

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020**

7:00 pm

Google Meet

Present

Ellen Joachim, Chair; Carole Kasper, Vice-Chair; Cara Endyke-Doran; Kevin Matthews; Candace Miller; Patty Mostue

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Harold Engstrom, School Committee member-elect; Monica Singletary, LS METCO Parent Organization

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

LS Summer Credit Recovery Program is offered for students who need to complete credits for the past semester. JK Park, Melissa Shen, and John Flynn are the administrators for this program. Lisa Weiss, Katie Collamore, Brendan Wimberly, Amy Jacobs, and Melanie Mahoney are the teachers covering specific courses.

The members of the Learning Continuity Committee, the Tech Team, Buildings and Grounds, and the Academic Council are a. All are working very hard and have been since school closure.

METCO Parent Report

Monica Singletary has no specific report but expects to have a report after meeting with Shelley Hinds. She did mention that there is a new facebook site called L-SFam to connect Boston, Lincoln, and Sudbury families.

Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's Report

Liaison Reports

MASC has all our documents and are beginning the process of reviewing all policies to complete the policy upgrade.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong presented results from the survey sent to LS Families as a prelude to informing the committee of ways the survey results have affected the plans for reopening school. With 1,256 responses, the survey provided important information from parents, including: An overwhelming percentage of respondents found that 100% remote learning was the most challenging form of learning and those parents felt it important that a portion of their student's education be in person. The responses offered insight into the number of families that sought 100% remote learning for their students that would require a concurrent 100% remote learning program for reasons that are unlikely to change with time. Lastly, the number of students that would seek bus transportation was important information. At this point, guidance from the state regarding transportation has not yet been issued.

A survey was also sent out to LS Faculty and Staff and 173 responses were received. Ms. Wong reported on the results of that survey. A number of staff prefer remote learning rather than being exposed to the risks of in-person learning which is an important factor for the coming year. Needless to say, it will have an impact on staffing. Information regarding accommodations that staff are entitled to in the coming year depending on what child care is available for their own children will be critical to planning for future education at LS and the number of substitute staff that may be required. For teachers a split of 50-50% remote learning and in person learning is the preferred outcome and indicates their concern for their own safety and the safety of their families.

Each survey highlights the importance of refining the remote learning experience despite their sense that in person learning provided the most optimal learning environment. Ms. Wong acknowledges staff's and students' concerns for the coming school year as we navigate through the pandemic.

Ms. Wong reminded the Committee members that LS has the daunting task of creating three plans due on July 31 for: In person learning; hybrid learning; and remote learning. The state has not provided the guidance promised for transportation, food service, performing arts, and for athletics. School systems cannot wait until that guidance is provided therefore, the learning continuity committee is preparing three educational programs in order to be ready when school begins in seven weeks. It also means that staffing decisions will need to be made and safety protocols will be required that will need to be monitored by adults. Professional Development opportunities are being provided for faculty this summer to help them prepare for the coming school year. Ms. Wong will be communicating with the METCO Parent Council, the School Council, the Student Council, the LSPO, the Executive TA, the Administrative Team, and the Sudbury Board of Health— there is a great deal of information to be gathered and integrated into the educational plans. In addition, information and resources from peer school groups and educational organizations in the state have been evaluated for use at LS.

Educational plans will include the learning plans and a description of operational and safety features and will be open for review by Faculty, staff, and parents in time for the Forum meeting on July 21, 2020. Experts in the medical field and public health fields disagree on guidance for opening schools which is disconcerting to say the least. Ms. Wong and the

administrative team have worked hard on a fit-test for a 3 foot guidance for student separation in the event that in-person learning begins in the fall. All tables will need to be removed from classrooms. Traffic directional paths will have to be designed for our student population moving through the building. Methods for delivering the science curriculum will need to be refigured substantially to meet the social distancing guidelines. The exposure involved in a fully in-person model is concerning. A 6-foot social distancing guideline would be absolutely impossible. Nearly 70% of our classes are 24 and above.

Mr. Matthews expressed his belief that a 100% in-person model would be impossible and therefore creating an educational plan for an in-person model is inefficient and impractical. Other School Committee members agreed with Mr. Matthews and believed that energies were more useful dedicated to hybrid and remote models as rolling closures would no doubt be the norm for the next year at least. Ms. Wong reported that the faculty was committed to delivering the best possible education to our students and would, of course, prefer to teach in person but are absolutely committed to creating the best possible educational environment as possible. Ms. Miller stated that the primary goal was to keep students, faculty and staff safe and that the communities of Lincoln and Sudbury need to be fully committed to the safety of all.

One aspect to be considered is the students that would require an in-person educational experience which may be needed for an estimated 100-150 students.

Community questions were presented for Ms. Wong to answer and will be attached to the Minutes.

Lastly, the subject of the LS Warrior mascot which is represented as a roman soldier was brought up by Ms. Kasper. The Warrior originally had a Native American association but in 1988 all Native imagery was removed and the school adopted the image of a Roman soldier. In 2017, LS again reframed the meaning of LS Warrior and discontinued the use of the Roman soldier. has represented a roman soldier since 1980.

Registration for the Graduation Ceremony is now closed. There will be 253 students with up to 4 guests each at the ceremony. Graduates will be seated in a socially distanced (6') manner and families will be grouped together. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10am on Saturday, July 25, 2020.

Director of Finance and Operations

There was no Director of Finance and Operations update.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes will be approved at the July 28, 2020, LS School Committee meeting.

Public Comment

A question was read concerning additional nursing staff during the new school year and a question about reassigning snow days to create additional days for remote learning.

Ms. Miller reported that the LS School Committee was aware of the Instagram site regarding student experiences at LS. She invited students to take part in the setting of LS policies which would be taking place in the coming year. Ms. Wong has reached out to the student administrator of the site. It is important to all the School Committee members that students realize that they have been heard and that the institution intends to be more attentive to the information on the site.

Adjourn to Executive Session

Carole Kasper moved that the open session close and the members move into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining. Candace Miller seconded the motion. All approved via roll call and there was no further discussion. The meeting ended at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

To view video of the meeting, please go to: <https://sudbury.vod.castus.tv/vod>