

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, May 28, 2025**

7:00PM

REMOTE

Present

Ravi Simon, *Chair*, Cathie Bitter, *Vice Chair*, Maura Carty, Lucy Maulsby (absent), Charles Morton, Jack Ryan

Also Present

Maureen Bolton, *Co-President of the Teachers' Association*
Ellen Chu, *LSRHS Librarian Teachers*
Leah Johnson, *LSRHS METCO Student Representative*
Paula Myers, *LSRHS Librarian Teachers*
Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Call to Order

Chair Ravi Simon called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

Public Comment

- ***Kiyaan 17 Marlboro Road Sudbury, MA***

"I wanted to speak about the Eid holiday to the School Committee."

"I've asked myself, do I need a holiday for Eid? Then I asked my son, "Do you need a day off for Eid?"

"During Eid, the Muslim community fast, attend the mosque, eat, and pray everyday. We have many interfaith religious events where we invite multiple religions. Elizabeth Warren was invited, as well. On the 31st day, when we complete Ramadan, the Muslim community celebrates Eid through feast, and building community with one another. This has always been a dilemma for my son- My son told me that he has to make this decision every year around whether he should miss school to participate in the Eid festivities, and endure additional school work OR miss important Eid activities. This impacts my son!"

"Some districts have recognized Eid as a holiday. This will spread cultural awareness which, in turn, benefits the school. With acceptance being a basic human need, once you have acceptance- you tend to contribute a lot more, and that's something I would appreciate the members of the School Committee to consider. Thank you."

- **Ahmed Fazly Sudbury, MA**

“Good evening members of the school committee. I have two kids attending Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School. I'm here today to respectfully ask for Eid to be recognized as an official school holiday on the district's calendar.”

“For many Muslims, students, and families. Eid is a deep day of deep spiritual significance, a time of prayer, community, and celebration. When the school remains in session, Muslim students are left to decide between their education and their faith. For the second year, Eid al-Adha falls on Friday, June 6th- during a school day. Many students will miss school to observe the holiday. While it's only right, this highlights a broader issue. Our school calendar continues to not fully reflect the rich diversity of our community.”

“Recognizing Eid would not only honor that diversity, but show that inclusion and equity are values we live by, not just ideals we speak about. This would also provide a meaningful opportunity to educate all students about our Islamic traditions, to help build a more respectful and understanding school community. Thank you for your time and consideration!”

Student Senate Updates

No Update(s)

METCO Program Report Updates

Leah Johnson, *LSRHS METCO Student Representative*

- The Senior dinner at the 'Fogo de Chao' Brazilian Steakhouse on Thursday, May 22nd was a success!
- Anticipate a 'Juneteenth' celebration on Wednesday, June 4, hosted by LSRHS 'Unity Club'.
- METCO Director Damen Kelton is currently in search of (student) members for METCO leadership.
- Details of all upcoming events will be announced in June's monthly newsletter.

Teachers' Association Updates

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

- A successful 'Senior Day of Service' was held on Wednesday, May 28th. Thank you Susan Frommer and Danielle Weisse for organizing the 'Senior Service Day' event.
- The Senior prom was held on Thursday, May 29.
- Spring sports athletes are in the midst of competing in tournaments.
- The 'Senior Scholarship' ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.
- The Math MCAS was held on Tuesday, May 20th and Wednesday, May 21st.
 - The Science MCAS takes place on Wednesday, June 4th and Thursday, June 5th.

Presentation

L-S Library/Media Department Presentation

Ellen Chu, *LSRHS Librarian Teachers*

Paula Myers, *LSRHS Librarian Teachers*

- The School Committee appreciated the comprehensive 'Library/Media' Department presentation provided by Paula Myers and Ellen Chu. Paula Myers and Ellen Chu discussed the Library being a safe and vibrant space for students. The library media center helps students develop critical thinking skills regarding technology, and information sources- teaching students to discern credible resources, evaluate bias, and form their own conclusions. This approach equips students to navigate the challenges of AI and social media.
- Paula Myers and Ellen Chu discussed statewide budget cuts, stemming from an executive order, currently impacting Massachusetts' libraries access to databases. Librarians are exploring solutions. Boston Public Library faces budget cuts, hindering their ability to help.
- School Committee members inquired about the Library's cell phone policy, recognizing the library's dual role as an academic and social space.

Information and Discussion

Cell Phone Committee Recommendation & LSSC Feedback

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

L-S Cell Phone Committee Recommendation

- A cell phone committee presented a proposal to the faculty and school council. A decision on the proposal will be made, with feedback from the School Committee.
 - The cell phone policy is under review following a two-year process involving surveys, research, and faculty discussions.
 - Three options are considered: maintaining the status quo, implementing an in-class cell phone system, or a complete ban. Data showed the 'in-class cell phone system'- caddies were the best option.
 - Budgetary considerations and potential grant stipulations are discussed, along with the impact of social media.
 - A school committee member questioned the exploration of state grants for low-cost cell phone caddies, noting past purchases.
 - Other concerns include the practicality of enforcement and the range of devices (earbuds and smartwatches) needing consideration. In addition to inconsistent cell phone policies in schools, noting decreased teacher enforcement over time.
 - A School Committee member emphasized the need for consistent communication, monitoring effectiveness, and considering exceptions for medical devices like hearing aids, diabetes monitors etc..
 - A School Committee member suggested a review after a year to assess its effectiveness. Including gathering data on teacher and student experiences, and the impact on classroom technology use.
- In the meantime, the cell phone policy will continue to be discussed, with a potential vote at the next LS School Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

Policies Under Review (2nd Reading- Discussion)

Lucy Maulsby, Chair of Policy Subcommittee;

Maura Carty, members of the Policy Subcommittee

Charles Morton, member of the Policy Subcommittee

[Policy Materials for 5/13/25 SC Meeting](#)

- The following policies were for informational purposes only- second reading. A vote will take place at the next School Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 10th
 - IJOA_Field Trips and Student Travel
 - DGA_Regional School District Authorized Signature
 - DK_Regional School District Payment Procedures

U.S District Court Decision regarding DOE

Jack Ryan, LSSC Member

[U.S. District Court Decision](#)

- District court decision concerning the Department of Education's attempted shutdown, in March of 2025, by the current administration without congressional approval.
 - Subsequent closure of the department led to two lawsuits in Massachusetts' District Courts, one from 20 states and D.C., the other from school districts, nonprofits, and unions; these were later consolidated.
- The court issued a preliminary injunction halting a Department of Education reduction in force, citing irreparable harm from the resulting financial insecurity and inability to perform mandated functions.
 - This funding reduction impacts various aspects of K-12 education, including salaries, special education, and afterschool programs.
- The district court ruling reinstated the Department of Education, reversing executive orders.
- No appeal has yet been filed.
 - Appeals would likely go to the First Circuit Court of Appeals, then potentially the Supreme Court.

Graduation Ceremony Information and Flow

Ravi Simon, *LSSC Chair*

- Chair Ravi Simon suggested to members of the School Committee to arrive well before the 2PM graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 1st to find parking.
- The Chair proposed a change from past practice: committee members will rotate distributing diplomas to graduating students.
 - School Committee members were in agreement.
 - Chair Ravi Simon will email committee members the presentation order prior to the graduation on Sunday, June 1st.

Discuss Subcommittee, Liaisons, Representatives Assignments

Ravi Simon, *LSSC Chair*

[LSSC Subcommittee, Liaison, Representative Descriptions - 2025-2026](#)

- Chair Ravi Simon reviewed the subcommittee assignments with members of the school committee, urging liaisons to introduce themselves to other committees.

School Committee End of the Year Newsletter

Ravi Simon, *LSSC Chair*

[LS School Committee January Newsletter](#)

- The school committee newsletter, sent in January, was discussed, seeking feedback for future editions.
- School Committee members Cathie Bitter and Maura Carty will collaborate on the end-of-year School Committee Newsletter, aiming for completion by Thursday, June 12, 2025

Chairperson and Liaison Updates

Finance Subcommittee

Maura Carty, Chair of the Finance Subcommittee

Jack Ryan, member of the Finance Subcommittee

Catherine Bitter, member of the Finance Subcommittee

- Anticipate a Finance subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, June 4th at 6:30PM.

Policy Subcommittee

Lucy Maulsby, Chair of Policy Subcommittee;

Maura Carty, members of the Policy Subcommittee

Charles Morton, member of the Policy Subcommittee

- Anticipate a Policy subcommittee meeting on Monday, June 2nd at 7PM.
- Chair Ravi Simon gave a friendly reminder regarding subcommittee reorganizations.

Superintendent/Principal Updates

Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent/Principal

- The school administration noticed an increase in reported instances of students using problematic language, often disguised as jokes, targeting students of color.
 - A community letter addressed this issue, highlighting the negative impact on the school community and emphasizing the need to address such behavior.
 - The goal is to initiate conversations at home and school about the issue, emphasizing that online or public communications aren't truly private.
- Fourteen applicants for the Finance and Facilities Director position were narrowed to three qualified candidates with school finance experience.
 - One candidate withdrew, leaving two finalists.
 - Background checks and further interviews are underway before a final decision is made by June 30th.
 - This process should conclude by Friday, May 30, 2025 with updates provided to the school committee and faculty.
- The Relay for Life club raised about \$169,000 for the American Cancer Society.
- The LS Food Pantry club received recognition from the Massachusetts House of Representatives for their community service.
- Three LSRHS students recently attended the DECA International career development conference in Florida.
 - Over 26,000 students participated in the conference.
 - LSRHS students achieved international recognition in marketing competitions.
- A 'Juneteenth' celebration will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, featuring music, a history lesson by the (retiring) history department chair- Phillip James; a Lincoln step team performance, and remarks from alumnus and State Representative Christopher Worrell.
 - The event is significant due to the recent student growth in the 'Unity Club'.
- The following LSRHS Senior events were a huge success: 'Senior Awards Ceremony', the 'Scholarship Ceremonies' (raised over \$200,000), 'Graduation Rehearsal', 'Senior Barbeque', and 'Senior Service Day'.
- Spring athletes and coaches also had a successful season with many teams who qualified for postseason play.

Director of Finance and Operations

Kirsteen Patterson, *Director of Finance and Operations*

Public Comment Opportunity for DESE: Proposed Amendments to RSD 603 CMR

41.00- Due: 6/28/25 5:00PM

Summary MEMO Inviting Public Comment

- The amendments explained in the previous documentation, warrant committee awareness due to upcoming regional agreement discussions.

Redlined Word Doc of Proposed Revisions

- John Sullivan, Michelle Griffin, and Christine Lynch simplified a Redline document to improve comprehension of regulations.
 - The goal is not to drastically alter regulations, but to clarify existing practices and ensure all parties understand their roles, especially regarding DESE's legal review and commissioner approval.

BESE Public Comment Section

- Local amendments are aligning regional practices and regulations.
- A three-month public comment period is underway, after which revised regulations will be issued in late September of 2025.

Action Items:

No Action Items

Approval of Minutes:

-The Minutes for Tuesday, May 13, 2025 were approved as read.

Public Comment

No Public Comment(s)

Enter Executive Session without return to open meeting

Ravi Simon motioned to adjourn to executive session without return to open meeting to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and/or litigation (#3) and approve minutes from the May 13, 2025 Executive Session. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. Five(5) out of five(5) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:03PM.