

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

7:30 p.m.

L-S Conference Room B

Present

Elena Kleifges, Chair; Kevin Matthews, Vice-Chair; Radha Gargeya; Nancy Marshall; Patty Mostue. Gerald Quirk was absent.

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Caitlin Carter, Student Senate Representative; Jeff Barker, Sudbury Finance Committee.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for November 22, 2016 was postponed until the January 10, 2016 School Committee meeting.

Presentation

Bella Wong introduced the coaches of the Alba Berlin Basketball Team who have been guests at LS from December 5th to December 14th. Sixteen German students (3 girls and 13 boys) have been hosted by LS families, attended classes with LS students, and had an opportunity to attend a Celtics game, a BC basketball game, and a game of LS vs. Brookline High School. In Germany, sports are typically club sports and separate from the school system. The Alba Berlin coaches wanted to explore the US model of high school sports teams and felt very fortunate to have received such a warm welcome from LS and the LS host families. The German students enjoyed attending LS classes and were impressed by the close relationship between students and teachers at LS as well as with the sophisticated level of classroom discussions. The coaches were also impressed with the scope and development of the LS wellness program. Our guests were also impressed with the language skills of the LS students studying German.

Bella Wong presented a first run-through of the FY18 Budget to the School Committee members. Challenges of the FY18 Budget are to provide appropriate and comprehensive academic and counseling supports to reach and teach all student learners; to maintain current technology; maintain high expectations for student performance; provide funds for OPEB; and to continue development of new programs as well as contemplate the changing global environment. Enrollment projections predict 1570 students for next school year with a gradual decline in

student population over the next 10 years. Class sizes have improved but 55% of LS students are in classes above 25 in Science as LS is still recovering from the deficits of prior years.

FY18 Budget assumptions include: adherence to negotiated contracts for compensation; staffing for the Beacon Program and the second year of the pilot program in Mandarin (\$85,000 per year); that federal and state grants will be level funded; that there will be a 15% increase in health insurance costs; a 10% increase in the regular education transportation costs; a 3% increase in expenses; and a slight reduction to the out of district tuition expenses.

The town of Lincoln's budget guideline is a 2.5 increase over the Spring 2016 Town Meeting appropriation and excludes OPEB funding, insurance and pensions. The Town of Sudbury's guideline is 2.25% including funding for the OPEB liability. The total FY18 Budget request is \$30,770,592, a 3.2% increase over last year's request excluding the OPEB funding or \$31,129,299 including the OPEB funding which is 4.43% over the recommended guidelines.

Strategies for sustaining efficiencies and improvements include: strategies to decrease energy expenses. LS has already replaced lighting fixtures, replaced an energy management control system; installed higher efficiency HVAC component; the solar canopy is on line; specialized education programs to keep students in district; strengthening in-district options and supports per Walker Report; refinanced debt service; health insurance contribution negotiated decrease; reorganization of general tutorial supports, and reorganization of behavioral program supports.

Ms. Wong reminded the School Committee members that this overview of the FY18 budget is a preliminary assessment and that finalization of the budget will occur after further data comes from the state governmental agencies in early 2017. The minimum assessment contribution determined by the state is \$14,585,216 of which 86.72% is from Sudbury; 13.28% is from Lincoln.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The Alba Berlin basketball team visit began on December 5. Students and coaches were graciously hosted by LS families. The students have enjoyed playing basketball, attending a Celtics Game, as well as a few local high school games, trips to Peabody and Gloucester, Newbury Street in Boston, and a few days shadowing LS students to classes. LS has enjoyed hosting the students and their coaches. They return to Germany on December 14th (tomorrow!). Our thanks to Peter Elenbaas for facilitating and organizing events for the team and the LS families that hosted team members.

The Hosmer House will be open for its annual Christmas Tree display. The LS Flute Choir will perform on Sunday, December 11th at 12noon and the Violin Ensemble will perform at 1:15pm. Please stop by to hear our talented musicians!

The following students were accepted to participate in the 2016-17 MMEA Eastern District Senior Music Festival:

Katherine Feng*, Violin, Orchestra

Zak Kaye*, Euphonium, Band (1st chair!)

David Ma*, Mallets, Jazz

Emmett Alkasab*, Bass, Chorus

Antoine Baize, Tenor, Chorus

Jennifer Cinicola*, Alto, Chorus

Kendra Keelan, Alto, Chorus

* All State Audition Recommendation

Students will participate in the senior festival to be held at Boston Latin School on Friday Jan. 6th and Saturday, Jan. 7th. The experience will culminate with a concert on the afternoon of the 7th.

The 5th Annual Warriors 4 Warriors Hockey Tournament will be held at the New England Sports Center on December 17th. The Girls Hockey game will begin at 4pm, Boys' Hockey game begins at 6pm. It is a wonderful fund-raising event attended by many LS Alumni. This fundraiser generates money for the Scott Milley scholarships awarded to LS seniors each year.

The Music Department Mattress Sale Fundraiser was held on Saturday December 3, 2016 in the Cafeteria.

Courageous Community Workshop was held on December 5th, organized by Brendan Wimberly and Lori Hodin to train members of the Intersections Club and the METCO Student Council in diversity sensitivity and how to have constructive conversations about difference that was led by two youth diversity consultants from "The Discovery Center" based in Hartford, CT. Their motto is: "A classroom without walls for a world without prejudice." The main goal of the workshop was to develop tools to have conversations across difference and to learn proven, effective strategies to make transformative change that will enable students to combat oppression on all levels. This workshop was made possible by a SERF grant submitted by Brendan Wimberly. Faculty Advisors for the Intersections Club and the METCO Student Council are Lori Hodin, Amy Jacobs, Caroline Han and Brendan Wimberly.

Intersections Club: Sydney Barnett, Melanie Brener, Aidan Cavanaugh, Megan Chunias, Teddy Chunias, Trishla Gandhi, Tilly Hoang, Sabrina Hollander, Bria Phillips, Zach Roth, Jon Osorio, and Julia Marks.

METCO Student Council: Jahzelle Bogus, Elcie Merck, Chanel Osborne, Tiauna Walker, Bella Martinez, Abdi Ali, Ariannah Gervais, Andrew Joseph, and Haley Lopes.

The Amnesty International Club held their annual Write for Rights letter writing campaign from December 6th through 9th in Conference Room B. Paula Myers is the club advisor.

Teachers in the history department wore tee shirts commemorating the anniversary of Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on the bus, which is seen as the beginning of the modern civil rights movement. Although it is not a 5 or 10 anniversary, they thought it was a good idea nonetheless to acknowledge Rosa Parks' courageous action.

The three students elected to be MIAA student ambassadors for this year are Megan Chunias, Fran Colon and Sam Ryan who were elected from a very impressive field.

Julie Miller, a Research Associate at the MIT AgeLab, wrote to thank LS for sending our students to the OMEGA Summit at the MIT AgeLab on Saturday, Nov. 19th. For the third year in a row of having your students join us, we were so impressed with your students' passion, maturity, and abilities to lead and collaborate. Ms. Miller expressed her thanks to Susan Frommer for championing recruitment efforts on our behalf. The following students joined us from Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School: Emma Cohen and Bria Phillips. OMEGA (Opportunities for Multigenerational Engagement, Growth, and Action) is a program for high school students interested in connecting high schoolers and older adults through intergenerational programming. The OMEGA Summit equipped students with foundational tools to plan for intergenerational programming in their communities and welcomed them into a network of high schoolers across the Boston area engaging in this important work.

During the Summit, information was shared with students about three college scholarships the MIT AgeLab is offering that will be made available in January 2017, each of which will be matched to go toward their high school's intergenerational efforts.

Marie Nevils has received a special scholarship through the National Merit Scholarship Program from Raytheon Company. Congratulations to Marie!

Several LS teachers (Katelyn Dix, Jane Murphy, Ann Kramer, Julia Keith) attended a rally at the Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland on Sunday from 11:30 to 1pm. The event was cosponsored by a number of local religious communities and Standing Up For Racial Justice Metrowest. Several religious leaders, a police officer, and State Senator Jamie Eldridge spoke to the attendees. Ann Kramer reported that there was a very strong sense of community. "We are all neighbors; there is no room for hate here."

The Speech and Debate Tournament was held at LS on Saturday, December 10th. There were 33 Massachusetts schools represented with 560 students participating and 149 judges. Twenty LS Students participated in the event as contestants. There were 15 speech events (radio broadcasting, declamation, original oratory, impromptu, reading, poetry and group discussions) as well as 200 students participating in the Public Debate Forum. The hallmark was a final Public Forum Debate finals in the Lecture Hall A between Newton South and the Waring School.

Chris Collins and Samantha Parker were awarded a SERF Grant for “Sun Spotter: Sunspot Tracking as a Means to Prove Solar Rotation and Examine Photospheric Structure and Solar Activity.”

Psychology students will be “parenting” their egg babies this week and are expected to tackle the rigors of parenting while also maintaining their performance in school - a challenge to some, no doubt. Students know that they are responsible for the well-being of their children at all times. Faculty are asked to alert the Psychology if they feel a baby is being mistreated (tossed about, left behind, etc.).

The art work of Kelly Conroy Bultema was recently featured in the December 2016 issue of the *Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist*. Kelly is the metal working teacher at LS. Kelly’s enamel pendants and broaches combine photographic images fired onto enamel surfaces. The result is an evocative piece of jewelry that captures a memory.

Student Representative Report

Caitlin Carter reported that the Student Senate is working on the Santa Fundraiser and the students have decided to donate the proceeds to the LS Memorial School in Cambodia. At the next Senate meeting, representatives will be discussing the ideas generated by the writing activity of the previous meeting.

Teachers’ Association Report

Caroline Singler reported that the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving went very well with about 100 guests attending. The event was organized by Tom Danko, Danielle Weisse, Susan Frommer, Ann Kramer, and Thomas Grandprey with the food prepared by Aramark. Thursday, December 14th, the middle school teachers will visit LS during departmental meetings to discuss curriculum progress and challenges.

Chairman’s Report

Elena Kleifges updated the committee on the status of the Sudbury Public Schools work regarding a later school start. Judith Owens from Harvard Medical School will be presenting on the physiological benefits of later school start times and LS School Committee members are invited to attend and will co-sponsor the talk.

Liaison Reports

Radha Gargeya reported on the Budget Strategy Task Force Meetings.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Bella Wong reported on the most recent faculty meetings which involved lectures by Jon Saphier regarding practices and strategies for teaching students to achieve high expectations. Bella remarked that teaching is an art form that needs to constantly evolve and be open to new practices and new strategies. LS has been fortunate to have been able to take advantage of Mr. Saphier's expertise.

On Wednesday, December 7th, participants in the Global Scholars Program met to share reflections on travel experiences and to discuss preparation of capstone projects with advisors David Grace and JK Park. LS Senior global scholars will present their capstone projects in the spring.

Ms. Wong attended a conference of area superintendents in which the topic of discussion was the challenges of supporting caring and cooperative communities in the face of the recent contentious election cycle.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Sherry Kersey reported that work was ongoing to prepare the FY18 Budget. She had attended a meeting with the Gale Engineering, Kevin Rossley, and Peter Elenbaas to initiate the lower turf fields replacement.

Information & Discussion

There was no information nor discussion.

Action Items

Voucher #1022 was signed.

Payroll for 11/30/16 was signed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar of Events

Warriors 4 Warriors Tournament	December 17, 2016
December Recess	December 26-January 2, 2017
Steve Richard Rock Concert	January 6, 2017
Civic Orchestra Concert	January 8, 2017
LS School Committee Meeting	January 10, 2017

Executive Session, if needed

Superintendent's Conference Room

- approving and reviewing executive session minutes related to collective bargaining, non-union personnel contracts and or litigation issues because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position
- discuss strategies related to collective bargaining, non-union personnel contracts and/or litigation issues because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position.

Adjourn

On a motion from Nancy Marshall, and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the Open Session portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm by unanimous roll call vote. The Committee continued in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale