

Lincoln METCO 2019–2020



Lincoln Public Schools
School Committee Report

December 5, 2019

AGENDA

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➤ METCO Program

- Staff
- Lincoln METCO Students
- Enrollment by School
- Student Challenges

➤ Current Steps

- Student Support
- After School Programming
- Parent/Faculty Engagement

➤ Next Steps: Vision

- Welcoming Environment for all
- Improved Student Achievement
- Increased Parent Engagement
- Ideal Bus Ride for all

➤ Action Steps



The METCO Program

Started with parent engagement...



The METCO Program (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunities) was founded in 1966. The METCO Program is open to children from all backgrounds and cultures who are domiciled in the city of Boston. It is a voluntary program and enrollment into the program begins at METCO Headquarters Inc. in Roxbury.

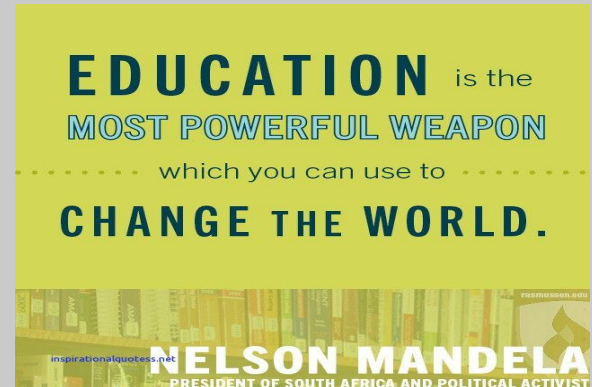
In 1966, the first 220 students, aged 5 to 16, rode buses from Boston neighborhoods to schools in seven suburbs: **Arlington, Braintree, Brookline, Lexington, Lincoln, Newton,** and **Wellesley**. This academic school year marks the 53rd year of the Town of Lincoln's participation in the METCO Program.

METCO Program in Lincoln

The Lincoln METCO Program is comprised of families from diverse ethnic, cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds with a range of educational strengths and needs.

The Lincoln METCO Program helps students and families become a community of learners, better prepared to meet their academic, social, and emotional challenges; some of which may be unique to Boston resident students.

The Lincoln METCO staff partner with the students to help each of them cultivate a positive mindset, their voice, and self-efficacy.



Lincoln METCO Staff

METCO Director - Marika Hamilton

Program Coordinator - Devon Burroughs

Bus Monitor/Tutor/Paraprofessional - Rhonda Tillman-Jones

Bus Monitor - Gena Thompson

Bus Monitor/Tutor - Veronica Thompson

Bus Monitor - Shamika Woods

<https://www.lincnet.org/Page/5329>





Student Panel



- 1. Please describe what success means to you from an academic and social perspective.**
- 2. Can you tell us about a moment this year in which you felt you were successful?**
- 3. In what way(s) do you feel the METCO program has supported you in reaching that success?**
- 4. If you could ask for one thing that would help you continue to be successful academically and socially, in Lincoln, what might that be?**

Lincoln METCO Students

90

Students
across two
schools

64

Families
represented in
total

24

Families with
two or more
students

Lincoln METCO Students

8

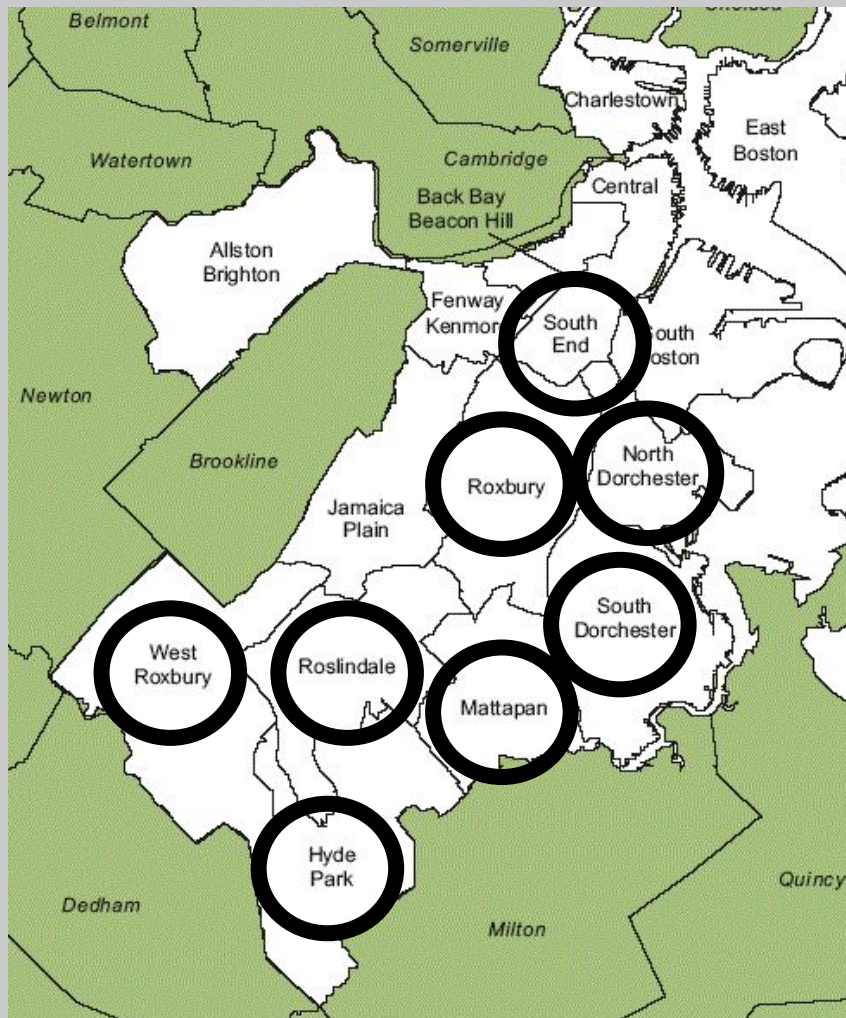
Boston towns
being
represented

26

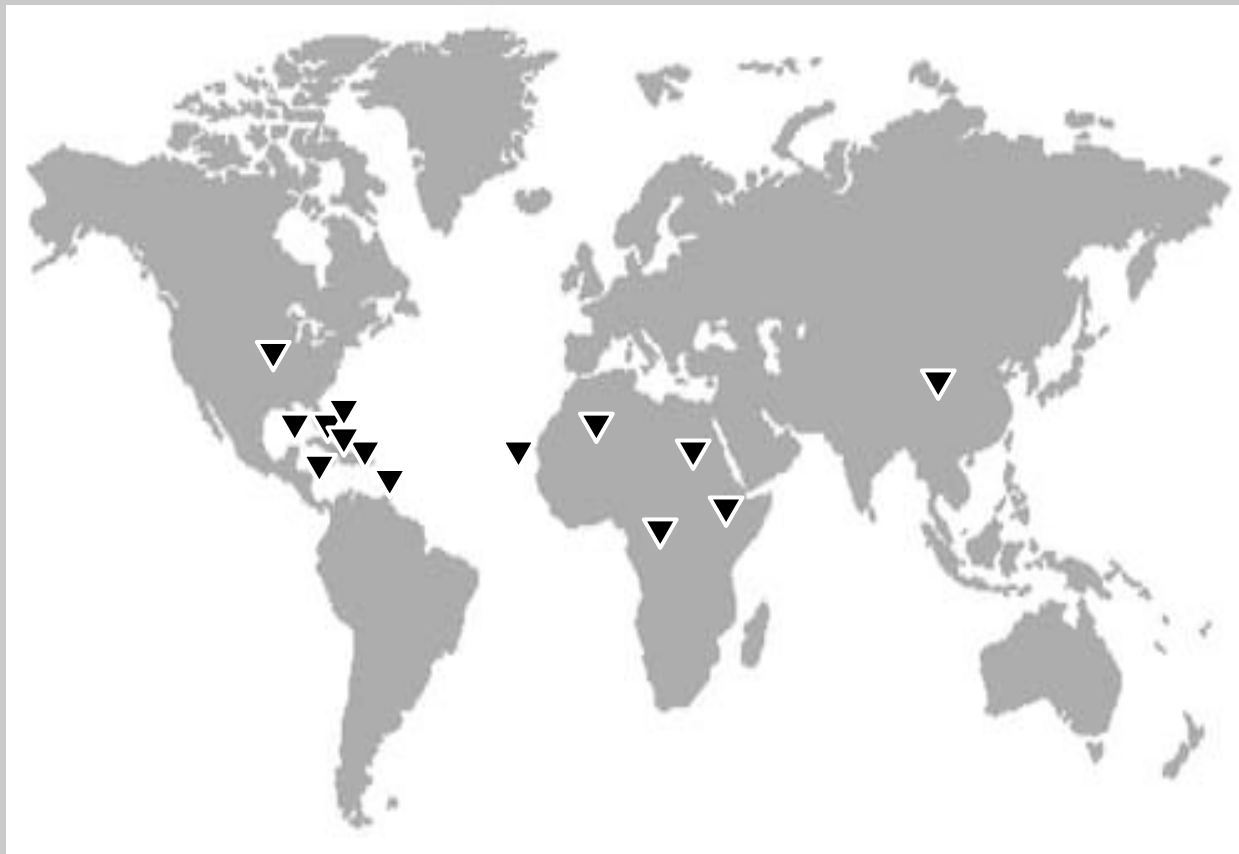
Students with
two or more
languages

7

Different
languages
represented



Home Neighborhoods of Lincoln METCO Students



Algeria
America
Asia
Barbados
Cape Verde
Congo
Dominican Republic
Ethiopia/Eritrea
Haiti
Jamaica
Puerto Rico
Nigeria
Hondouras
Trinidad

Cultural Backgrounds of Lincoln METCO Students

Enrollment by School: K-4

Grade	# of Students	Female	Male
K	9*(1)	6	3
Grade 1	16*(2)	10	6
Grade 2	15*(1)	7	8
Grade 3	12	8	4
Grade 4	8	4	4
TOTAL	60	35	25

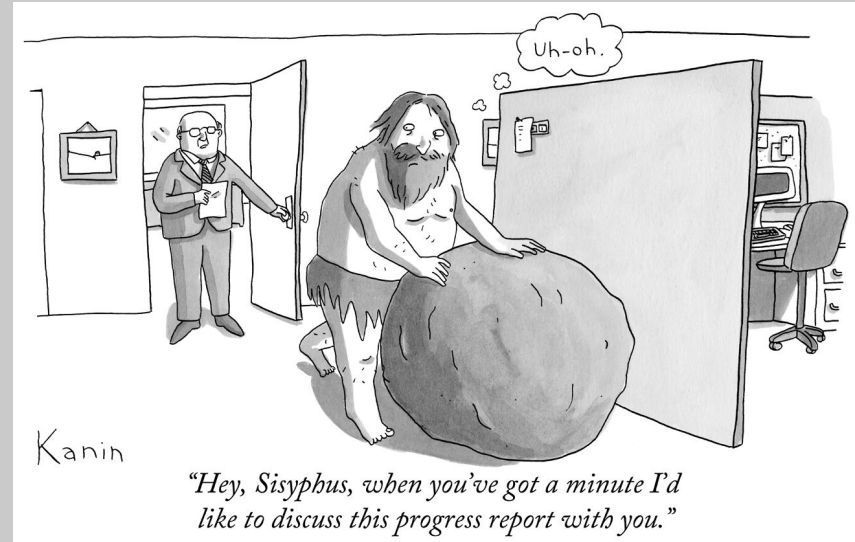
*Late enrollment of 4 students on September 18th

Enrollment by School: 5-8

Grade	# of Students	Female	Male
Grade 5	11	5	6
Grade 6	6	5	1
Grade 7	7	3	4
Grade 8	6	4	2
TOTAL	30	17	13

Top 10 Student Challenges

1. Early mornings/long days
2. Long bus rides
3. Social-emotional stress from stereotype threat and microaggressions
 - a. Microassault- deliberate discriminatory behavior, microinsult-“can you swim?”, & microinvalidation - “I don’t see color”
4. Feelings of isolation/meaninglessness
5. Code switching confusion
6. Feeling/Being misunderstood
7. Peer comparison (w/Lincoln residents)
 - a. Internal identity struggles
8. Coping with change
9. Stress: trying to keep up and start up
10. Difficulty relating to teachers/peers



Current Steps: Student Support



Current Steps: Student Support

Lunch Bunches:

- Provide time for students to take a load off
- Provide a safe space for children to come together in an environment where they make up the majority
 - Helpful to students of color who are in classes where they are one of only a few students of color
- Positive environment for students to explore their affinity experience and discuss topics pertinent to them with a sense of ease
- Agenda is driven by the needs of the students
 - Topics vary, but many times the lunch is free flowing

Current Steps: Student Support

- Hold one-on-one student meetings to encourage student advocacy
- Extension offering on Mondays and Fridays to develop leadership skills and self-efficacy (Middle School)
- METCO rep attends SST/IST meetings to partner with teachers and offer supports for both the student and teacher
 - Keep cultural knowledge at the forefront to help stakeholders have a social-emotional connection to the student and understand the behavior in light of experience
- METCO rep attends IEP meetings
- Follow up with teachers on students' missing assignments or progress
 - Ensure after school homework club time is effectively used
 - Follow up on progress so that students can be spotlighted



Current Steps: Culturally Responsive

- METCO in the classroom
 - “Celebrating to avoid Tolerating”
 - Meeting with teachers to discuss cultural lens
- Created Mentor/Mentee opportunities for middle school students to connect with K-4 students
- November attendance at Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP) via School Reform Initiative
- MDA Conference 2019
 - District scheduled to send 10 staff/faculty to the annual METCO Directors Conference on December 6th
 - ***SHOUT OUT***: MCC for sponsoring 3 faculty
 - All participants will attend a Diversity Think Tank on December 9th



Current Steps: After School Programming



Reading Buddy Program: Grades K & 1

Current Steps: After School Programming

- **First Lego League**
 - 1 Team: BOLDers (Building Opps to Leverage Diversity)
 - Sponsored by MCC
 - 6 Students; Grades: 4 & 5
- Competition: December 7th @ Revere High School



Current Steps: After School Programming



First LEGO League

Current Steps: After School Programming

Entrepreneurship

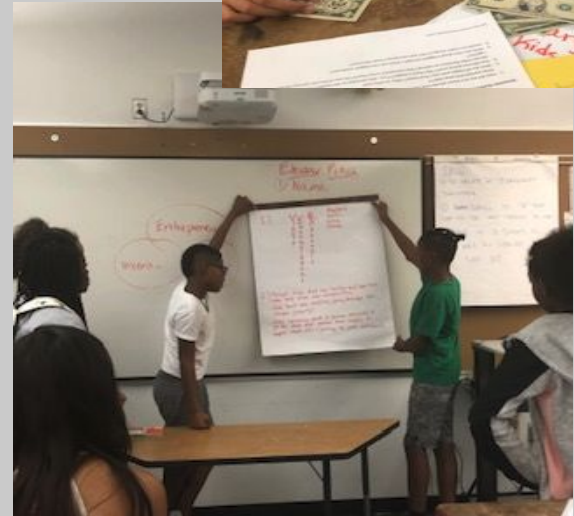
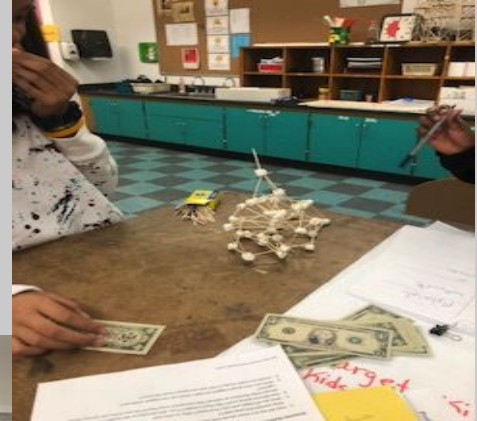
Budgeting & Profit/Loss



Sewing



4 Ps:
Product
Place
Price
Promotion



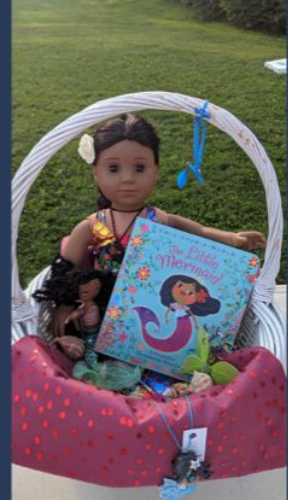
Current Steps: After School Programming

- Social Entrepreneurship
 - 8 Boston-Resident students; Grades 5-7
 - Estate Sales = \$3,999
 - AG Doll Sales = \$2,447
 - Total Estate Sales = **\$6,446**



HUGE estate and American Girl Doll sale

American Girl Doll
Baskets and accessories
Original artwork
China
Silver
Ceramics
Pottery
Antique lamps
Christmas items
Curiosities Galore
And lots, lots more!



**Friday and Saturday
November 15-16
9am - 3pm
18 Cerulean Way,
Lincoln**

All proceeds benefit Lincoln
METCO Coordinating
Committee

Current Steps: After School Programming

Homework Club: A.S.A.P. (After School Academic Program)

- Tues & Thurs from 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
- Students work on homework assignments/projects with supervision and teacher support
- **Grades 3-4** supervised by Ms. Veronica & Ms. Gena
 - Meet in Smith Library
- **Grades: 5-8** supervised by Mr. Burroughs
 - Meet in Brooks classroom
- Runs throughout the academic year until May 28th



Current Steps: Parent/Faculty Engagement

- Monthly Lincoln METCO “Siren” Newsletter
 - Distributed to faculty, staff, & Lincoln/Boston parents

<https://www.lincoln.org/Page/5348>

- Enhanced communications for Parents
 - Robo Calls for delays, parent meetings, etc.
 - IT working on text messaging...stay tuned
 - Email/call parents with student updates/highlights
 - Parent/Guardian meetings mapped out for the school year and communicated in advance
- Attend K-8 Team Meetings
 - Student concerns/Spotlights
 - Problem solving
 - Develop partnerships with faculty

FIVE KEYS TO PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Karen Mapp, senior lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, says all activities must be:

- 1 LINKED TO LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
Connecting directly to student learning and developmental goals.
- 2 RELATIONAL**
Building relations in multiple directions among teachers, families, and students.
- 3 INTERACTIVE**
Offering parents hands-on, valuable experiences.
- 4 COLLABORATIVE**
Using parent input effectively and providing parents with vital information about their children's academic and emotional development.
- 5 DEVELOPMENTAL**
Building the intellectual and social-emotional capacity of students and their families.

NAIIS
National Association of Independent Schools

www.nais.org Source: Karen Mapp

Next Steps: Vision

- Maintain a welcoming and collaborative environment
 - Ensure EVERY student feels welcomed
 - Create opportunities to build community
 - Retain/maintain cohort of students
- Focus on Improving Student Achievement
- Increased Parent/Guardian Engagement
- Improved Bus Experience



Action Steps - Creating Welcoming Space

- Work with 5-8 students/faculty to develop METCO book (celebrating METCO)
- Work with Principal Collmer/faculty on developing lesson plans for K-2
 - Infuse cultural identity work early on
 - Focus on “Who Am I?”
 - Birth Name Meaning
 - Celebrate Differences/Diversity
 - Orient all students to METCO program
 - Incorporate importance of empathy
 - **Goal:** Get students to see the human before “the Boston
- Create more opportunities for student facilitated affinity groups
- Develop a platform for students to share “their voice and heart” and for teachers to listen
- Invited Lincoln Parks & Rec Dept to the table
 - Identify ways to align after school activities in order to build community



Action Steps - Improve Student Achievement

- Help students cultivate a positive mindset
 - Balance giving students “CARE” and “PUSH”
- Increase involvement of teachers/tutors in the after school homework/tutoring
 - Help teachers to build relationships & recognize students’ cultural learning in order to constructively respond to their needs...strengthens student connectedness to learning
 - Working with principals to assess plan for school-wide after school enrichment
- Introduce students to the benefits of advocating for themselves and seeking extra help from teachers outside of class time
- Partner with community organizations
 - Provide resources for parents to utilize during the winter, spring, and summer breaks
 - Ex. CROC Center - take advantage of tutoring resources in Boston to avoid long days for students
- Connect continuing students to METCO Inc. Summer Program at Roxbury HQ

Action Steps: Student Achievement

Tenacity Challenge:

- Annual academic competition for teams of 7th and 8th grade Latino & African-American students around 3 themes: leadership, empowerment, & tenacity
- Benefits:
 - Build academic capacity
 - Strengthen intellectual risk-taking
 - Hone leadership skills through an action project
 - Develop enduring peer and faculty relationships
- Competition: **March 7, 2020**
- Students prepare for 3 events:
 - Leadership Action Project
 - Math Quiz Bowl Challenge
 - Global Voices Literary Analysis



Action Steps - Parent/Guardian Engagement

- Launch Parent E-Board ~ January 2020
 - Parent Liaison for each school (K-4 & 5-8)
 - Create Family Directory
 - Assist each other (i.e. in cold months, offer a child with no car, a seat in warm car)
 - Explore starting a “Partner Family” Program (aka Host Family)
 - Develop partnerships
 - Parent E-Board, MCC, & PTO to plan yearly social events that build community
 - Build community = Increase engagement
- Increase attendance at Boston parent/guardian meetings
- Co-host (2) Lincoln Parent/Guardian Meetings with PTO
 - Next meeting: March 19, 2020 at midpoint location
- Build/foster teacher and parent connections using unconventional methods
 - (i.e. FaceTime, Skype, etc. for parent/teacher conferences)

Action Steps - Improved Bus Experience

- Partner with Mental Health Team
 - Developing bus curriculum with a focus on Social Emotional Learning
- Bus Monitor Trainings - Partnering with Sudbury
 - Follow-up trainings scheduled for January 15th & May 27th
 - Mental Health Team will teach “mindfulness” tips so monitors can help students better transition into the school day
- Create Incentive Program
 - Bus with least conduct slips (each month) wins a pizza party or ice cream social in June
- Acquire items to keep students engaged
 - Borrow a Book
 - Gimp/Embroidery thread
 - Word puzzles/searches



Thank You For Your Support & Opportunity

