

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the FinCom present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Poch, Co-Chair Jean Nam, Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Ronald Brumback, Blair Caple, Michael Joachim, and Scott Smigler

**ABSENT:** Sonny Parente,

**ALSO ATTENDING the MEETING**

Brad Crozier, Superintendent Sudbury Public Schools; Don Sawyer, Finance Director Sudbury Public Schools; Silvia Nerssessian, Chair of the Sudbury School Committee, and Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair of the Sudbury School Committee; Jennifer Roberts, Chair of the Select Board

**CONVENE:**

Co-Chair Poch called the meeting to order at about 7:04 p.m. and roll-called members of the FinCom present for the February 14, 2022, Virtual Meeting.

**ITEM 1: Open the Meeting**

- Co-Chair Nam stated that the FinCom meeting of February 14, 2022, is being broadcast live and recorded for viewing by the public via [www.sudburytv.org](http://www.sudburytv.org). She read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.
- **Opening Remarks (Co-Chairs)**  
There were no opening remarks.

**ITEM 2: Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 3: FinCom Budget Year FY23**

- **SPS Budget Hearing**  
Michael Joachim introduced Brad Crozier and Don Sawyer and it was agreed that rather than Superintendent Crozier reading the answers to the questions sent from the FinCom, he would go through each question to see if there is any further information that the committee needed.

There was a follow up to the question about utilities cost which have been reduced with the assumption that Covid mitigation will no longer be needed. If mitigation is needed, there is \$80K in the ESSER III grant approved for utility costs that could be used.

In answer to questions what will happen to the approximately \$100K remaining from the 2021 Town Meeting article to support the 2021 SMILE program, Superintendent Crozier stated that by vote at a future Town Meeting the amount will be returned to the Town or applied for something else, for instance a future SMILE program.

During discussion of the approximately 21% increase in the bus contract for FY23, Silvia Nerssessian, confirmed that the school districts are talking to our legislators about the fact that only one bus company ever bids on bus contracts and what the legislators might do to remedy this situation.

Michael Joachim asked about how the 2.6 FTE not budgeted in FY22 and funded by ARPA in FY23 and FY24 will be funded after FY24. The Superintendent responded that if these are needs going forward, SPS will assess the priority of this need and fund it in the budget accordingly.

Jean Nam asked whether there is a need for an increase in the IT budget to address a problem with the phones going out often. Superintendent Crozier responded that his understanding is the phone issue is not caused by an internal problem, but he will research this further.

Don Sawyer explained that the difference in the transportation numbers in the Superintendent's budget presentation and in the Multiyear Data Comparison is that the Superintendent's presentation is done by DESE code which includes the bus monitors. He also confirmed that the budget for transportation is the total cost minus the amount used from the Bus Revolving Fund.

There was an extensive discussion about the use of the Carry Over circuit breaker funds. Some of the FinCom members would like more detail in the use of the carry over. If the intention is to use it at the end of the year to prepay OOD tuition costs, that frees up money in the General Fund budget. Some members would like information on how SPS intends to use these funds. Other members of FinCom disagreed and suggested that FinCom get an accounting at the end of the year.

FinCom moved on to questions about the SPS capital plan. Don Sawyer noted that SPS concentrated on including all the needs in the immediate 5 years. At this point, SPS is working on filling in information beyond 5 years. Silvia Nerssessian informed FinCom that the numbers for the school roofs are several years old and Bill Barletta is working on

getting updated numbers so the committee may see those numbers change. Superintendent Crozier added that he has some concern that the MSBA rules may change again resulting in the roofs being pushed out further on the plan.

- **Discuss**

- o Questions for Town budget hearing

The committee looked at the questions Jean Nam has received. After review and with some additions, the committee agreed that the questions are ready to be sent to the Town Manager.

- **Discuss FinCom Budget Report**

Jean Nam copied the report from 2021, highlighted the sections where numbers need updating, reviewed the positives and concerns and crossed out ones that are no longer relevant. Committee members should review the changes and make suggestions about section to add or delete. There was also a suggestion that the report tie back to the new financial policies. Members should look at the chart section to see if there are any to remove or anything to add.

- **Other items relevant to budget preparations, review, or informing the Finance Committee budget deliberations**

The committee reviewed the Town Meeting articles to decide which they need to opine on and which of these require a presentation from the originator.

#### **ITEM 4: General Business**

- **Liaison reports**

There were no reports.

- **Calendar and Budget Process**

There was no further discussion on these items.

- **Review Goals/Future Agenda Topics**

There was no discussion on this item.

- **Transfers and Other Business**

There were no transfers.

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**

There were no minutes to approve.

#### **ITEM 5: Updates from Town Staff**

There were no updates.

#### **ITEM 6: Public Comment**

Co-Chair Poch recognized Select Board Chair Jennifer Roberts who let the committee know that there was an update on the packet for tomorrow night's joint meeting.

**ITEM 7: Adjournment****Motion and Vote:**

Susan Berry moved, and Michael Joachim seconded the motion that the February 14, 2022, Finance Committee meeting be adjourned at approximately 9:40 p.m.

**Roll call vote:**

Ron Bromback, yes; Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Michael Joachim, yes; Blair Caple, yes; Scott Smigler, yes; Jean Nam, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

*The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is a joint meeting with the Select Board and Capital Improvement Advisory Committee on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 7:15 p.m.*