

Sudbury School Committee (SSC)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
January 28, 2019
Sudbury Senior Center

Members Present:

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair
Margaret Helon, Vice Chair
Christine Hogan
Silvia Nersessian
Richard Tinsley

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of schools
Donald Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Christine Grigsby, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Ms. Kouchakdjian called the regular session meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

1. Open Forum - None.

2. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report - Christine Grigsby discussed the enrichment programs that have benefited students and staff at each of the schools thanks to support from the PTOs. Educational outreach programs included educators who visited classrooms from Plymouth Plantation, the Discovery Museum, and the Museum of Science. Other programs included Poetry Alive and Poetry in Motion, Star Lab, Electromagnetism, and Green Energy. Ms. Grigsby thanked the PTOs for being liaisons for learning.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report - Donald Sawyer noted that, since Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School is conducting a traffic study while also being in the process of changing vendors, there may be a slight delay in transportation services. Mr. Sawyer will update the School Committee once he receives additional information.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report - Kim Swain congratulated Noyes Librarian Barbara Gogan for being named the recipient of the Massachusetts School Library Association Super Librarian Award. This prize recognizes Ms. Gogan's significant contributions to her school, and will be awarded at a banquet on March 31st.

Ms. Swain updated the Committee on the robust ILAP day coming up on Wednesday. Ms. Swain discussed the focus of each area and acknowledged the tremendous work from the curriculum team, coaches, literacy specialists and Student Services Department in ensuring they are offering a variety of learning plans to meet educator needs and support District initiatives.

iv. Superintendent's Report - Brad Crozier discussed the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) meeting which he attended. The meeting included a roundtable of experts and focused on the future of education. As one of the top states in the country for education, Massachusetts will need to keep the ball moving forward to stay on top. Mr. Crozier noted that Commissioner of Education Jeffrey Riley discussed the Governor's budget and that Sudbury may be awarded an additional \$53,000 in the budget, but it is not yet finalized.

b. Director of Student Services Hiring Process - Mr. Crozier noted that, back in August, Stephanie Juriansz was appointed Interim Director of Student Services. Mr. Crozier discussed his recommendation to begin a vetting process to gather information from administrators, teachers, and parents to assess how well Student Services are running under the current Director; if the feedback is good he will recommend appointing Ms. Juriansz to the position permanently. Ms. Hogan said she would like to have parent feedback as part of the process as she feels hearing directly from families receiving services is important. The School Committee discussed having a meeting to include Student Services, Early Childhood and SEPAC.

Maia Prejansky-Bell, Co-Chair of SEPAC, noted they are working on a survey which will be inclusive to all families, not only to students with an IEP; the survey should go out in early February. Mr. Crozier noted this will happen simultaneously with the vetting process.

Mr. Crozier noted he will provide copies of the documents and slides from the MASS conference to the School Committee Members. Mr. Tinsley would like SEPAC to ensure that the survey includes all populations of students, including general education students.

3. Business and Policy Matters

a. Review and Finalize Topics for Legislative Forum - School Committee Members discussed the draft agenda for the Legislative Forum, including which items to keep on the agenda. Topics to be discussed include: changes to the funding formula and potential impacts to Sudbury; innovation grants to support Sudbury; proactive funding which is supportive of student physical safety; legislative efforts to support changes in school start time; what our legislators need from the School Committee; and, what legislative efforts exist concerning mandated transportation and rewarding regionalization. Ms. Swain noted that expertise is in place to respond to any

mandates regarding the Dyslexia Bill; the School Committee Members agreed to remove this agenda item for now.

b. Master Planning Committee - Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that the Master Planning Committee is comprised of Members of various town committees, including a representative from the LS School Committee. Ms. Kouchakdjian inquired as to whether Committee Members would like further clarification from the Master Planning Committee as to why a seat at the table was not offered to the Sudbury School Committee. Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that there may be an opportunity for an at-large Member. School Committee Members reviewed the Master Planning Committee's Mission Statement and agreed there are areas that may fall within the School Committee's purview. Ms. Kouchakdjian will send an email to a member of the Master Planning Committee. School Committee members may also consider attending the Master Planning Committee meeting as a resident and reporting back to the Committee.

c. Capital Articles - Mr. Sawyer explained that the Warrant for Town Meeting closes this week and there are two revolving fund authorizations that will be included: the Transportation Revolving Account (up to \$450,000) and the Musical Instrument Lessons Revolving Fund (up to \$100,000). The third Article is for the continuation of the playground reconstruction. CPC voted on January 2, 2019 to contribute \$235,000 for the funding of the Nixon Playground, a figure that was reduced from \$335,000 after the receipt of \$100,000 in grant funds. Mr. Sawyer has advocated for combining the Nixon and Loring playground projects to possibly allow for potential savings, but questioned the feasibility of that idea due to timing and site work issues.

Motion: Ms. Hogan made a motion to approve the 2019 Town Meeting Warrant Articles for the Nixon Playground, the Transportation Revolving Account and the Musical Instrument Revolving Account as written, and authorize Director of Business and Finance, Don Sawyer, to submit to the Board of Selectmen on the Committee's behalf. Mr. Tinsley seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

d. Review School Committee SMART Goals -

School Committee Members reviewed the SMART Goals to see how they are doing on these Goals as a Committee.

- School Committee Policy Manual: The Manual is complete and is up on the website. Members agreed that the Policy Subcommittee would meet to review the Handbooks and make sure they are consistent with District Policy manual.
- SPS Administrative Offices: School Committee Members discussed the status of the Space Needs Assessment and whether the appropriation was to the Board of Selectmen and if it will be released to the School Committee. Ms. Hogan will speak with Selectman Carty to get clarity and follow up at the February 4 meeting.

- Equity - Ms. Swain noted that she has a recommended facilitator who would only be available during the evening. Ms. Swain proposed a three hour conversation in the spring to set the Committee on a meaningful path towards this goal; Members agreed to go with Ms. Swain's recommendation; Ms. Swain will put together a tentative schedule and bring it back to the Committee.

e, Review Strategic Planning Subcommittee Template School Committee Members discussed the Template for the Strategic Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that revisions were made to certain dates and schedules, and she would like to finalize the template so the Subcommittee can get to work. Mr. Tinsley felt strongly that the Template was missing key data. Mr. Crozier noted that as he gets to know the District, he sees the good work that was done on the Strategic Plan in the past; he agreed that there are missing components, but we can see how to incorporate those. The Strategic Plan Subcommittee will hold open meetings and provide regular reports to the School Committee at least monthly. The Committee discussed postponing the vote. Mr. Crozier stated that the framework was done and it is important to build on that, and not change it.

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to approve the template for the Strategic Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion. The discussion continued and it was noted that the framework was done to build and refine. There will be a communication sent to the community regarding the work that is being done.

Vote: 3-1-1. Motion carries. (Mr. Tinsley opposed, Ms. Hogan abstained)

f. Vote on Tentative Non-Union Agreements -

Motion: Ms. Nerssessian made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the Director of Business and Finance employment contract and authorize the Chair and Superintendent to sign that contract. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-2. Motion carries (Ms. Hogan and Mr. Tinsley abstained).

g. Liaison Reports

Ms. Nerssessian, as liaison to the Strategic Financial Planning for Capital Funding, noted that Selectman Dan Carty presented oversight and funding source options that the School Committee set forth to the Board of Selectmen. To this point, the Board of Selectmen have decided not to move forward with an override for capital.

Ms. Nerssessian thanked Mr. Sawyer and Jean Nam for working on the reconciliation sheet which will be submitted to the Finance Committee later this week. On February 5th or 6th the Capital Improvement Committee will review playground projects; February 11th is the budget hearing with the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the Capital Improvement Committee will hold a joint meeting March 5th on Capital, including playground projects, on March 26th; all recommended budgets will be reviewed with the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Ms. Hogan noted that the School Start Time Subcommittee held a forum Thursday at 7:00 PM at Curtis, featuring Dr. Chun Lin. Representatives from Dover-Sherborn also be attended. A survey went out to parents last Friday. 1,650 surveys were sent out, 708 of which have been returned. 164 staff surveys went out today, 118 of which have been returned.

Ms. Helon noted that Goodnow Library is having an Educators Celebration between 4:00-5:00 PM on Wednesday, and mentioned that this would be a good way to connect to the the Library and STEM Labs.

Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that LS had a lengthy budget presentation meeting on the 22nd, including good discussion on their budget gap issue.

Ms. Kouchakdjian noted she spoke with Radha Gargaya, chair of the LS School Committee, and they are aiming for March 11th as the date for the Tri-District Meeting.

h. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Hogan suggested Ms. Kouchakdjian speak to Radha Gargaya regarding the Efficiency and Regional grants.

Ms. Hogan suggested that when the Committee talks about the 2020-2021 School Calendar they consider Super Bowl Monday as a Professional Development Day.

Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that Chief Nix will be here with us on Monday, February 4 to update the Committee on school safety.

The Committee discussed meeting start times.

I. Minutes - Regular Session, (01/07/19)

Motion: Ms. Nerssessian made a motion to approve the January 7, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries

4. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Hogan made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Clifford

Sudbury School Committee
Documents Reviewed during the 1/28/2018 meeting

1. Sudbury Public Schools Committee - Evening with our Legislators Agenda
2. Article: Sudbury Public Schools Playground Improvement”
3. Article: Sudbury Public Schools Bus Revolving Fund
4. SMART Goals - Sudbury School Committee 2018-2019
5. Sudbury Public Schools Committee - Strategic Planning Subcommittee Template
6. Draft Meeting Minutes January 7, 2019