

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Update

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BULLETIN #5
FALL 2022

New Finch robot kits expand K-8 computer science learning from basic concepts of sequencing and loops to complex games, art, and mazes. 8 th graders can create their own robots with new Hummingbird kits. All thanks to a Digital Literacy and Computer Science award from the state.



Dr. Becky McFall retires this summer after 11 eventful years as LPS District Superintendent

She has overseen:

- 4 school building projects that transform our learning environments
- COVID-19 responses that kept our schools open in fall 2020 when 97% of MA districts closed
- Commitment to becoming an anti-racist and inclusive school district
- Collaborative relationships with our employee unions, the Finance Committee and with the Department of Defense
- Continued development of innovative and high-standards for learning

Dr. McFall succeeded Mickey Brandmeyer who retired in 2012.

Superintendent Search Underway

The School Committee plans to select our next Superintendent by mid-February after reviewing results from public forums and surveys, appointing a screening committee to review applications, and holding public interviews with the finalists.

Dr. Becky McFall announced in September that she would retire at the end of this school year. To assist the district with the search, the School Committee has engaged the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston. Recruitment is ongoing with an application deadline of November 28.

On Nov. 17, the School Committee selects the screening committee to represent the makeup of the district and community, to review applications in confidence and to recommend finalists to the full School Committee. Finalists visit the schools and meet with the public in January before the School Committee conducts interviews in open session and chooses a candidate.

The Superintendent is the educational leader and CEO of our PreK-8 district with 1,066 students on two campuses: Lincoln, serving children of Lincoln, Boston (through the METCO program) and town employees, and Hanscom Air Force Base, serving military children under contract with the Department of Defense Educational Activity. The district has 241.2 FTE staff and a FY23 operating budget of approximately \$32.2 million.

The LPS school year has already been an eventful one, with several changes underway.

Last month, Dr. Becky McFall announced she will be retiring in June after 11 years as LPS Superintendent. The School Committee thanks Dr. McFall for her countless accomplishments over the past decade, notably her remarkable leadership in successfully navigating the pandemic and school building projects.

The School Committee's primary goal this year will be to hire a highly qualified Superintendent to replace Dr. McFall. We have hired the Collins Center to guide us through this search and will seek input from the public throughout the process.

Another important School Committee goal is working with the administration to collect more robust data, both with respect to student academics and social and emotional wellbeing. These enhanced metrics can help guide our decision making, assess the district, and inform the public.

As we work toward these goals, the School Committee looks forward to another year of growth and fulfillment.

On behalf of the School Committee,

John MacLachlan, Chair

Affordable housing development won't burden our schools

The Lincoln School Committee wishes to make clear to the community that development of affordable family housing in Lincoln will not burden our schools. In fact, just the opposite is true. We welcome more students.

- We have spaces open in our classrooms. Enrollment has been decreasing and is expected to continue to decrease in communities like ours, because of aging populations, declining birth rates and the high cost of suburban housing.
- Optimizing enrollment and increasing the diversity of students support our best educational models. Grade-level middle school teams of subject-specialized teachers need an adequate cohort of students. Greater diversity in every classroom broadens all children's educational experience.
- Providing a greater variety of local housing options will give the schools – and all town agencies -- greater advantage in attracting faculty and staff.

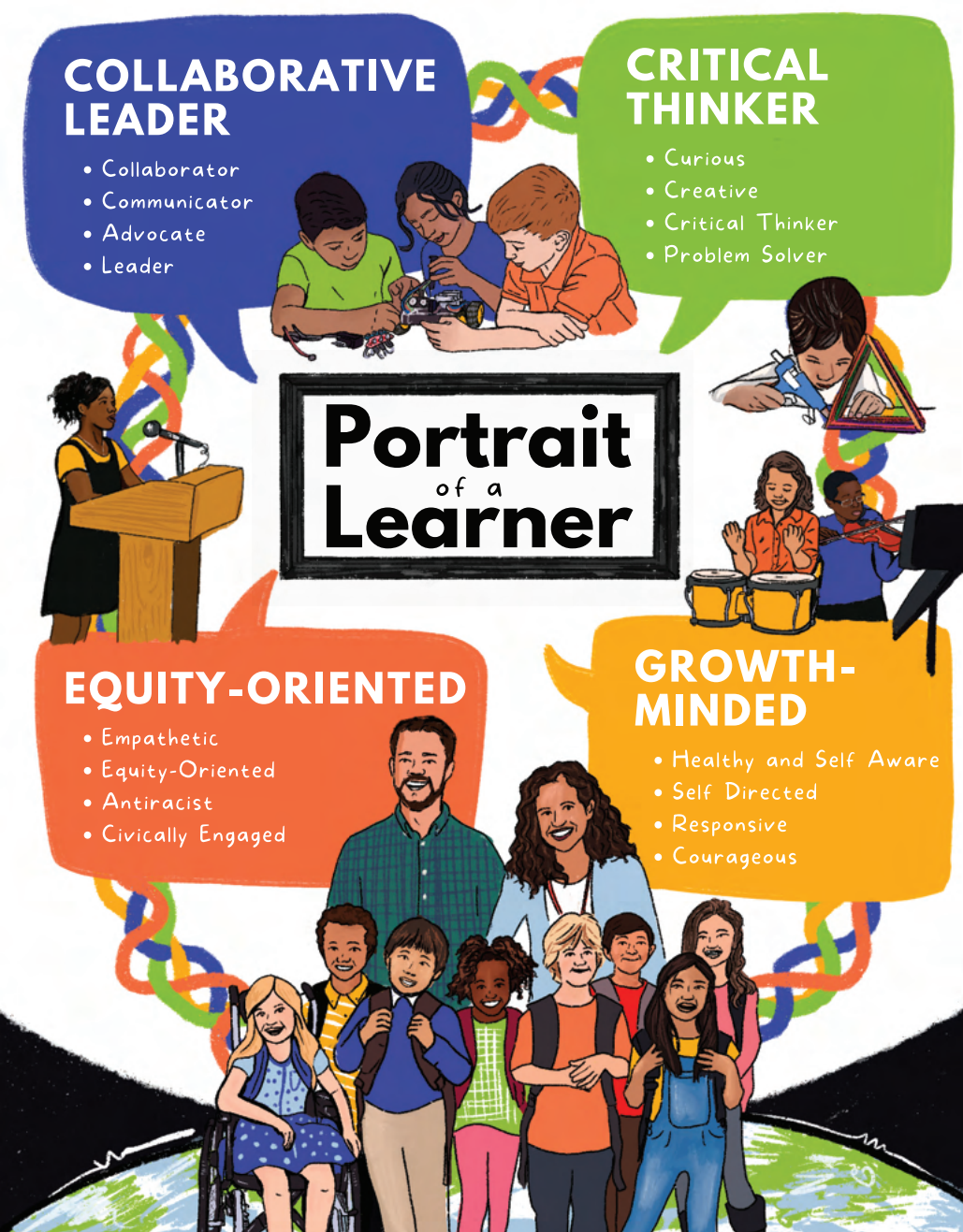


2022 Lincoln School Committee: Tara Mitchell, Adam Hogue, Kim Mack, Laurel Wironen. Seated: John MacLachlan, chair, Kimberly Rajdev, Susan Taylor.

Lincoln School Committee has 7 members: five are volunteers elected at-large to staggered 3-year terms and govern by majority vote. Two more are appointed liaisons from Lincoln METCO and from Hanscom Air Force Base. The liaisons participate fully in discussion and comment but do not vote. The committee has 6 broad functions:

1. Set school policies and appraise annual priorities;
2. Hire and evaluate the Superintendent according to state laws;
3. Set goals for continued improvement of educational programs (implementation is the responsibility of the Superintendent);
4. Adopt a budget and assure adequate financial resources;
5. Steward the district's facilities and physical resources; and
6. Keep open communication with local citizenry and school administration

To contact the committee, email schoolcomm@lincnet.org



Top marks for our Special Ed and Anti-racism efforts

The LPS District Special Education Services received an extremely rare honor earlier this year. A periodic state review, called Tiered Focused Monitoring, found LPS in compliance with all criteria examined in the complex and individualized set of programs to identify student needs and provide support services. The report also commended the District's commitment to self-evaluation practices in relation to race and equity evidenced by the comprehensive Equity Audit and AIDE action plan.

LPS's Portrait of a Learner is a new shared vision for our school district in terms of our culture and our outcomes.

It specifies the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal competencies we believe all students – and all members of our school community – need to succeed now and in the future.

The portrait has four main parts: we strive to be collaborative leaders, who are critical thinkers, equity-oriented, and growth-minded. Within each part are sub-components with further specific descriptors such as acquiring communication skills, problem-solving techniques, and confidence to work for change. The portrait makes visible the priority goals for teaching and learning so that all staff, students, and families can align their collective efforts.

Every element of the portrait comes from the values and hopes of school families, community members and staff shared during the development process beginning in 2019. These values affirm our district's commitment to antiracism, inclusion, diversity, and equity, to social-emotional learning and to the relevant, real world and interactive process of Deeper Learning instruction.



Lincoln School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

October 28, 2022

On Friday, October 28th nearly 200 community members joined us in the Learning Commons to celebrate the opening of the renovated Lincoln School with a ribbon cutting ceremony and school tours! Our pre- Kindergarten thru 8th grade students celebrated via a live feed from the Learning Commons and enjoyed their own special ribbon cutting ceremony from their classrooms and in grade-level hubs

Although it has been a busy two years with multiple moves for many students and faculty, our school community has settled in to enjoy the transformational features of our renovated school. Features such as new flexible educational spaces with moveable glass walls, new outdoor playground equipment, a connector from the school to the Reed Gym, hydration stations throughout the building, and large indoor and outdoor gathering spaces, have fostered greater collaboration and creativity for Lincoln School students and faculty.

A common theme of the speeches given by Select Board member, Jennifer Glass, Superintendent Becky McFall, and SBC Chair, Chris Fasciano was an appreciation to those in the community who supported the Committee's efforts over the many years a school building project has been discussed, and to the many ways the community contributed to bring this project to a successful completion!! Thank you to all those who joined us in person or through the livestream. It was a day of celebration for all!



Pictured clockwise from left: SBC ribbon cutting; Leah Johnson, student, giving the Tribal Land Acknowledgement; performance by musical group Cantabile (Victor Han, Luca Lee, Finn Larsen, Henry Hussey and Nooreddeen Kawaf)



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