

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

7:00PM

REMOTE

Present

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

Also Present

Maureen Bolton, *LSRHS President of the Teachers' Association*
Susan Bottan, *LSRHS Interim Director of Finance and Operations*
Olivia Brady, *LSRHS Student Senate*
Jasier Castillo, *LSRHS METCO*
Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Call to Order

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

Student Senate Report

Olivia Brady, *LSRHS Student Senate*

- The Student Senate updated the student body on a proposal and discussed ideas for school improvements with Superintendent/ Principal Mr. Stephens.
- The Student Senate plans to implement the mentioned ideas and continue gathering feedback from various student groups.

METCO Report

Jasier Castillo, *LSRHS METCO Student*

- METCO hosted a field trip to APEX in Marlborough, MA, for community building and student engagement.
- The Student Leadership Council is in the midst of elections for the upcoming school year.
- METCO Seniors are continuing to commit to colleges and universities.
- The Student Leadership Council continues to gather feedback from METCO students to address past concerns about school delays due to inclement weather.
 - The discussion focused on improving communication, particularly regarding bus schedules for METCO students, to ensure students can attend school despite weather conditions and/or confusion about timings.
 - Mr. Stephens acknowledged past shortcomings in communications and appreciated the feedback obtained from METCO students.

- The recent 'Family Engagement Potluck' on Wednesday, January 21st, at METCO's Headquarters was a success. Thank you, Mr. Stephens, for your partnership.

Motion to Enter into Executive Session *with* Return to Open Meeting

Ravi Simon motioned to adjourn to executive session with return to open meeting to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and the chair so declares (#3). Maura Carty seconded the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

Call to Order

Chair Ravi Simon called the meeting to order at 7:54PM

Public Comment

No Public Comment(s)

Consent Agenda

Ravi Simon, *Chair of LSSC*

- Approval of Minutes: [Minutes for January 27, 2026](#)
- Approval of Payroll & AP Warrant [Payroll & AP Warrant](#)
- Approval of Donation for Robotics Club [Donation for Robotics Club](#)
- Approval of Donation for LS Athletics Program [Donation for the LS Athletics Program](#)
- Approval of Grant for LS Reality Fair [Grant for LS Reality Fair](#)
- Approval of M. Carty as LSSC representative on Health Insurance Advisory Committee
- Approval of addition to LSSC Norms Document [Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee Protocols](#)

Ravi Simon motioned to approve the seven (7) items on the 'Consent Agenda', including the amended minutes from January 27, 2026. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Teachers' Association Updates

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

- Winter sports are in full swing, with Nordic and Alpine Ski teams starting end-of-season races.
- The METCO program planned a community-building field trip to APEX.
- 'Singing Valentines' took place on Friday, February 13, 2026.
- Twenty students competed in a Math competition.
- Sarah Greeley, Brendan Wimberly, and David Hosford brought 27 students to New Zealand for a leadership experience.
- The School Committee plans to visit LSRHS on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

FY27 Budget

Susan Bottan, *LSRHS Interim Director of Finance and Operations*

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

[Superintendent's FY27 Recommended Budget](#)

[Superintendent's FY27 Recommended Budget Publication.pdf](#)

[FY27 Budget Presentation](#)

- Andrew Stephens and Susan Bottan sought approval from the full School Committee to approve the 'FY27 Budget'.
- On Monday, February 9, 2026, the 'FY27 Budget' was presented to Sudbury Fincom.
- The healthcare cost increase, higher than the budgeted 19.77%, is expected.
 - The Health Insurance Advisory Council is currently discussing the increase; the cost will likely be covered without additional community funding.

Jack Ryan motioned to approve the 'FY27 Budget prepared by Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District's Administration'. Lucy Maulsby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Presentation

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Superintendent Evaluation (Mid-Year Progress Report)
[Superintendent/Principal Evaluation - Midyear Report Presentation](#)

- Superintendent Andrew Stephens collaborated with the 'Superintendent/ Principal Evaluation' subcommittee to develop school-year goals.
 - The mid-year check-in focused on progress made towards goals and remaining work, linking these to core values, objectives, school improvement goals, and the strategic plan.
 - A summary of evidence related to the mentioned goals included progress on developing educational opportunities for staff and students regarding ethical AI use.
 - Andrew Stephens continues to participate in a superintendent induction program, finding the consultancy sessions, where superintendents present and receive feedback on problems of practice, supportive.
 - LSRSD fully implemented a school-wide electronic device protocol, now in its third quarter. Feedback from the administration team and academic council indicates widespread compliance, with students generally following the expectations to store their phones.
 - Future work includes developing criteria for advisory determination and reviewing academic integrity policies, especially concerning artificial intelligence.
 - The district continues to work on transitioning to a new website platform for better accessibility and ease of information access.
- Andrew Stephens plans to survey staff before the school year ends for additional feedback.
- School Committee members appreciated the comprehensive presentation of the mid-year report.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Susan Bottan, *Interim Director of Finance and Operations*

- On March 17th, DESE plans to review the district's Food Service operation, including financial reporting and portion sizes.
 - The results of the audit will be shared with the School Committee.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

- The Chinese American Association of Sudbury (CAAS) hosted a 'Lunar New Year' celebration on Saturday, February 7th. Despite the weather, the event was well-attended. The event celebrated Asian cultures, identities, families, and communities.
- February is Black History Month, and while the MLK event at LS takes place in April, students gathered daily to make announcements celebrating Black Excellence.
- 'SERF's College and Gap Year Fair' takes place from March 9th-14th for LS students and families, offering free seminars and workshops.
- On Thursday, March 5th, at 7PM, the Curtis parent organization is sponsoring a presentation at Curtis on "Social Media and Your Kids", open to all families.
- Sudbury 250 will host a major celebration event on Saturday, May 16th at the Sudbury Town Center, and will display and discuss 80-90 colorized historic images of the Wayside Inn.

Finance & Operations Hiring Update

- Anticipate Finance and Operations Director candidates to meet with various stakeholder groups, including the School Committee, administrators, teachers, and staff, before a candidate is brought to the full School Committee for approval.

Update on Cell Phone Procedure

Maureen Bolton, *LSRHS President of the Teachers' Association & Science Teacher*

- Maureen discussed the successful implementation of a school-wide expectation regarding cell phone use, which has been well-received by students and staff, and appreciated the consistent support from administration.
- The unified approach has eliminated previous inconsistencies and fosters a more present classroom environment.

Subcommittee, Liaison, and Representative Updates

Negotiations - Superintendent's Contract Announcement

Cathie Bitter, Charles Morton & Jack Ryan

- The Negotiation Subcommittee approved a five-year contract. The full School Committee thanked Andrew Stephens for a collaborative process.

Regional Agreement Review Subcommittee

Ravi Simon, Maura Carty, Cathie Bitter, Lisa Kouchakdjian (Sudbury Select Board), and Kim Bodnar (Lincoln Select Board)

- A new agreement was drafted by Marc Terry and reviewed by the Town Councils in Sudbury and Lincoln.
- A recorded presentation by Marc Terry on his proposed changes will be available for the community.
- An email was sent to committee members and other relevant groups with an updated timeline and information regarding the Thursday, February 12th, meeting.
- The subcommittee discussed the possibility of sending the amended regional agreement directly to DESE council for approval after the February 12th meeting, to expedite the process.
- The subcommittee generally agrees on the substance of the regional agreement, with one exception: how to ensure periodic review.
 - Some School Committee members favored adding a review clause to the agreement, while others preferred a school committee policy, especially since Marc Terry advised against putting such language directly in the agreement.

Safety Council

Cathy Bitter

- At the previous 'Safety Council' meeting, an updated reporting form with QR codes was discussed.

Information and Discussion

Overnight Trip Request: Cheer Team Nationals - March 12-16

Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent/Principal

- The LS cheer team has secured a bid to an international competition in Orlando, Florida, from March 12th to the 16th.
 - This competition, previously attended by teams like Waltham and Franklin, allows athletes to compete against students from various states and countries.
 - The request is for nine students and a chaperone, with costs covered by self-pay and fundraising.

Cathie Bitters motioned to approve the 'Overnight Trip Request for the LS Cheer team to attend Nationals in Orlando, Florida'. Lucy Maulsby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Policies Under Review (2nd Reading)

Lucy Maulsby, Maura Carty & Charles Morton

Policy *Second Reading & Discussion*: [BGB - Policy Adoption](#) (policy adoption)

The following policies are for informational purposes only- second reading. A vote will take place at the next School Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 24th:

- IMDA [IMDA \(Religious and Cultural Observances\)](#)
- JH [JH \(Student Absences and Excuses\)](#)
- BDCB (METCO Representation) [BCBD \(METCO Representation\)](#)

- The IMDA policy, developed by the Policy subcommittee, aims to provide structure and support to the school community.
- The student absences policy is a substantial rework of an existing one, reflecting current school practices for the consistent handling across houses within LS.
 - A School Committee member noted the policy lacked specific provisions for doctors' appointments or illness, unlike extended absences or vacations.
 - A School Committee member suggested these minor absences might be covered by broader language in the student handbook.
- While the current BDCB 'METCO policy' allows for a parent or guardian volunteer, the exact solicitation process isn't explicitly detailed in the current policy
 - The Policy Subcommittee suggested that METCO should determine this process, not the School Committee.
 - Methods like advertising for interested volunteers, similar to the School Council selections, were considered.
- Anticipate a vote of approval at the next School Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

Discuss Communication to the Community Regarding Changes to the Calendar

- The full School Committee discussed and updated the intended communication scheduled to be emailed to the community regarding the 2026-2027 school calendar.
 - The School Committee discussed the timing of the communication and the importance of acknowledging all contributors, including the administration and the Teachers' Association.
 - The discussion revolved around communicating important dates for families planning upcoming vacations.
 - A School Committee member suggested including this information in a newsletter rather than a separate communication.

Action Items:

-VOTE: Ravi Simon motioned to approve the seven (7) items on the 'Consent Agenda', including the amended minutes from January 27, 2026. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-VOTE: Jack Ryan motioned to approve the 'FY27 Budget prepared by Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District's Administration'. Lucy Maulsby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-VOTE: Cathie Bitters motioned to approve the 'Overnight Trip Request: LS Cheer team to attend Nationals in Orlando, Florida'. Lucy Maulsby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No Public Comment(s)

Adjournment

Ravi Simon motioned to adjourn the open meeting. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:46PM.