

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

7:00PM

REMOTE

Present

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

Also Present

Damen Kelton, *METCO Director*
Meghan Natori, *President of the Teachers' Association*
Leslie Patterson, *Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*
Kirsteen Patterson, *Director of Finance and Operations*
Emily Phillips, *Clinical Counselor/ Counseling Dept. Co-Liaison*
Loren Puffer, *School Counselor/ Counseling Dept. Co- Liaison*
Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*
Martha Wall, *Director of Counseling & Student Supports*

Call to Order Public Hearing on FY26 Budget & 2025-2026 School Choice

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:04PM.

FY26 Budget Presentation

Andrew Stephens, *Superintendent/Principal* and
Kirsteen Patterson, *Director of Finance and Operations*

[FY26 Budget Public Hearing](#)

- School Committee members appreciated the detailed Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District “FY26 Budget” presentation Andrew Stephens and Kirsteen Patterson presented over the past couple of months.
- In October of 2024, the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury provided guidance to the school district with anticipated levels of financial support for the upcoming fiscal year. Lincoln provided a 2.5% increase over FY25 budget, while Sudbury provided a 3.0% increase over the FY25 budget.
- Anticipate a vote of approval for the “FY26 Budget” on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.
- A School Committee member noted that the Finance Director has historically maintained a 99.2% accuracy rate within the overall budget guidance.

- There was a discussion about confirming expenses unique to regional districts compared to non-regional districts, including employee insurance, pension assessments, and OPEB, which accounts for an estimated 13% of L-S expenses.
- A School Committee member requested more details on the substitute line item when the next quarterly budget numbers are presented to the committee.
- There was also a discussion about federal funding, during which the Finance Director confirmed that L-S directly receives \$448,059 from federal sources.
- One committee member acknowledged the Sudbury Town Manager's future projected budget guidance for L-S, which was presented to the town committees in November 2024, and discussed how L-S could prepare accordingly.

Public Comment

No Public Comment(s)

2025-2026 School Choice

Andrew Stephens, *Superintendent/Principal*

[FY26 School Choice Summary](#)

- 'School Choice' is classified as a statute for an automatic inclusion for students and their families to choose schools other than their local public school.
- Superintendent Andrew Stephens suggested to the School Committee to opt out of school choice because it would have a negative financial impact on the District.

Public Comment

No public comment(s)

Close Public Hearing on FY26 Budget and 2025-2026 School Choice

Ravi Simon motioned to close the Public Hearing. Kevin Matthews second the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The public hearing closed at 7:51PM.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:51PM.

Public Comment

No Comment(s)

Student Senate Updates

No Student Senate Updates

METCO Program Report Updates

Damen Kelton, *METCO Director*

- LS METCO program continues to maintain a METCO clinician. In addition to the clinical intern from Boston College. Both individuals are supportive assets to not only the METCO students, but to the Lincoln and Sudbury students as well.
- On Thursday, February 6th, METCO Directors met with DESE to review and discuss the funding proposals put forth by DESE, as well as changes to the enrollment process.
- The METCO program continues to support Seniors with their post secondary planning.

Teachers' Association Updates

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

- The first semester concluded on Wednesday, January 15th.
- LSPO hosted 'Zen Zone' on Friday, January 17th and Tuesday, January 21st in LSRHS's Cafeteria, during the mid-year assessment week. Students were given the opportunity to engage with therapy dogs, have snacks, and play games.
- LSB Players showcased "The Eleventh Annual Winter-One Acts" on Friday, January 31st and Saturday, February 1st.
- On Wednesday, February 5th, grades 9 and 11 participated in a 'Celebrating Identity and Inclusion' assembly.
- On Wednesday, January 29th, LS faculty met to review and discuss the information planned to be put forth to students in the upcoming 'Celebrating Identity and Inclusion' assembly on February 5th.

Presentations

L-S Counseling Department

Emily Phillips, *Clinical Counselor/ Counseling Dept. Co-Liaison*;
Loren Puffer, *School Counselor/ Counseling Dept. Co- Liaison*;
Martha Wall, *Director of Counseling & Student Supports*

[L-S Counseling Department Presentation](#)

- The School Committee appreciated the comprehensive presentation provided by LSRHS Counseling Department. School Committee members discussed the correlation between the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey and LSRHS's students' mental health. School Committee members also discussed how LSRHS's counseling department continues to address/support students academically and mentally while at LSRHS.

Program of Studies

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

Andrew Stephens, *Superintendent/Principal*

[L-S Program of Studies 2025-2026 \(pending LSSC approval\)](#)

[L-S Program of Studies Changes](#)

- For the upcoming school year, there will be changes to course offerings at LSRHS. The 'Program of Studies' is available for students and families to view on the LS website.
- The School Committee appreciated the information provided by Leslie Patterson. Members of the School Committee continued to ask questions, discuss and give feedback on the Program of Studies.

Information and Discussion

Review 2024 Town Report

Andrew Stephens, Superintendent/ Principal of LSRHS

[2024 Town Report](#)

- The Select Board's office for the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury requested the 2024 Annual Town Report. This report includes a brief summary of any informative highlights from the previous year for LSRSD.
- Anticipate a vote of approval for the "2024 Town Report" during the 'Action Items' section.

Overnight Trip Proposal

Andrew Stephens, Superintendent/Principal of LSRHS

- LS teachers/advisors of 'The Outdoor Club'- Sage Engberg and Dan Lewis presented a proposal for an overnight trip for Friday, February 28th to Dartmouth Outing Club, in New Hampshire. Club Advisors and eight (8) students will have the opportunity to experience the rustic cabin life, while also hiking Mount Moosilauke via Glenclyff Trail. Both LS teachers/advisors have extensive experience in hiking, as well as first aid training.
- Anticipate a vote of approval for the "Overnight Trip Proposal" during the 'Action Items' section.

Chairperson and Liaison Updates

LSSC Listening Session

Cathie Bitter, *Vice Chair of LSSC* &
Kevin Matthew, *member of LSSC*

- The virtual 'LSSC Listening Session' was held on Thursday, January 27, 2025. The following items were discussed:
 - One parent brought up a lack of consistency with the assessment period. For example: The format, intensity, and the ability to have notes.
 - Said parent mentioned how unsettling the mid-year and final exams are counted 20% towards students' final grade. In addition, if a LS student is double enrolled in a subject, said student will have two (2) exams in one day during the assessment week.

Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee Update

Lucy Maulsby, *member of Supt/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee* &
Kevin Matthews, *member of Supt/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee*

- The Subcommittee met on Thursday, January 16th to discuss the following items in terms of Andrew Stephens' progress with his goals for LSRSD.
 - Consistent language around course levels.
 - Completion with contracts/negotiations.
 - Review of the Advisory Program.
 - The launching/revision of the Strategic Planning.
- There are several tasks/goals that continue to be underway in the coming years.
- Anticipate a further update from the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee this Spring.

Wellness Committee Update

Ravi Simon, *Chair of LSSC*

- Substance Use Interventionist, Sarah Greeley recently joined a Wellness Committee meeting. Sarah Greeley collaborates with different departments throughout LS; always spreading great energy and doing impeccable work.
- On Wednesday, January 8th the committee continued to discuss the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey results, specifically the mental health of LS students. How can the community continue to support LSRHS students?
- Anticipate an upcoming recommendation from the Cell Phone Use Committee.

Superintendent/Principal Updates

Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent/Principal

- Congratulations to the following LSRHS students who received the 'Gold Key' award and 'Honorable Mentions' for their creative work in the "Scholastic Art and Writing" competition. Students were advanced to national judging. The National Awards will be announced in mid- March.

Nathan	Ly	10	Silver Key
Gabriella	Martinelli	12	Honorable Mention
Rana	Muntasser	10	Silver Key
Devraj	Patel	10	Gold Key
Christina	Quin	10	Honorable Mention
Siena	Stollerman	12	Gold Key
Alexandria	Taylor	11	Silver Key

- LSB Players presented: "The Eleventh Annual Winter-One Acts Plays" on Friday, January 31st at 7:30PM and Saturday, February 1st at 2PM in LSRHS's Rogers Theatre. The following 'One Act Plays' were put forth:
 - "Common Ground" directed by Dorie Meunier, features several groups of young people as they sit around a coffee shop, attempting to communicate and evaluate each other. These "mini-scenes" are sweet, hopeful, and funny!
 - "An Absolutely True Story (As Told By a Bunch of Lying Liars," directed by Keya Kumar, features an arguing family, each member trying to tell their versions of the story of who is responsible for breaking the family's priceless heirloom vase. Even the dog gets to tell his side!
 - "Space Princess Wars," directed by Sam Varner - if you are a fan of Star Wars, The Princess Bride, and/or Spaceballs, this is the play for you!
- On Tuesday, February 11th at 7pm "Community Connections" will host an event specifically for parents in LSRHS Lecture Hall.
- All seniors and their families were sent a notice to highlight the numerous 'Community Scholarships' available. These scholarships reflect the generosity of Lincoln and Sudbury organizations, as well as local families to help with the cost of post secondary education.
 - The 'Community Scholarship' applications opened on Friday, January 31st.

Director of Finance and Operations

Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations

Out of District budget-to-actual historical analysis

OOD Analysis

- For informational purposes, the 'OOD Analysis' solely compares previous budgeted amounts versus the actual given fiscal year. The data provided are not offsets of the circuit breaker.

Adoption of M.G.L. c. 200A § 9A - Disposition of Abandoned/Unclaimed Funds "Tailings"

MEMO of Tailings Explanation

- In the recent discovery of abandoned funds. The Business Office recommends having this item as an official 'LSRSD School Committee Policy' under 'Fiscal Management' in *Section D*.
 - The School Committee appreciated this issue being flagged and the Chair requested legal counsel opinion on whether adoption was sufficient or a written policy was needed. The item is planned for review by the Policy Subcommittee.

Action Items:

-VOTE: Lucy Maulsby motioned to approve the '2024 Town Report'. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

-VOTE: Ravi Simon motioned to approve LSRSD as a 'School Choice' for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic school year. Cara Endyke-Doran seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously in not approving LSRSD as a School Choice district.

-VOTE: Maura Carty motioned to approve 'The Outdoor Club's- Overnight Trip'. Lucy Maulsby seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

The LSSC Minutes for January 7, 2024 were approved.

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 10:10PM.