



Town of Littleton School Committee

33 Shattuck St. * P.O. Box 1486 * Littleton, MA 01460-4486 * Phone: (978) 540-2500 * Fax: (978) 486-9581 * Website: www.littletonps.org

JEN GOLD, Vice Chair
STACY DESMARAIS, Member

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Chair

BRAD AUSTIN, Clerk
BINAL PATEL, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES
May 4, 2023
7:00PM

PRESENT: Justin McCarthy
Brad Austin
Jen Gold
Stacy Desmarais
Binal Patel

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 Jen Gold and seconded by Stacy Desmarais it was voted to approve the April 13, 2023, agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous).

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

RECOGNITION

- 1. LMS NELMS Recognition:** Representatives, Jason Webster and Jeff Rodman from New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) recognized Littleton Middle School in rewarding them with a Spotlight School Award.
- 2.** Justin McCarthy School Committee Chair recognized Brad Austin for his years of service (2020-2023) as the Clerk and Member of the Town of Littleton School Committee.

It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its educational programs, services, activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by contacting Lyn Snow, District Equity Coordinator at 978-540-2500, lsnow@littletonps.org or 33 Shattuck Street, P.O. Box 1486, Littleton, MA 01460.

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.

3. The School Committee Chair, Justin McCarthy recognized Littleton High School Student John Feltus for his year of service (2022-2023) as the Student Representative to the School Committee.
4. **Student Representative Report:** Chair, Justin McCarthy, gave an update of the events happening at each school.
5. **Town Meeting:** Superintendent Kelly Clenchy recognized the LHS student who sang the National Anthem at the Annual Town Meeting. Superintendent Kelly Clenchy also recognized the LHS student who won the Town Report cover Art Contest. He also thanked the Community for supporting the school district FY24 budget.
6. The district met with Dee Bus this week and are now able to present the school start times as well. Letter with start times will be emailed to all families.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Two of the Curriculum Coordinators presented their State of Curriculum reports within the following subjects:**

State of the Curriculum K-12 Health/PE presentation was presented by Meredith Perry, who highlighted the following:

Major Accomplishments

Still waiting for updated Curriculum Frameworks (1999)

- SRO connections in the MS curriculum
- Back to “normal” after COVID
 - Brought back the fun
- Universal Mental Health Screening - Grades 7, 9-12
 - Depression, Anxiety, Suicide
- Signs of Suicide
 - 6th grade - Screening
 - 8th grade – refresher

Current Focus

- Updating curriculum once new frameworks are released.
- Looking at the whole student to help figure out where they are at and how we can get them to where they need to be.
- Social and Emotional Wellness for students and staff
 - Modifications for students struggling with regulating their emotions.
 - Incorporating SEL practices into the classroom

Professional Development

- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- UDL - Universal Design for Learning
- Online courses
 - Strength Training for Women
 - Motivating the Unmotivated

Shaker Lane Happenings

Students have been trying obstacle courses. This helps students develop strength and balance, practice motor skills, and develop body awareness.

Russell Street Happenings

Every 6-8 weeks, students participate in wellness classes focused on breathing, mindfulness, and mindful movement exercises.

Middle School Happenings

Detective Meg visits
Collaborative Activities
Instant Activities
Mindfulness
LMS/LHS Archery
PALS
Journaling
Moving/Dancing/Playing/Socializing
Coloring Mandalas

High School Happenings

Meditation in Fit for Life
Strength & Conditioning
Fit for Life
Health

Brad Austin – I'm glad you are supplementing with other standards. Can you give us an overview when we start to talk to our students about sexual and reproductive health?

Meredith Perry – We start in Grade 5, we continue in middle school and most students take their health class in grade 9 at the high school. But they are always welcome to reach out to Meredith Perry at any time.

State of the Curriculum 6-12 World Language presentation was presented by Elizabeth Kelley, who highlighted the department's accomplishments:

LPS Department Updates 2023

- Recognition & Merci: Jenene Allison's retirement
- Seal of Biliteracy Yearly Schedule
- Fourth Year of Streamlined Unleveled Courses
- Dual Enrollment with Middlesex Community College

Professional Development

- ACTFL meeting in Boston, November
- Book Club for Common Ground
- District-Wide: Adaptive X early adopters, Universal Design for Learning
- DESE's World Language Leaders Network Meetings, EMFLA
- Prior Learning Assessments and College Credits for Languages
- Faculty-Led: MA State WL Frameworks

Proficiency Goals

- SOBi awarded for Intermediate High
- Language Acquisition Takes Time
- More time = Higher proficiency

Engaging Class Activities

- Reading in class
- Reading to other classes!
- School yard clean up.
- Socratic Seminar

Student Engagement outside of Class

- Worcester Art Museum
- Classics Day at Boston University
- Roman Trivia Ite Championships
- Spain trip

Stacey Desmarais – Love to see the high school students coming to Russell Street. How are we funding these trips to Europe? How much are these trips?

Elizabeth Kelley – These trips are not school funded. They are sponsored by parents and students. The price varies but it is about \$4,000-\$5,000 a trip.

Brad Austin – The dual enrollment. Are there two levels?

Elizabeth Kelley – It depends on the school. At Middlesex Community College it is level 3 & 4.

Brad Austin – To become proficient it is suggested that you start to learn a language at an earlier age.

Elizabeth Kelly – It is not feasible to start earlier in many districts due to funding. But I would like to see our district start a little earlier. The introduction to all three world language choices in grade 6 is great but might not be as beneficial as if the student only had one language all year instead.

Justin McCarthy – Is the Latin trend gaining in popularity in Littleton?

Elizabeth Kelley – The fact that we can maintain three languages in our small district is impressive. I do think our students are interested in learning Latin, and the students are having fun learning it.

2. **2022-2023 District Slide Presentation:** Superintendent Clenchy presented the 2022-2023 District Slideshow. The video was shown to the public.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL CHOICE SLOTS FOR FY24

1. **School Choice FY24:** Superintendent Kelly Clenchy asked the SC to approve the recommended School Choice seats for FY24. An overview of the projected school choice enrollment numbers was included in the packet.

Stacey Desmarias – It would be nice to know how many classes there are in each grade. Average class size?

Kelly Clenchy – At grade K–5 we have 6 classes in each grade. We try to keep our number of students to 23-25 students in each class.

Justin McCarthy – I support the School Choice numbers. How does the number fit for grade 6?

Jason Everhart – Our 6th grade team has suggested creating two ELA classes. One for reading and one for writing to support our students. This will spread the students out to more classrooms.

Justin McCarthy – I'm not sure if Transitional class is still necessary going forward?

Kelly Clenchy – Although the number of transitional classrooms in districts throughout the state has decreased, however I want to be sensitive to our community and to the students who need a little extra support before moving forward into 1st grade.

Brad Austin – I really like the Transitional program. I have never heard any stigma behind this.

Justin McCarthy – The School Committee gave their consent to the School Choice number presented.

NEW BUINSESS

1. **High School Tennis Courts:** Adding two courts: Business Manager Steve Mark discussed the potential addition of two tennis courts at Littleton High School. Park & Rec are hoping to build four tennis courts at the high school. The timeframe is to have a warrant ready at the November town meeting.
2. **Light Pole Request/RSS Track:** Chair Justin McCarthy discussed the requests from families to place another light pole close to the RSS track for safety in walking the track in the evenings. The request was agreed upon and voted on.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to allow the LEW to install a light pole near the RSS Track with no cost to the school department. (AYE: Unanimous). Roll Call Vote: Justin McCarthy, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Stacey Desmarais, AYE; Binal Patel, AYE; and Jen Gold, AYE.

3. **MASC Delegate Form:** School Committee discussed if a member would attend the MASC Conference as the Delegate Representative in November 2023. A participant will be determined later.
4. **Handbook Update:** Director of Student Services, Lyn Snow, provided an update on additional language recommended for the Handbooks. The revised language was included in the packet.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to approve the additional language in the school handbooks 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:** None
2. **Budget Subcommittee:** School Budget was approved at Town Meeting this past Monday.
3. **SEPAC:** Now is the time to start thinking about the next school year. Elections will be held in June.
4. **Policy:** None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Stacey Desmarais it was voted to adjourn at 8:41PM 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 18, 2023
7:00PM

DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

State of Curriculum – Health / PE

State of the Curriculum -World Language

School Choice policy JFBB

School Choice recommendation

MASC letter

Handbook language revision