

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, October 6, 2026**

7:00PM

HYBRID

Present

Cathie Bitter, *Chair*; Charles Morton, *Vice Chair*:

Maura Carty (absent), Jason McLure, Jack Ryan, and Ravi Simon

Also Present

Ariel Cox, *LSRHS English Teacher / Co-President of ExecTA*

Lissette Gil-Sanchez, *LSRHS M.E.T.C.O Parent Representative*

Dr. Susan Gilson, *LSRHS Director of Finance and Operations*

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

Richard Whitehead, *LSRHS Director of Student Services*

Call to Order

Chair Cathie Bitter called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

Public Comment

No Public Comment(s)

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes [Minutes for Tues., Sept. 22, 2026](#)
- Approval of Payroll & AP Warrant [Payroll & AP Warrant](#)
- Approval of Donations/Grants [Payroll & AP Warrant](#)
- School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding (Lincoln PD; Sudbury PD)
[SPD/L-S MOU](#) | [LPD/L-S MOU](#)
 - Guided by the Attorney General, these MOUs establish the partnership between the school district and local law enforcement agencies (Lincoln and Sudbury).

Jack Ryan motioned to approve all four(4) items on the 'Consent Agenda'. Ravi Simon seconded the motion. Five(5) out of five(5) School Committee members were in favor via roll call vote. (SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Student Senate Report

Brian Grous, *LSRHS Sr. Student Senate Officer & Secretary*

- The Student Senate has finished its ninth-grade elections.
- For this academic year, the Student Senate is focused on narrowing the post-secondary planning equity gap by making resources more accessible to all students.
 - Members of the Student Senate observed that although college readiness is culturally expected at the school, first-generation and underrepresented students frequently lack the individual support and assets accessible to others.
 - To help resolve this inconsistency, the committee intends to enhance awareness and engagement with current school counseling services, offering equitable assistance to every student managing post-secondary transitions.
- Additionally, the Student Senate body is actively opposing a proposed Massachusetts state legislative bill for a bell-to-bell cell phone ban.
 - Student Senate member Brian Grous expressed concern to School Committee members that a total ban would be disruptive to essential communication.

Superintendent/Principal Andrew Stephens mentioned a potential proposal for a structured college application guidance initiative beginning in junior year to address resource inequities. Recognizing that heavy counselor caseloads limit individual support, the potential proposal aims to reduce this burden through collaboration with school committees and community volunteers.

The School Committee expressed strong support for the initiative and recommended aligning efforts with existing programs, such as METCO, to maximize student impact.

Teachers' Association Updates

Ariel Cox, *LSRHS English Teacher/President of ExecTA*

- Progress reporting for the first quarter is currently underway as LSRHS reaches its midpoint.
- Highlights from recent school activities include a well-attended 'Student Club Fair'. Additionally, a "purple out" football game planned for Friday, October 9th, aims to generate support and raise funds for domestic violence prevention.

Presentations

Richard Whitehead, *Director of Student Services*

[SC Presentation for October 6th.](#)

Director of Student Services, Richard Whitehead, presented an update on student support and special education, emphasizing the stability and comprehensive nature of current programs.

- Although the proportion of IEP students has stayed steady at 21.1%, the services required for these students have increased. To maintain effective long-term support, the district is adopting a proactive strategy by tracking local demographic shifts and incoming student needs.
- The district has observed a rise in autism and health-related disabilities, mirroring national trends influenced by more outside medical identifications. Additionally, in the aftermath of the pandemic, social isolation contributed to a sharp increase in students diagnosed with emotional disabilities.
- On the other hand, improved instructional programming has led to a decrease in diagnoses for specific reading disabilities.
 - Where feasible, the district prioritizes reintegrating students from out-of-district placements into local school settings.
- To better serve students, the district is expanding its established program—which serves grades nine through postgraduate—by enhancing existing services, building staff capacity, and improving facilities rather than adding new initiatives.

To enhance equitable resource access, the department is partnering with SEPAC to focus on clearer communication and stronger family engagement, specifically targeting outreach to families in Boston and Lincoln. Key upcoming priorities include conducting a parenting survey to guide future reviews and taking steps to reduce the influence of family socio-economic status on student access to educational support and diagnoses.

- Post-Secondary & Adult Transition Planning: Richard Whitehead and School Committee members discussed the importance of implementing transition planning into IEP documents early. The district is legally mandated to provide services through age 22, concentrating on equipping students for adult services by fostering vocational and personal skills and making appropriate state agency referrals.
- Ninth-Grade Transition Initiatives: The district is prioritizing support for incoming ninth graders by enhancing collaboration with feeder schools via site visits, classroom exchanges, and routine presentations.

- Equity & Program Access: Data indicates that most METCO students enter with pre-existing IEPs rather than receiving new identifications. The district remains committed to delivering equitable programming for all families, particularly those facing systemic or language barriers.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Dr. Susan Gilson, *LSRHS Director of Finance and Operations*

Review and Approval of Transportation Contract Bid Specs Document

[-Transportation Bid Memo](#)

[-Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Transportation Bid.](#)

- Dr. Susan Gilson reported that feedback from legal counsel and district insurers has been incorporated into the revised transportation bus bid specifications.
- Key modifications to the draft contract include:
 - Empowering the district to oversee and modify bus routes, schedules, and service levels to enhance safety, operational efficiency, and student equity.
 - Clarifying that because the parent organization controls the bus application release date, establishing a strict deadline for its launch is unfeasible.
 - Both districts are named as additional insurers on the auto policy- the general policy and the umbrella policy.
 - Requiring vendors to supply buses for athletic trips by 3:30 PM.
- Committee members highlighted concerns regarding current routes that cause prolonged commute times, noting that such delays maintain an inequitable condition.

The School Committee explored flexible contract clauses and future bid terms to address these issues, reaffirming that transportation optimization is crucial to student well-being and academic success.

Jack Ryan motioned to approve 'the transportation bid contract, contingent upon clarifying insurance language.' Jason McLure seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) School Committee members voted in favor via roll call vote.

(SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Superintendent/Principal Report

Andrew Stephens, *LSRHS Superintendent/Principal*

- Andrew Stephens recognized the following students named as commended finalists in the '2027 National Merit Scholarship Program':

Katherine Chen Jessica Daniel Annabel Edmonston William Gabel Neil Gami Daniel Guo Kush Jhaveri Matthew Manente William Markvenas	Theodore Miller Leonidas Polemeropoulos Lucy Reiner Marco Sarli Marcus Sciammetta Dhruv Sekhar Matvei Yershov Charles Yu Grace Zhuang
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- Events celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month—including poetry, culinary arts, dance, and fine art—are being hosted by LSRHS staff in partnership with the METCO Leadership Council.
- On Thursday, October 8th, an informational session for the IDecide & ICare programs provided families access to Harvard Medical School resources on substance use and decision-making.
- The Boston Globe interviewed Jenny Staysniak, LSRHS History Teacher, about teaching the American Revolution. LSRHS students Zoe Meltzer and Rana Muntasser had pieces on what surprised them about the American Revolution published.
- LSRHS art instructor Shea Justice was featured in a recent exhibition at the LEXART Gallery in Lexington, MA. Titled *Op-Eds: Messages to America*, the exhibition concluded on Sept. 27 and highlighted work from regional artists reflecting on national affairs.
- Beginning in late October or early November, the Department of Public Works (DPW) and state officials will start resurfacing Sherman's Bridge. This project will require adjustments to school bus routing, alongside an outreach notification to area residents.

Information and Discussion

Review and Approval of Softball Bullpen Proposal.

[10/6/26 LSSC - Softball Bullpen Proposal](#)

- [LS Bullpen Plan 2026](#)
- [Proposed Bullpen Area](#)
- Administrative approval for the plan has been obtained, with all associated project expenses fully funded by the Boosters Club.

Jack Ryan motioned to approve 'the proposal from the softball boosters to construct a new bullpen for the softball field.' Jason McLure seconded the motion. Five(5) out of five(5) School Committee members were in favor via roll call vote.

(SEE ACTION ITEMS SECTION)

Action Items:

-VOTE: Jack Ryan motioned to approve all four(4) items on the 'Consent Agenda'. Ravi Simon seconded the motion. Five(5) out of five(5) School Committee members were in favor via roll call vote.

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Public Comment

No Comment(s)

Adjournment

Ravi Simon motioned to adjourn the open meeting. Charles Morton 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 9:13PM.