

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

7:00PM

REMOTE

Present

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

Also Present

Maureen Bolton, *Co-President of the Teachers' Association*
Damen Kelton, METCO Director
Kirsteen Patterson, *Director of Finance and Operations*
Leslie Patterson, *Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*
Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM.

Public Comment

No Comment(s)

Student Senate Updates

No Student Senate Updates

METCO Program Report Updates

Damen Kelton, *METCO Director*

- LS METCO welcomed 2025-2026 newly enrolled students from Boston to the district. Anticipate an additional "Meet & Greet" in the upcoming weeks.
- Since the mid-year assessments, METCO has successfully operated with two (2) buses, instead of three (3).
- On Thursday, 2/13, METCO provided a late bus for the 'Boys' Basketball Senior Night'. Transportation will also be provided to Boston residents for the upcoming 9th grade dance on Friday, February 28.

Supt./Principal Andrew Stephens: *"Congratulations to L-S METCO Director Damen Kelton for being selected by Representative Carmine Gentile for the State Legislatures' Black Excellence Award. The Massachusetts Black and Latino Caucus will be sponsoring a Black Excellence on the Hill celebration to recognize the recipients this year and I couldn't think of a more deserving educator for this award."*

Teachers' Association Updates

Maureen Bolton, *Co-President of the LSRHS's Teachers' Association*

- Congratulations to the members of the LS Speech and Debate team- Elijah Chen, 10th grade, and Rahul Rani, 11th grade. Both students won the 'Stanford Debate' Tournament. Faculty Advisor- Nancy Goldstone revealed there were 212 teams (including international) competing, this is a spectacular success.
- Anticipate the upcoming 'Math Competition'. Students move through the structured and challenging exams, in hopes of moving on to the 'International Math Olympiad'.
- The MLK assembly took place on Friday, February 14th. There were two (2) LS alumni, and brothers- Christopher Worrell, Representative for Boston's district, and Brian Worrell, City Councilor for Boston. Together brothers were recognized for their extraordinary work throughout the City of Boston.

Presentation

Leslie Patterson, *Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*

Class of 2025 Competency Determination (CD) Information

[L-S Competency Determination Presentation](#)

Prior to November 2024 question 2 ballot vote, students required a passing score on the grade 10 MCAS tests in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and one of the high school Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) tests to meet their "Competency Determination"- CD requirement.

- The School Committee appreciated the "Competency Determination" presentation provided by Leslie Patterson. School Committee members discussed what the intended satisfactory coursework would resemble for students graduating from the district in suffice of the MCAS exam.

Going forward and based upon the School Committee's approval-the coursework will exhibit mastery skills, competencies and knowledge through the state's academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas that were measured by the MCAS high school tests.

Students in the class of 2025, who previously earned a "CD" through the MCAS will not be affected by the change in statute.

However, students who have yet to earn the "CD" through the MCAS testing will have the opportunity to earn their "CD" by satisfactorily completing the district's necessary coursework, depending on the School Committee's approval.

Anticipate a vote of approval at the next LSSC meeting on Tuesday, February 25.

Information and Discussion

Update on the February 5th School Committee Workshop

Ravi Simon, *Chair of the LSSC*

- Tracy Novack from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees joined members of the LS School Committee to discuss the following items:
- Financial responsibilities. [budget responsibilities.pptx](#)
 - [70 on 70 FY26 Lincoln Sudbury.pptx](#)- summarized the chapter 70 law, and how chapter 70 numbers are calculated by the state.
- LS School Committee members further discussed the following items:
 - Initial review of the 'Drafted Protocols'.
 - Discussed/reviewed the LSSC 2024-2025 goals. Specifically, how to reach out to the Boston community.
 - Discussed the committee's goals and strategic planning.

Chair's statement on an antisemitic incident in the LS community

Andrew Stephens, *Superintendent/Principal of LSRHS* &
Ravi Simon, *Chair of LSSC*

[Antisemitic Incident- Chair's Statement](#)

- Chair Ravi Simon suggested discussing/updating the non-discrimination statement in condemning antisemitism. Perhaps looking further into a protocol/policy in responding to the community in a timely fashion in the midst of unfortunate circumstances.

Chairperson and Liaison Updates

Finance Subcommittee Update

Maura Carty, *Chair of the Finance Subcommittee*
Cathie Bitter, *member of the Finance Subcommittee* &
Ravi Simon, *member of the Finance Subcommittee*

- On Thursday, January 30th, Andrew Stephens and Kirsteen Patterson provided the members of the Finance Subcommittee with feedback from Marc Terry.
- Members of the subcommittee discussed the following items: Warrants (defence revolving funds), Revolving Funds, Transfers, and Federal Funds.
- The subcommittee will continue to review and discuss the mentioned items. Anticipate an upcoming discussion with the full school committee.
- Maura Carty updated the full committee on the following new law- "A committee, both Municipal and Regional may choose to designate a single member to sign

payroll. In other warrants, the warrants must still be reported on the School Committee agenda.” The law specifically states, “This provision shall not limit the responsibility of each member of the board in the event of a non-compliance with this section. Instead of assigning a member at the full school committee meeting to sign the warrants. The *new* law states the warrants should be brought back to the full committee to review.”

- A School Committee member suggested, the person signing the warrants can present the report, which is attached to the agenda for the full committee to review.
- Going forward, the quarterly reports which are presented by Kirsteen Patterson will include the revolving funds. Transfers will continue to be discussed for clarification with Tracy Novack, *MASC*.
 - Members of the subcommittee will pursue a further exploration into the logistics of the district’s Budget; As well as which reports are important to view, and how are peer district school committees tackling the situation.

Policy Subcommittee Update

Lucy Maulsby, *Chair of Policy Subcommittee*

Cara Endyke-Doran, *member of Policy Subcommittee &*

Maura Carty, *member of Policy Subcommittee*

- The Policy Subcommittee met on Wednesday. January 29th. A revised Non-Discrimination policy will be put forth to Chair Ravi Simon and the full School Committee to review.
- The subcommittee continued to discuss the following policies- Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, Sexual Harassment, as well as, Research Policy.
- A brief meeting took place on Friday, 2/14 to discuss the ‘Tailings and disbursement’ law.
- The subcommittee plans to discuss an accessible format of the ‘LSSC Manual’ (PDF to Google Docs).

Next Listening Session

Ravi Simon, *Chair of LSSC*

- The next “LSSC Listening Session” is scheduled for Monday, February 24th at 7pm, on Zoom with LSSC Chair Ravi Simon and LSSC member Lucy Maulsby.

Superintendent/Principal Updates

Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent/Principal

- On Wednesday, 2/5 all 9th grade students attended the annual “Celebrating Identity & Inclusion” assembly. The Keynote speaker Ed Walker—Dean of Students at Worcester Technical High School; as well as- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion coach, presented the mentioned topic to students in the Auditorium. The students then had an opportunity to hear from members of Students for Social Justice as panelists’ shared their stories and experiences at L-S. Following the assembly, all 9th graders moved into breakout sessions to discuss the assembly with student facilitators and a supporting faculty member.
 - Later that day, all 11th grade students attended the same assembly where Ed Walker gave a second address that built on their learning from the diversity and inclusion programming that they participated in during their 9th grade year.
- The Annual MLK assembly was held on Friday, 2/14. The purpose of this assembly is to honor someone in the greater Boston community, or beyond, who has dedicated their life to bettering the world. This year LSRHS recognized two recipients, brothers and both L-S graduates, Christopher and Brian Worrell. Both have kept Dr. King's Dream alive, serving their communities by holding public office.
- On Monday, March 10-16, SERF will facilitate a “College & Gap Year Fair” for LS students and their families, as well as those in the neighboring communities. Individuals are invited to join the FREE seminars and workshops with experienced college counselors, and for live conversations with college admissions and gap year representatives.
 - Monday-Thursday March 10-13 will feature daily webinars for students and families.
 - Sunday, March 16 (12:00-3:00) at LS will have in person seminars and a number of college and gap year booths available for students and families.
- On Friday, 2/28- The annual 'Legislative Breakfast' is co-sponsored by the M.A.S.S. and the Tri-County Superintendents. The breakfast is a valuable opportunity for school Superintendents, School Committee members, and Legislators to talk about educational and legislative priorities.
- The LS SEPAC and SPS SEPAC are collaborating to bring "Executive Function Strategies for Creating Successful Students" on Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Director of Finance and Operations

Kirsteen Patterson, *Director of Finance and Operations*

Overview of LS Federal funding

- In consideration of the federal government possibly freezing funding. LSRSD currently receives federal funding for School Lunches, School Based Medicaid Programs, and Grants, such as- ESSA and IDEA.
- LSRSD only receives formula based (not discretionary) grants through the federal government. All reimbursements go through DESE, which are distributed to the districts for local reporting and accountability.
- As of right now, there is not a freeze on the current year's resources received under the allocation formula process.
- Kirsteen Patterson will continue to keep the School Committee and the community apprised of any upcoming changes at the federal level.

Excess & Deficiency Certification

- The E&D notification was certified in October of 2024 in the amount of \$1,093,627.
- The E&D was certified at 2.9% well under the 5% maximum allowed before a required return to member towns. There was guidance established in 2018 to hold 3.5% but during pandemic additional funding provided the ability to deposit funds into the OPEB and stabilization trust funds.

MEMO of Tailings Explanation

- In consideration of this evening's vote- Legal counsel provided the following clarification- "The policy of the school committee to dispose of abandoned funds in accordance with M.G.L. c. 200A § 9A, the district's Director of Finance and Operations shall be deemed Treasurer, and shall adopt and maintain as necessary updates for the implementation of this policy, in compliance with said chapter-Section 9A.
- Anticipate approval for the adoption of the 'MEMO of Tailings for the disposition of abandoned funds' during the Action Items section.

Updated Revenue page for FY26 Budget

- In consideration of this evening's vote on the FY26 Budget, the Governor's House one (1) was released. The following items were included in the FY26 Budget- Chapter 70 Preliminary amount, additional Regional Transportation amount, as well as the required minimum contribution from Lincoln and Sudbury.

Action Items:

-VOTE: Maura Carty motioned to approve the 'LS FY26 Budget'. Cara Endyke Doran seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

-VOTE: Cathie Bitter motioned to approve the 'LS Program of Studies' for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic school year. Cara Endyke-Doran seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

-VOTE: Ravi Simon motioned to approve 'The Adoption of M.G.L. c. 200A § 9A - Disposition of Abandoned/Unclaimed Funds'. Cathie Bitter seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

The LSSC Minutes for January 28, 2024 were tabled.

Public Comment

No Comment(s)

Adjournment

Ravi Simon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Cara Endyke-Doran second the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.