conversation with the LS Student Senate in finding a solution for METCO students to join the Student Senate. Perhaps METCO will be given a permanent seat despite the Student Senate election votes.

Teachers' Association Updates

Meghan Notari, *President of the LSRHS's Teachers' Association*

- Quarter one grades were due November 6th.
- Congratulations to the LS Athletic teams who made it to the playoffs.
- In the next couple of weeks the LSB presents '*Mamma Mia*'.
- The past couple of Faculty meetings have been informative in regards to education.
- LS students and staff enjoyed '*Senior Dress Up Day*' on Wednesday, October 30.

Presentations

Leslie Patterson, *Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Professional Development*

- [LS Class Size & Staffing Report](#)

School Committee members appreciated the class sizes being determined/arranged based upon students' needs rather than focusing on filling classrooms to the maximum capacity. As enrollment declines, it will become difficult to arrange the class sizes. The committee asked questions and offered positive feedback.

Kirsteen Patterson, *Director of Finance and Operations*

- [LS FY26 Student Enrollment Report](#)

School Committee members appreciated Kirsteen's presentation on the FY26 Student Enrollment Report, as well as this report being presented in collaboration with the previous presentation. It gives insight on how the class sizes and enrollment dictates the budget. The committee asked questions and offered positive feedback.

Information and Discussion

LS School Committee Community Listening Session

Ravi Simon, *Chair of the School Committee*

Maura Carty, *member of the School Committee*

- The virtual listening session on Thursday, October 24, 2024 was a success with seven parents in attendance. Some of the items discussed during the listening session included:
 - Transparency in regards to AP classes; like registration, understanding the process, expectations, and status/confirmation on whether a student has been accepted into an AP class.
 - Are there support systems in place in assisting students through the AP class enrollment process?
 - Is there a protocol for students when being placed on a waiting list for an AP class?
 - Will LS Administration reach out to colleges to receive feedback regarding AP classes?
 - A community member was grateful for the conversation at the last Committee meeting regarding reviewing the LS school calendar in light of a request to add Muslim holidays.
 - A community member said she would appreciate feedback from the teachers in regards to Advisory.

Boston Magazine School Ranking

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Ravi Simon, *Chair of the School Committee*

[-Boston Magazine 2024 Rankings](#)

[-Boston Magazine 2023 Rankings](#)

[-Boston Magazine Historical Rankings of LSRHS](#)

The Superintendent/Principal informed the School Committee that Lincoln-Sudbury was ranked 36th this year by Boston Magazine, which is a notable drop from 2023. He explained that while he does not personally place a lot of emphasis on high school rankings because they can never capture the educational experience of a student, he does acknowledge that rankings are noticed by the community and felt it important to be fully transparent.

He noted that LS has improved in a number of the metrics Boston Magazine looks at such as MCAS scores and SAT scores. The percentage of teachers receiving an exemplary rating as part of the evaluation process was zero this year, however. While a number of schools utilize the 'Exemplary' rating on the teacher evaluation rubric, LS and some other schools do not use this rating in the teacher evaluation process. He further noted that the 2023 and 2022 rankings have this percentage of 'Exemplary' ratings at 38.6%, which is erroneous. Further, the percentage of students attending college is low and seems to be based on colleges voluntarily confirming student attendance to a clearinghouse.

The School Committee Chair presented a spreadsheet in which he had compiled historical data on Boston Magazine rankings which he felt provided additional justification for the Superintendent/Principal's points. He spoke with the former Concord-Carlisle Chair who said that district had similar issues in the last year and engaged Boston Magazine in a dialogue which resulted in the Magazine making an accommodation for CC.

The School Committee discussed the issue and agreed both that the District should not be "chasing school rankings," and that Boston Magazine used inaccurate data/information regarding LSRSD. School Committee members agreed LS should reach out to Boston Magazine to mention the inaccurate information recently printed within the magazine.

Chairperson and Liaison Updates

Wellness Committee Update

Ravi Simon, *Chair of the School Committee*

- The MetroWest Adolescent Health survey (MWAHS) data was discussed, like the correlation between cell phone usage and anxiety.
- The committee expects Sarah Greely, *Intervention Substance Abuse Coordinator*, to join an upcoming meeting to delve into the numbers pertaining to substance abuse use among adolescents at LSRHS.
- Anticipate the mentioned survey being presented to the School Committee on Tuesday, December 10th.

Superintendent/Principal Updates

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

- Students and staff enjoyed ‘*Senior Dress Up Day*’ on Wednesday, October 30th. Students’ costumes were very creative. Thank you to the Steering Committee- Ariel Cox, Jenny Staysniak, Associate Principal Susan Shields and numerous LS staff and students who worked to make this event fun, festive, and memorable for the Seniors and the LS Community.
- On Tuesday, November 12th at 7:30pm in LS’s Auditorium, Dr. Jean Twenge, a preeminent researcher whose work is featured in the *Anxious Generation*, offered ideas for how to help your family find a healthy balance with technology. **For additional details please read the ‘*LS News and Happenings*’.**
- LSRHS intends to host a Blood Drive on Friday, November 22nd.
- Congratulations to all of the LS athletes, coaches and families for a very successful Fall sports season! There were a number of teams who qualified for the postseason. Thank you Athletic Director Dan Lee for holding LS students and coaches accountable on the field.

Director of Finance and Operations

Kirsteen Patterson, *Director of Finance and Operations*

- The FY26 budget preparations remain in progress.
- The Business Office is in the midst of FY26 preparations with current LS Department Coordinators, as well as, the preliminary projections regarding the expensive budget items.

Action Items:

-VOTE: Ravi Simon motioned to approve the “Minutes for September 24, 2024” Kevin Matthews second the motion. Cara Endyke-Doran and Lucy Maulsby abstained. Four (4) out of six (6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes:

- The LSSC Minutes for October 8, 2024 were approved.
- The LSSC Minutes for October 22, 2024 were tabled.

Public Comment

No Comment

Adjournment

Ravi Simon motioned to enter the executive session without returning to the open meeting. Kevin Matthews second the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were all in favor via roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.