

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

7:00PM

HYBRID

LincolnTown Hall - 2nd floor Hearing

Rm

Present

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

Also Present

Rebecca Mayer, *LSRHS Co-President of the Teachers' Association*
Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Call to Order

Chair Ravi Simon called the meeting to order at 7:06PM.

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). Ravi Simon 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 7:07PM.

Call to Order

Chair Ravi Simon called the meeting to order at 7:42PM

Public Comment

No Public Comment(s)

Consent Agenda

Ravi Simon, *Chair of LSSC*

- Approval of Minutes: [Minutes for Tuesday, February 24, 2026](#)
- Approval of Payroll & AP Warrant [3/10/26 Payroll & AP Warrant](#)
- Approval of Robotics Donation [Robotics Donation](#)

Jack Ryan motioned to approve the three(3) items on the 'Consent Agenda'. Cathie Bitters seconded the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

(SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Student Senate Report

No Updates

METCO Report

No Updates

Teachers' Association Updates

Rebecca Mayer, *LSRHS Co-President of the Teachers' Association*

- Mock trials were held in the re-purposed Humanity Center, a 'Seniors vs. Staff' basketball game benefitting 'Relay for Life', an Arts Day, and a 'Reality for Life Fair' for seniors focusing on real-life financial skills.
- Additionally, the LS is beginning scheduling for the next academic year, with students excited about the wide range of elective courses offered

Director of Finance and Operations Report

No Updates

Superintendent/Principal Report

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

- Incoming 9th graders' families received information about the course election process. Andrew Stephens and Leslie Patterson visited Lincoln's and Sudbury's Middle Schools.
- Special Education teacher Tracie Lopez received the 'Massachusetts State University Educator Alumni Award', which recognizes the achievement and commitment to education by alumni of the Massachusetts State University System. Tracie and other recipients will be recognized at a ceremony at the State House on April 29th.
- SERF hosted 'The College Fair/ Gap Year' event from March 9-14.

- A mandatory 'Depression' workshop for 10th graders was held on Tuesday, March 17th.
- An art exhibition titled 'Say It Loud' highlights African American artists, including Shea Justice, one of LS's art teachers.

Update on the Director of Finance and Operations position

- Superintendent/Principal Andrew Stephens recommended Dr. Susan Gilson for the LS Director of Finance and Operations position, starting July 1st, requiring the School Committee's vote.
 - Dr. Gilson has a Ph.D in cognition and instruction experience as a teacher and administrator, and positive recommendations for her skills and work ethic.
 - School Committee members expressed strong support for Dr. Gilson, highlighting her extensive experience and the positive feedback from her references.

Jack Ryan motioned to approve 'Dr. Susan Gilson as the Director of Finance and Operations, based on Superintendent Andrew Stephens' recommendation'. Maura Carty seconded the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

(SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Subcommittee, Liaison, and Representative Updates

Regional Agreement Review Subcommittee

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

1. [DRAFT District Agreement reflecting proposed changes/edits as of 3/5/26](#)- red-lined copy with all proposed changes/edits.
2. [DRAFT - District Agreement \(Clean Copy\) reflecting proposed changes/edits as of 3/5/26](#) - clean copy of the proposed amended agreement.

- The subcommittee hoped to receive the School Committee's approval for an amendment, but received additional comments from DESE.
 - Members of the subcommittee aim to finalize the agreement by Friday, March 13th, the deadline for the Town Meeting, with a subcommittee meeting next week for approval
- Chair Ravi Simon noted that both towns reviewed the agreement, particularly regarding the election of School Committee members.
 - Anticipation surrounding difficulty agreeing on the exact language.
 - The agreement outlines an MOA for election procedures between the two towns, to be developed separately. Both councils and town managers were comfortable with this solution.
 - This language might raise questions, particularly regarding election procedures that could deviate from the state law, and advises being prepared to explain its inclusion.
- School Committee members discussed scheduling a meeting with Sudbury's Select Board.
 - The School Committee tentatively settled on Tuesday, March 17th at 5PM for the subcommittee, 6PM for a short School Committee meeting, and 7pm for the joint meeting with the Sudbury Select Board.
- School Committee members reviewed the agreement's language and suggested minor edits for consistency and capitalization.

Information and Discussion

Discussion of the draft 2026-2027 School Calendar

Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent/Principal

DRAFT 2026-2027 School Calendar

- Going forward, the '9th grade: Back to School Night' event and 'The Back to School Night' for the remaining students will be combined into one night in September, aiming to simplify attendance for families and staff, especially those with travel considerations.
- A School Committee member mentioned a concern about losing nearly a day and a half of learning time with the new schedule.
- Half-days will end at noon, with some flexibility for balancing block schedules.
 - The goal is to provide consistency and predictability while also considering students who commute from Boston.
- A School Committee member requested and hoped that absentee data and staff feedback can be reviewed to understand the impact of adding four additional half days to the school calendar on student learning.
- A School Committee member mentioned the characterization of losing significant education time, noting it's only about 1% of the school year.
 - A School Committee member mentioned that learning about other cultures and religions, especially during holidays like Christmas and Easter, is valuable education that fosters better global citizens.
 - School Committee members thoughtfully balance different types of learning.

Ravi Simon motioned to approve the '2026-2027 School Calendar'. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. Five(5) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed with a 5-1 approval vote.

(SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Preliminary discussion on the process to evaluate Advisory

Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent/Principal

- The School Committee plans to seek input on the process, content, and potential syllabus for Advisory.
 - School Committee members are interested in learning from other districts' experiences, both successful and unsuccessful, and understanding how adjustments were made, and whether the data correlate with student support and learning.
 - School Committee members emphasized the importance of perspectives from various stakeholders, including teachers, staff, students, and alums- particularly how advisory impacted them after leaving, before making a thoughtful decision.
- Anticipate the School Committee continuing this discussion at a later date.

Action Items:

-VOTE: Jack Ryan motioned to approve the three(3) items on the 'Consent Agenda'. Cathie Bitters seconded the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

-VOTE: Jack Ryan motioned to approve 'Dr. Susan Gilson as the Director of Finance and Operations, based on Superintendent Andrew Stephens' recommendation'. Maura Carty seconded the motion. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

-VOTE: Ravi Simon motioned to approve the '2026-2027 School Calendar'. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. Five(5) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed with a 5-1 approval vote.

Public Comment

No Public Comment(s)

Adjournment

Ravi Simon motioned to adjourn the open meeting. Lucy Maulsby 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 8:54PM.