

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD
MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 2023

6:30 PM

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONF. ROOM "A"

(Meeting can be viewed at www.sudburytv.org)

Present: Chair Janie Dretler, Vice-Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board Member Daniel Carty, Select Board Member Jennifer Roberts, Select Board Member Charles Russo, Town Manager Andrew Sheehan, Town Counsel Lee Smith

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 6:31 PM.

Chair Dretler announced the recording of the meeting and other procedural aspects included in the meeting.

Call to Order

Select Board Roll Call: Kouchakdjian-present, Carty-present, Russo-present, Roberts-present, Dretler-present

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that tonight the Board will be voting on four Town Meeting Articles; Article #8 – Firefighters Collective Bargaining Agreement and three SPS Articles.

Article 8 – Fund Collective Bargaining Agreement - Firefighters

Discussion regarding funding of Article 8 took place, especially in consideration of FY24 budget aspects.

Member Carty pointed out that this was more than a 0.5%/2%/2% increase and asked that Town Manager Sheehan clarify to the voters when he does his presentation to Town Meeting.

Chair Dretler read in the words of the motion. Board Member Russo moved in the words of the Chair. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye, Roberts-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To support Article 8 – Fund Collective Bargaining Agreement – Firefighters

Article 11 – Nixon Elementary School Roof Schematic Design Fees

Board Member Russo stated he was looking forward to completion of Sudbury schools assessment process to advance planning for Capital improvements for the school buildings. He was pleased to see the Town was in favor of including solar installation while roofing for the schools takes place.

Chair Dretler read in the words of the motion. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Roberts-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To support Article 11 – Nixon Elementary School Roof Schematic Design Fees

Article 13 – Funding of State Approved Special Education Out-of-District Tuition Cost Increase

Chair Dretler read the motion as originally came through, “Vote that the Town vote to authorize the School Committee to accept and expend any additional monies that may be made available in FY24 to the Town by State Legislation, pursuant to Ch. 70, otherwise from any other federal, state or local grant program for school departments.”

Chair Dretler commented that if such other funding came through, it would be held in a separate account. Town Manager Sheehan commented that such funds would not be added to the general fund, and would be put in a separate fund for the specified purpose, whether it be received as a grant or whatever method it is received by the Town. He acknowledged that such funding would be a one-time event.

Chair Dretler read in the words of the motion. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Russo-aye, Roberts-aye, Carty-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To support Article 13 – Funding of State Approved Special Education Out-of-District Tuition Cost Increase

Article 12 - Increase to FY2024 Sudbury Public Schools General Fund Appropriation for Additional Chapter 70 State Aid

Board Members discussed aspects of Article 12.

Board Member Roberts indicated she would prefer more justification for the budget increase but that multiple Board members had felt that the FY24 override should have been larger and that supporting this Article is warranted. She offered a potential statement of support for the Article.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian expressed concern about the manner in which the School budget is being managed. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian stated it was an issue last year when \$300,000 of circuit breaker money was used towards the general operating budget which should not be done as it is money intended for students with disabilities. This fact introduced risk into the budget.

Board Member Russo stressed that additional information about the School budget and school/student needs should be presented at this time.

Chair Dretler stressed the importance associated with the process which is somewhat different with this article.

Board Member Carty indicated that he appreciated the conservative approach being taken and that this article did not reflect an override.

Chair Dretler read in the words of the motion. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-1; Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Roberts-aye, Russo-no, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To support Article 12 - Increase to FY2024 Sudbury Public Schools General Fund Appropriation for Additional Chapter 70 State Aid

Board Member Roberts distributed the drafted statement highlighting concerns about Article 12 as discussed by four Select Board Members.

Chair Dretler read in the words of the motion. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Russo-aye, Roberts-aye, Carty-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To authorize Select Board Chair Janie Dretler to read the “Potential Select Board Statement” in support of Article 12, at the Special Town Meeting, October 23, 2023, as presented during the Select Board Meeting.

Select Board Member Carty opined that if Article 9 – Repurpose Melone Stabilization Fund did not pass at tonight’s Town Meeting, Article 10 – Route 117/Powder Mill Rd/Mossman Rd Intersection Improvement, would be Indefinitely Postponed. Town Manager Sheehan concurred.

Town Manager Carty motioned that if Article 9 – Repurpose Melone Stabilization Fund did not pass at tonight’s Special Town Meeting, Article 10 – Route 117/Powder Mill Rd/Mossman Rd Intersection Improvement, would be Indefinitely Postponed. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Russo-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye, Carty-aye, Roberts-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: That if Article 9 – Repurpose Melone Stabilization Fund did not pass at tonight’s Town Meeting, Article 10 – Route 117/Powder Mill Rd/Mossman Rd Intersection Improvement, would be Indefinitely Postponed

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to recess the Select Board Meeting. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Kouchakdjian-aye, Roberts-aye, Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To recess the Select Board Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6:50 PM.