

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

7:00PM

HYBRID

Present

Cathie Bitter, Maura Carty, Jason McLure, Charles Morton, Jack Ryan, Ravi Simon

Also Present

Ariel Cox, *LSRHS English Teacher*

Lissette Gil-Sanchez, *LSRHS METCO Parent Representative*

Alexia Hultin, *LSRHS Student Senate*

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

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Danielle Weisse, *LSRHS English Department Coordinator / English Teacher*

Call to Order

Superintendent/Principal Andrew Stephens called the meeting to order at 7:06PM.

Welcome to New School Committee Members

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

- Lissette Gil-Sanchez, LSRHS METCO Parent Representative

Lissette Gil-Sanchez introduced herself as a community service-oriented parent with two children currently attending Lincoln-Sudbury High School in the 9th and 10th grades.

In her professional capacity, she oversees a state-level Department of Public Health program dedicated to sexual health and youth development for young people throughout the state.

Ms. Gil-Sanchez emphasized her commitment to developing policies that provide meaningful support.

- Jason McLure, LSSC Member

Jason McLure noted that he is the Lincoln Sudbury School Committee's most recent member, taking over the seat formerly held by Lucy Malsby.

He further shared that he is a parent of two students at Lincoln Sudbury High School, one currently a junior and the other a freshman.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

VOTE: Ravi Simon motioned to nominate Cathie Bitter as LSSC 'Chair'. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. School Committee members commended Cathie's calm and thoughtful confidence, and her invaluable guidance, especially during negotiations. They further acknowledged strong, yet experienced leadership and the trust she has earned from the community. Cathie Bitter accepted the nomination, emphasizing the need for the committee's support to facilitate future discussions. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- Cathie Bitter was appointed as 'Chair' of the Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District and opened nominations for the Committee's Vice-Chair.

VOTE: Cathie Bitter motioned to nominate Charles Morton as LSSC 'Vice Chair'. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. School Committee members cited his dedication and commitment to LSRHS's primary goal of educating students. Charles Morton accepted the nomination, expressing gratitude and humility. He aims to perpetuate the committee's positive culture and encourages continued collaboration to ensure all ideas receive attention. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- Charles Morton was appointed as 'Vice Chair' of the Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District.

Public Comment

Mary Warzynski, Sudbury, MA.

Mary Warzynski offered thanks to Cathie, Charles, and Ravi, expressing her appreciation to LS for providing an indoor venue for this year's 'Relay for Life' following unfavorable weather conditions.

Furthermore, Mrs. Warzynski praised the contributions of Melainie Mahoney, Mr. Wentworth, Mr. Attidore, and additional LS faculty and staff members, including the maintenance team, while also highlighting the remarkable involvement of the students.

Mrs. Warzynski was proud of LS's extraordinary representation.

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes: [Minutes](#)
- Approval of Payroll & AP Warrant: [Payroll & AP Warrant](#)
- Approval of Donations/Grants: [Cello Donation](#), [Applied Tech Donation](#), [Hockey Program Donation](#), [Photography Equipment Donation](#)

Jack Ryan motioned to approve six(6) items on the 'Consent Agenda. Charles Morton 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 Updates

Alexia Hultin, *LSRHS Student Senate*

- Student Senate members recently hosted activities for 'Staff Appreciation Week,' which featured a snack table, a signed banner, and handwritten messages for various departments.
- Voting for spring elections is now open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and the process concludes next week.
- The upcoming final meeting of the Student Senate will focus on establishing goals and exploring the implementation of cellphone pouches for the next school year.

METCO Program Report Updates

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Lissette Gil-Sanchez, *LSRHS METCO Parent Representative*

- Jean McGuire, the individual responsible for launching the METCO program six decades ago, was the featured speaker at the METCO 60th Anniversary Celebration. Her powerful presentation contributed to the overall success of this significant milestone event.

Teachers' Association Updates

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

- The Student Senate was recognized by the Teachers' Association for their thoughtful notes and snacks, which were well-received.
- A silent auction organized by the Teachers' Association successfully generated more than \$31,000 for the 'Paul J. Vernon' scholarship fund.
- Acclaimed performances by senior students from the LSB Players' 'Lost Girl' production earned significant praise.
- As MCAS and AP Exams draw near, LSRHS has officially entered its spring testing period.
- Following a successful Junior prom, students were deeply moved by the impact of a mock crash event.
- Through the committed leadership of staff and students, the 'Relay for Life' fundraiser secured over \$153,000, earning the school a fifth-place national ranking.

Presentation

Ariel Cox, *LSRHS English Teacher*

Rebecca Mayer, *LSRHS English Teacher*

Danielle Weisse, *LSRHS English Department Coordinator / English Teacher*

English Department Presentation

The School Committee appreciated the 'English Department' presentation provided by Danielle Weisse, Ariel Cox, and Rebecca Mayer. Guided by a core philosophy that prioritizes exploration, excellence, and collaborative ownership; the English department encourages students to take risks in their learning. The department is dedicated to cultivating innovative and reflective global citizens who possess a growth mindset. By providing a variety of course options, the curriculum is designed to enhance critical thinking and inspire creative expression.

- The English department uses formative and summative assessments, including discussions, to evaluate reading, writing, and thinking.
- Extracurricular writing engagements, including the school newspaper, literary journal, and drama club, offer students ways to practice writing beyond the classroom. Additionally, English faculty highlighted ongoing work to integrate English with other subjects, such as the creation of a combined English and History course.
- Conversations between the School Committee and the English department centered on AI; it was reported by college admissions officials that approximately 40% to 50% of supplemental application essays were identified as being produced by AI.

- Concerns were raised about the inaccuracy of AI detection tools, but it was acknowledged that AI and written essays and cover letters often sound identical.
 - The solution proposed for essays is using locked screens during in-class writing to ensure authenticity. Or traditional methods like pen and paper to avoid AI use.
 - A School Committee member noted that there are two primary strategies regarding AI: either incorporating it into the instructional framework or prohibiting its use.

School Committee members praised the mentioned innovation in the English department, particularly a science fiction course, and supported a hybrid honors course that expands student choice and benefits diverse student groups.

Director of Finance and Operations

No Update(s)

Superintendent/Principal Updates

Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent/Principal

- Scheduled events featured a 'Cum Laude Induction' on Wednesday, May 13th, along with a Senior Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 26th, which will result in a school-wide schedule change.
 - ***A schedule adjustment has been announced: Tuesday, May 26, 2026, is designated as a half day, whereas Wednesday, May 27, 2026, will be a full day of school.***
- A 'Community Scholarship' ceremony will be Tuesday, June 2nd.
- Laura Rotondo, a chemistry teacher, received a prestigious award for her work.
- The 250th-day celebration was held May 16th, followed by an interactive history event on May 17th.
 - Upcoming events included a presentation on "The Rebellion at Dawn at 1775", and another on "Native Communities in the American Revolution" on Sunday, May 31st.
- A student-initiated film project called "Sonder" premiered on Monday, May 18th in Dorchester at the 'Boys and Girls Club', where students from Boston and Lincoln-Sudbury spent 24 hours in each other's home to understand different perspectives.
- The ongoing food drive concludes on Friday, May 29th.

Information and Discussion

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

LSRHS Regional Agreement

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Ravi Simon, *Member of the LSSC*

- The Lincoln and Sudbury High School Regional Agreement defines the school's structure and budget, which has been approved by both towns after a lengthy process.
 - The Regional Agreement now awaits the commissioner's signature.

Trip Approvals

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

- Rwanda Trip - 2027

Scheduled for February 2027, a newly proposed cultural excursion to Rwanda is designed for a group of 12 to 15 students. This initiative seeks to provide students with immersion into an African culture not featured in past school travels, with an itinerary that includes visits to a national park, the genocide museum, and a local educational institution.

- Italy Trip - 2027

A 2027 cultural trip to Italy is being presented again for Latin students (20-25 participants) during the April recess. This trip, which centers on ancient Roman civilization, was previously authorized but did not take place.

- German Exchange Program Trip - 2027

Plans are also underway for the yearly German Exchange Program. This initiative involves students in German I and II (grades 10 and 11) hosting visitors from Germany, followed by a two-week stay with German host families during the summer of 2027.

- Vermont Soccer Service Trip - August 2026

Approximately 26 team members will participate in a trip from August 4th to August 7th. The itinerary includes a team run, camping, and community service.

School Committee members discussed the challenge of funding student travel, particularly for Boston families with limited means. Previously, funds were available for each student through grants or civil rights allocations. This change, attributed to a DESE policy shift two years ago, makes it difficult to fund out-of-state trips, especially for large groups of students, necessitating fundraising.

Jack Ryan motioned to approve the following 'Trips for 2027: Rwanda, Italy, and Germany. As well as the Vermont trip scheduled for August of 2026.' Jason McLure 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)

Discussions continued regarding the financial framework for international and domestic travel. One member suggested establishing a limited revolving account solely for these trips to maintain a distinction from the general operating budget. Alternatively, it was proposed that the committee engage with DESE to obtain legal clarification regarding permissible fundraising practices for such initiatives.

Policy Review

Maura Carty, *member of LSSC*

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

- The following policy is for informational purposes only- FIRST reading. Anticipate a discussion at the next School Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 26th.

DESE Mandated updated policy:

- JKAA: Physical Restraint, Time-Out & Seclusion Policy
[JKAA: Physical Restraint, Time-Out & Seclusion of Students](#)

School Committee members discussed the 'Physical Restraint ' policy regarding seclusion and timeout; this DESE-mandated policy requires adoption by early August using specific required language.

- This policy underwent an initial reading, with a second reading and formal approval scheduled for upcoming school committee meetings.
- The following policies were listed for a vote to adopt -THIRD reading:
 - KBE/ Relations with Parent and Booster Organizations
[KBE/ Relations with Parent and Booster Organizations](#)
 - JJE/Student Fundraising Activities
[JJE/Student Fundraising Activities](#)
 - KHA/Public Solicitations
[KHA/Public Solicitations](#)
 - BHE/Electronic Messaging by SC Members
[BHE/Electronic Messaging by SC Members](#)

To maintain consistency, a member of the School Committee proposed that policy 'KBE: Relations with Parent and Booster Organizations' be closely monitored.

Jack Ryan motioned to approve the following 'LSRSD Policies: [KBE/ Relations with Parent and Booster Organizations](#); [JJE/Student Fundraising Activities](#); [KHA/Public Solicitations](#); [BHE/Electronic Messaging by SC Members](#)'. 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)**

Chairperson and Liaison Updates

Regional Agreement Subcommittee

Ravi Simon, LSSC member

- Anticipate Minutes from the 'Regional Agreement' subcommittee meetings.

Policy Subcommittee

Maura Carty, LSSC member

- Public access is now available for the 'Policy' subcommittee folder following a recent update.

Finance Subcommittee

Maura Carty, LSSC member

- No new updates

LSSC Subcommittee, Liaisons, & Representatives

Cathie Bitter, LSSC Chair

Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent/Principal

Discuss Subcommittee, Liaison, Representative Assignments

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

[LSSC Subcommittee, Liaison, Representative Descriptions - 2026-2027](#)

- School Committee members discussed subcommittee assignments/roles for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - A discussion was held by the School Committee regarding the legality and the possibility of dissolving the 'Tri-District Calendar Review' committee / subcommittee.

Maura Carty motioned to dissolve the 'Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Tri-District Calendar Subcommittee'. Ravi Simon 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)**

Action Items:

-VOTE: Ravi Simon motioned to nominate Cathie Bitter as LSSC 'Chair'. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. School Committee members commended Cathie's calm and thoughtful confidence, and her invaluable guidance, especially during negotiations. They further acknowledged strong, yet experienced leadership and the trust she has earned from the community. Cathie Bitter accepted the nomination, emphasizing the need for the committee's support to facilitate future discussions. Six(6) out of six(6) members of the School Committee were in favor via roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

-VOTE: Cathie Bitter motioned to nominate Charles Morton as LSSC 'Vice Chair'. Jack Ryan seconded the motion. School Committee members cited his dedication and commitment to LSRHS's primary goal of educating students. Charles Morton accepted the nomination, expressing gratitude and humility. He aims to perpetuate the committee's positive culture and encourages continued collaboration to ensure all ideas receive attention. 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 six(6) items on the 'Consent Agenda. Charles Morton 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 the following 'Trips for 2027: Rwanda, Italy, and Germany. As well as the Vermont trip scheduled for August of 2026.' Jason McLure 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 the following 'LSRSD Policies: [KBE/ Relations with Parent and Booster Organizations](#); [JJE/Student Fundraising Activities](#); [KHA/Public Solicitations](#); [BHE/Electronic Messaging by SC Members](#)'. 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: Maura Carty motioned to dissolve the 'Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Tri-District Calendar Subcommittee'. Ravi Simon 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.

Adjournment

Cathie Bitter motioned to adjourn the open meeting. 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 9:50PM.

