

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Co-Chair Eric Poch, Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Michael Ferrari, Sonny Parente, Hank Sorett, and Colin Wang

ALSO ATTENDING the MEETING

Brad Crozier, Superintendent Sudbury Public Schools, Don Sawyer, SPS Director of Business and Human Resources; Silvia Nerssessian, Chair SPS Committee; Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair SPS Committee

ITEM 1: Open the Meeting

- **Welcome and member roll call**

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and roll-called members of the FinCom present for the December 6, 2022, Virtual Meeting. He stated that the FinCom meeting of December 6 is being recorded for viewing by the public via www.sudburytv.org. He read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

- **Opening remarks (Co-Chairs)**

Co-Chair Joachim went over the agenda briefly.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: Budget Pressures Meeting with Sudbury Public Schools

Co-Chair Joachim turned the meeting over to SPS Liaison Susan Berry to lead this section of the meeting. Ms. Berry took the committee through the Exhibit 1 answers one by one for any further clarification or follow up questions. Highlights from the discussion included increase in social, emotional, and mental health needs of the SPS students which resulted in additional hires, which is likely to continue to impact the FY24 budget; an increase in OOD students; and increases in utility costs. The committee asked for the cost of the 12.19 FTE positions not originally in the budget. Superintendent Crozier explained that due to the needs of the students, it is difficult to move on any new initiatives that had been in the pipeline.

Co-Chair Joachim reiterated the big picture pressures - student needs coming out of the pandemic, utility increases, and increased costs due to inflation. Increase in FY24 in OOD Tuition costs will add a pressure to FY24.

ITEM 4: Other Budget Discussion

- **Discussion on SPS Budget Pressures Meeting**

One area of concern is how long the additional staff will be needed and how these needs may be addressed once the one-time money that is funding these positions is no longer available.

- **Preparation for LS Budget Pressures Meeting**

Co-Chair Joachim mentioned that the committee does not yet have Exhibit 1 answers from LS; we should have these before the weekend. The committee does have a preliminary FY24 LS budget which was added to the Meeting Materials.

ITEM 5: General Business

- **Liaison reports**

Susan Berry reported that at the last SPS Committee meeting, the committee received an update on their capital articles. They also had a first look at 4 potential capital articles for the May Annual Town Meeting and 2 articles having to do with the Medicaid payments that have been received and 1 regarding Chapter 70 monies. They also looked at an early stage of the FY24 SPS budget and at this point the budget is approximately \$747K over guidance. Sonny Parente mentioned that the ground breaking ceremony for Fire Station 2 is on the 7th at 1:00 pm and that the Permanent Building Committee will meet again on Thursday, December 8 for further discussion on the Fairbank Community Center and Fire Station 2.

Mike Ferrari reported that the LS School Committee is meeting simultaneously with the FinCom meeting and will be receiving a presentation on the FY24 budget.

- **Calendar**

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the calendar and suggested committee members look at the meetings currently scheduled. Susan Berry suggested that the joint capital meeting may need to be moved later in the year so that CIAC has time to review the capital items and make recommendations.

- **Approve Meeting Minutes**

Review of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

- **Transfers and other business**

There were no transfers or other business.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 7: Adjourn**Motion and Vote:**

Sonny Parente moved, and Susan Berry seconded the motion that the December 6, 2022, Finance Committee meeting be adjourned at approximately 8:53 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettenelli, yes; Mike Ferrari, yes; Sonny Parente, yes; Hank Sorett, yes; Colin Wang, yes; Mike Joachim, yes; and Eric Poch, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The next scheduled virtual meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, December 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.