

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
April 9, 2018, 6:00 PM
Senior Center

Members Present:

Christine Hogan, Chair
Richard Tinsley, Vice Chair
Margaret Helon
Lisa Kouchakdjian
Lucie St. George

Also Present:

Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Audrey Swennes, SEA Representative
Dan Carty, BOS/liaison
Susan Iuliano, BOS/liaison

Open Regular Session

Chair Christine Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. District Reports

- a. SEA Report - Audrey Swennes reported that first graders will be putting on a puppet show for the Kindergarten students on the topic of bugs; third graders are working on biography projects; some classes will participate in a wax museum presentation. Fourth graders had a visit from Mr. Walley as they learned about how electricity is made. Some fourth graders are learning about the growth mindset and the human brain. A group of fifth grade girls put together a video about kindness which was shared with the entire school. Some fifth-grade students are developing presentations based on "Genius Hour". Other fifth graders are working on MARC, an anti-bullying campaign in which they are encouraged to be mindful of how to be a good friend and show empathy for others.
- b. Business and Finance Director's Report - Don Sawyer stated that Committee Members have a copy of the FY18 YTD budget report for the month of April, there has not been a lot of changes since the prior report.
- c. Assistant Superintendent's Report - Kim Swain congratulated Sudbury educators for being awarded \$18,016.29 in grants, Ms. Swain listed the grant recipients. Ms. Swain thanked colleagues who attended the First Annual IDEAS Conference at Bentley College with her, noting this conference was through the EDCO Collaborative.
- d. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Anne Wilson - Dr. Wilson was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

2. School Committee Reports [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]:

Lisa Kouchakdjian attended the Strategic Financial Improvement Committee for Capital Funding meeting with Lucie St. George. Ms. St. George explained that this Committee is trying to determine the necessary amount to have for capital, and how it will go into the yearly budget. Ms. Kouchakdjian noted the Committee discussed Policy, and how that is defined. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th.

Ms. Kouchakdjian discussed her and Maggie Helon's work on the Policy Subcommittee, they are currently on Section I, adding that Michael Gilbert has been a tremendous expert. Ms. Helon noted that Mr. Gilbert is planning on attending a School Committee meeting in June at which time he will review the edits that have been made thus far. Ms. Hogan and Mr. Tinsley expressed concern that there may be too much information to review at one time, and as per previous agreement by the School Committee, would prefer periodic updates including any changes. They noted they have not seen any substantive updates. Mr. Sawyer added that SPS Administration has objectives within the Policy they want to meet and need to ensure there are no conflicts. Ms. Hogan inquired as to whether the administration has been involved in and signed off on the policies thus far. Ms. Kouchakdjian noted all the policies are vetted by the attorneys for MASC and DESE and all meetings are open. Ms. Helon and Ms. Kouchakdjian agreed to have a timeline in place to show a schedule and topics so all can follow the process. Ms. Hogan asked that the Committee be provided with suggested changes to date.

Ms. Kouchakdjian stated that she is glad to be part of the Search Committee for the Director of Student Services, adding the process has begun.

Ms. St. George noted that she attended the EDCO meeting, Collins has been hired to do an accelerated search for the Executive Director.

Ms. Helon noted she is excited to be part of the Loring principal search which starts tomorrow. Last week she attended a parent forum with Loring parents that was very valuable and helpful going forward.

Mr. Tinsley inquired as to the cost of insurance on Chromebooks, what it covers, and whether it may be more cost effective to self-insure. Mr. Sawyer said a cost analysis was done and offered to bring information back to the Committee as to the cost on losses incurred.

3. Open Forum - None

4. Board of Selectmen Joint Committee Presentation

Dan Carty and Susan Iuliano joined the School Committee Members at the table; Mr. Carty called the Board of Selectmen subcommittee joint meeting with the Sudbury Public School Committee to order.

Mr. Carty stated that last year the Board of Selectmen created a list of goals, one of the goals was the creation of a subcommittee to explore administrative options to improve the partnership with Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury; he and Ms. Iuliano are the liaisons for this subcommittee.

Ms. Iuliano noted the goal is to look at the LS Regional Agreement and work on a long-term plan, including Lincoln in the discussions, to advance future exploration in an appropriate way. A letter proposal was forwarded to this School Committee and to the Lincoln Board of Selectmen. The letter included a list of general goals for improving education. Mr. Carty noted they would like to know the School Committee's impression of the concept, and what possible roadblocks they perceive. Ms. Helon noted that speaking with the Administration and Superintendent to see how curriculums align would be first and foremost and an understanding of the history. Ms. St. George agreed the history of the Regional Agreement is important, specifically how it came about. Ms. Kouchakdjian stated that better collaboration will be a great benefit to our students, and inquired as to community involvement. Ms. Kouchakdjian stated she does not believe consolidation will save money. Ms. Swain would like to see a needs assessment, and believes student transitions are successful. Mr. Tinsley noted that a lot is done to ensure there is alignment, he would like to see a better structure as we look at this. Mr. Sawyer noted it is a challenge when dealing with three distinct, legal school districts, and two towns, adding that care must be taken to not increase dollars on one side. Mr. Sawyer added he would be willing to look at anything but the objective at this point is vague. Ms. Hogan said she is all for exploring how we can further work together by exploring additional options to collaborate, adding that when collecting data, the same

criteria should be used for all parties, and noted the importance of keeping the community involved. Ms. Hogan stated as to Ms. Kouchakdjian's point, we do not know whether there will be cost savings but anything that could lead to a better educational experience for our students is something we should explore. Ms. Hogan added we will not have answers until we explore. The Committee agreed to move forward with an open collaborative dialogue. Mr. Carty adjourned the subcommittee meeting.

5. Historical Overview of Enrollment Catchment Areas (Susan Iuliano)

Ms. Hogan thanked Ms. Iuliano for agreeing to discuss the history of the four elementary schools and the Sudbury's historical districting efforts and processes with the Committee tonight. Ms. Iuliano presented a slideshow which began with the 1980's through the redistricting that occurred in 2010 and explained the process used stressing it was a multi-year process. Ms. Iuliano emphasized the importance of looking long term, doing it right and including input from the community. Ms. Kouchakdjian noted there has been some uncertainty as to potential housing developments which could impact enrollment. Ms. Hogan added there will always be uncertainty in this area and she advocated for a long-term process including looking at upcoming years as well as long-view with commitment to looking every few years. She pointed to Ms. Iuliano's presentation where redistricting historically looked at and considered within time frames and we are overdue. Mr. Tinsley discussed the current capacity levels at each of the schools. Ms. Helon emphasized the need to set goals and guides, adding this process will require a long time to think about and to decide whether this is something that should happen and added she likes Sudbury's current boutique district model. Ms. Hogan asked the Committee to consider looking into hiring an outside consultant to assist the Committee with a look at district and town needs including enrollment, housing, upcoming administrative office space needs to give the Committee recommendations for moving forward. Mr. Sawyer noted this would be the optimum time to look at redistricting where the Committee could begin with a space assessment and then possibly enlist the assistance of an outside consultant. Mr. Tinsley, Ms. St. George, Ms. Kouchakdjian and Ms. Helon stated they would prefer for Mr. Sawyer to conduct a current needs assessment at this time. Mr. Sawyer noted that he would be able to begin a space assessment in July.

6. Meadowwalk Update

Ms. Hogan read the email from Superintendent Wilson who stated there is little new information. As of this date, there is an expected seven new elementary grade students and three new middle school students.

7. Revolving Accounts and User Fees Overview

Mr. Sawyer explained that in regards to the revolving accounts and user fees, all in all it is coming together the way we would like it to be, and will end on a positive note. The athletic revolving account is self-sustaining. Ms. Helon inquired, and Mr. Sawyer responded, that there is a minimum required number of participants. Mr. Sawyer suggested the Committee may want to consider an upcoming meeting to discuss where athletic fees fit in, whether they want it to remain self-sustaining.

8. FY19 Bus Transportation

Mr. Sawyer reviewed the bus registration process for FY19. Mr. Sawyer explained there are currently 27 buses in the bus fleet for Sudbury and Lincoln. Mr. Sawyer reviewed the District's requirements. Mr. Sawyer noted that it is important for families to follow the registration process. Mr. Sawyer discussed the budget process, and cost by school. Mr. Tinsley asked if this could be broken down as older students from LS typically don't use the bus. Mr. Sawyer noted there is no School policy that discusses transportation for residences within two miles that are not secure, adding that he expects the 27 buses to be able to accommodate all students. Ms. Kouchakdjian inquired as to families who sign up for a bus pass but not use it. Mr. Sawyer said there is no way to follow up on that. Mr. Sawyer noted that the first weeks may be overbooked and over capacity; we are asking parents to help us in getting this set up for the safety and security of the students.

Public comment:

Susan Berry said there will be many students on the waiting list with the way this is set up. Mr. Sawyer said this is why families need to register, at \$80,000 for the cost of a bus, we cannot add buses in the event they ride.

Mr. Tinsley suggested looking into a technology program that could track students in order to determine if students are using their bus passes, the Committee agreed to look into this.

9. Designate Liaison to ESPAS and Custodians Negotiations

Ms. Kouchakdjian offered to be the liaison designate to ESPAS and Custodian Negotiations. Ms. Hogan suggested a motion to appoint Lisa Kouchakdjian. Ms. St. George so moved the motion. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

10. Superintendent Transition Plan Update

Ms. St. George commented that she would like any items discussed with the new Superintendent be discussed as a Committee.

11. Members' Forum

Ms. St. George noted that she watched the School Committee's last meeting on cable.

Ms. Swain thanked all the families who showed up at Math Night. Ms. Swain reminded Middle School families that report cards were published today on Aspen Family Portal. Ms. Swain reminded all that the next School Committee meeting will be held in Boston at the Boston Public Schools headquarters.

Ms. Swennes reminded everyone about the Softball Bonanza on May 11th, rain date is May 18th at Curtis Middle School.

12. School Committee Communications - none.

13. Personnel Actions - none.

14. Minutes - Regular Session Minutes (3/27/18)

Ms. Kouchakdjian made a motion to approve the minutes for March 27, 2018. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-1. Motion carries. (Ms. St. George abstained as she was not present for this meeting)

15. Future Agenda Item Discussion

The Committee discussed future agenda items: User fees, Curtis sports fees, Policy Subcommittee Members will create a timeline.

16. Executive Session

Ms. Hogan suggested a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategies with respect to negotiations with union and non-union personnel as to do so in open session may be detrimental to the negotiating position of the Committee and to review and approve Executive Session minutes, to not return to Open Session. Mr. Tinsley made a motion to go into Executive Session. Ms. St. George seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Clifford