



# ***Town of Littleton School Committee***

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JEN GOLD, Vice Chair  
STACY DESMARAIS, Member

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Chair

BRAD AUSTIN, Clerk  
BINAL PATEL, Member

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**  
**April 13, 2023**  
**7:00PM**

**PRESENT:** Justin McCarthy  
Brad Austin  
Jen Gold (7:01PM)  
Stacy Desmarais  
Binal Patel (7:01PM)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kelly Clenchy  
Steve Mark  
Dorothy Mulone  
Bettina Corrow

## **NOT PRESENT:**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Justin McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Stacy Desmarais it was voted to approve the March 30, 2023, agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous).

## **INTERESTED CITIZENS**

Laurel Shah – Asking the board to consider adding another School Resource Officer to the district. Have had a chance to speak with the resource officer Ms. Wodzinski and Chief Pinard. She is doing a great job dividing her duties between all four schools, but we as parents would like to see one more school resource office in the district. Chief Pinard agrees that it would be beneficial to add another resource officer to the district.

Justin McCarthy – I think this school committee board is wide open to making our schools as safe as possible for all. We have already finalized the budget for next year which includes salaries and jobs. But we would definitely take this request into consideration.

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*Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.*

Maggie Buckley – As a concerned parent and resident, our school resource officer is spread too thin. I do not think that our community realizes that she is spreading her duties between being a school resource officer as well as her detective duties.

Brad Austin – I hear your concerns but when we had the presentation from our police department, I did not feel that they expressed concern about the duties.

Kelly Clenchy – The next step would be for Chief Pinard to write a letter indicating that he would recommend we allocate funds for another school resource officer to our district. I do not think that behavior will change in our society. Unfortunately, we may still see more school shootings. When we look at school safety, we look at response time, which is key!

Brad Austin – The police department assured us that they always have 5-6 police cars out in the community at all times.

Maggie Buckley – We realize that the timing of expressing our concerns is not perfect. We are aware of the budget that is already in place. We would like to see what we can do for the coming year. We would like to do something now but understand that the budget is set.

## **RECOGNITION**

1. Student Representative(s) Report: Student Representative, John Feltus, gave an update of the events happening at each school.
2. Superintendent Clenchy reminded the community that Shaker Lane Spring fest is scheduled for Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>.
3. Superintendent Clenchy thanked Indian Hill for their donation of 6 pianos and a baby grand piano to the district.
4. Superintendent Clenchy mentioned the successful musical Chicago which took place two weeks ago. Everyone did a wonderful job.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Athletics Update:** Athletic Director Mike Lynn presented a brief update about winter and spring sports.

### **Winter Athletics Recap**

#### ■ Sports: 12 (6 LPS / 6 coop)

- Boys' & Girls' Basketball (V/JV/MS)
- Boys' & Girls' Indoor Track (V)
- Boys' Ice Hockey (V/JV)
- Girls' Ice Hockey (V – WA coop)
- Boys' & Girls' Swimming & Diving (V – Bromfield coop)
- Boys' & Girls' Alpine Skiing (V – Lunenburg coop)
- Gymnastics (V – G-D coop)
- Unified Bowling

#### ■ Teams: 11 LPS / 17 Total

#### ■ Athletes: 218

#### ■ Contests: 165

### **LHS Winter Participation**

#### ■ V/JV Boys' Basketball: 24

#### ■ V/JV Girls' Basketball: 21

- V Boys' Indoor Track: 40
  - V Girls' Indoor Track: 34
  - V/JV Boys' Ice Hockey: 37 (22L/11B/4P)
  - V Girls' Ice Hockey: 5
  - V Boys' & Girls' Swimming & Diving: 8 (2B/6G)
  - V Boys' & Girls' Alpine Skiing: 11 (6B/5G)
  - V Gymnastics: 4
  - Unified Bowling: 5
- LMS Winter Participation
- MS Boys' Basketball: 15
  - MS Girls' Basketball: 14

### **LHS Winter Varsity Records**

- V Boys' Basketball: 6-15
- V Girls' Basketball: 18-6
- V Boys' Indoor Track: 5-0
- V Girls' Indoor Track: 4-1
- V Boys' Ice Hockey: 15-8

### **Spring Athletics Preview**

- Sports: 9
  - Baseball (V/JV)
  - Softball (V)
  - Boys' & Girls' Lacrosse (V/JV\*)
  - Boys' & Girls' Outdoor Track (V/MS)
  - Boys' & Girls' Tennis (V)
  - Unified Track
- Teams: 13
- Athletes: 266
- Contests: TBD

### **LHS Spring Participation**

- V/JV Baseball: 27
- V Softball: 14
- V/JV Boys' Lacrosse: 33
- V Girls' Lacrosse: 22
- V Boys' Outdoor Track: 50
- V Girls' Outdoor Track: 34
- V Boys' Tennis: 12
- V Girls' Tennis: 11
- Unified Track: 9

### **LMS Spring Participation**

- MS Boys' Outdoor Track: 25
- MS Girls' Outdoor Track: 29

Brad Austin – On behalf of SEPAC – thank you for the unified sport teams. Really appreciate the student support of each other. Lastly, what do you think of the athletic fees and the increase?

Mike Lynn – If we did not have athletic fees, it would be amazing, but we cannot run the programs without them. Transportation has gone up as well as official fees have gone up. You sometimes must chase families for the fee, but it is part of making the program run smoothly.

Stacey Desmarais – Want to thank you for all the hard work you are doing for the district all year long.

Jen Gold – Thank you for all that you do to the athletic program. Littleton is known for our great programs.

**2. Three of the Curriculum Coordinators presented their State of Curriculum reports within the following subjects:**

**State of the Curriculum K-12 Arts and Music** presentation was presented by Hilary Bridge, who highlighted the initiatives, recognitions, and accomplishments within the K-12 Arts and Music department at all four schools through video clips. All students and faculty are extremely happy to be back together in person and able to create artwork and use all the instruments again.

Brad Austin – It is great that we are giving the opportunity to so many students to be part of the art and music program.

Justin McCarthy – The community gets behind the art and music programs and it is a wonderful opportunity for our students.

**State of the Curriculum Mathematics** presentation was presented by Elizabeth Rego, who highlighted the initiatives, recognitions, and accomplishments within the Math department at the Middle and High School.

**Middle school accomplishments**

- 6th Grade Math – Jen Goff
- 7th Grade Math – Andy Webster
- Math Lab – Rachel Silva
- MCAS Strategies
- Professional Development
- Student Engagement
- SEL
- Grade 8<sup>th</sup> students took part in the Scholastic Hardest Math Contest

**High School Accomplishments**

- Advanced Placement
- MCAS Strategies
- Common Core
- Professional Development
- Dual Enrollment
- Technology/Engagement
- Financial Algebra and Financial Literacy Fair
- Co-Taught Algebra I
- NEML
- Archie

## **Math MCAS – Grade 10**

- 77% of students were either meeting or exceeding expectations.
- 30% of students were exceeding expectations (> 2019 or 2021)
- LHS above the state on all but one question
- Identified areas where students could use more practice and reinforcement.

## **Current Focus Areas**

- Continue to make adjustments due to the pandemic.
- UDL in math
- Prepare students for MCAS.
- Real world applications
- Collaborate with LHS math teachers and other districts.

Stacey Desmarais – It was some very impressive results and very happy with the AP results.

Jen Gold – Really impressive program.

Justin McCarthy – In 2019, 17% of the student population were not meeting expectations and now we are at 22%. Is this because of Covid? Is this similar in other districts?

Elizabeth Rego – I do think that the pandemic had something to do with this. Other districts are showing the same results. Our ALEKS program is a great help for these students. I do believe that UDL will help with this as well. It gives students an opportunity to learn in different ways.

Brad Austin – Is Algebra II a requirement? AP exam is a set date for all districts.

Elizabeth Rego – Algebra II is a graduation requirement. Yes, the AP Exam is a set date, and it is a lot of curricula to get through, but the teachers do a wonderful job every year with the students.

## **State of the Curriculum History and Social Science presentation was presented by Joseph Dennis Professional Development & Highlights**

- Culturally Responsive Teaching - Adaptive X
- Implementation of S. 2557 - Genocide Education
- World History Textbook Review & Selection - McGraw-Hill Education's World History by Jackson J. Spielvogel
- Universal Design for Learning
- Project Based Learning
- Civics Projects in 8th and 10th Grade
- Grade 6 Country Expo this Spring

## **High School US 1**

One of the (many) implications of AI generated content is fragmentation of our knowledge of the past- you can essentially use it to create your own version of the past that seems very authoritative. Here's one AI generated narrative about abolitionism in the 1840s and 1850s below:

Students read AI generated pieces then identified a passage (or passages) that are accurate then explained in an open response using specific from class.

## **AP Psychology now a part of the History and Social Sciences Department**

Biological Bases of Behavior unit where students drew and labeled the Neural Chain with chalk outside LHS.

Brad Austin – I really appreciate the presentation and it is some great assignments. How do we balance the online textbook base? Can you tell us more about civic learning? Is our curriculum tied to framework and standard?

Joseph Dennis – We do a lot of primary source analysis. We do this across from Grade 6 through Grade 12. We have a lot of material on the civic topic, but I do not know a lot about it at this point. Yes, we use the MA framework standards.

### **3. Superintendent Evaluation**

A discussion of feedback from School Committee members regarding the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation. Brad Austin gave a brief overview of the Superintendent's goals set forth for his evaluation. Dr. Clenchy met the student learning goal and met the professional practice goal.

The superintendent was marked proficient in most of the areas and was marked exemplary in a couple of the areas.

The board suggested that it would be beneficial if the Superintendent got out more into the community. If the community got to learn their leader a bit better. With a diverse community there are many things/traditions to learn.

Superintendent Clenchy thanked the board for their feedback.

Stacey Desmarais – It has been a pleasure to work with you and have you as a mentor for the board.

Binal Patel – The data and decision is not always driven from test scores which is important.

Jen Gold – I agree with my board members.

Justin McCarthy – I think we have a really high-functioning school committee which is partly because of the Superintendent's leadership. But you let us represent the school committee to the community in our own way.

Brad Austin – As we look at data, we would like to look at a climate survey for our schools.

Kelly Clenchy – Next year we will work closely with Panorama on surveys.

- 4. Financial Update:** Business Manager, Steve Mark presented the financial update. The overview was included in the packet.

### **NEW BUINSESS**

1. Business Manager Steve Mark asked the School Committee to approve the request to accept the donation of pianos from Indian Hill.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Stacey Desmarais it was voted to approve the request to accept the donation of pianos from Indian Hill as presented. (AYE: Unanimous). Roll Call Vote: Justin McCarthy, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Stacey Desmarais, AYE; Binal Patel, AYE; and Jen Gold, AYE.

### **INTERESTED CITIZENS**

None

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **PMBC:** High School roof repair – contract has been signed.
2. **Budget Subcommittee:** The budget subcommittee members need to set up a meeting soon.

**3. SEPAC:** None

**4. Policy:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Stacey Desmarais it was voted to adjourn at 8:43 PM to go into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiation discussion with no intention to return to Open Session. Roll Call Vote: Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; Binal Patel, AYE; and Stacy Desmarais, AYE.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

**May 4, 2023**

**7:00PM**

**DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING**

LITTLETON ATHLETICS - 2022-2023 Winter/Spring Update

State of Curriculum - Art, Music & Drama

Mathematics - State of the Curriculum 2023

History and Social Sciences 2022-2023

Financial Report