

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) present for the Virtual Meeting were Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Co-Chair Eric Poch (arrived at approximately 8:00 pm), Susan Berry, Andrew Bettinelli, Sonny Parente, Hank Sorett, and Colin Wang.

ABSENT

Mike Ferrari

ADDITIONAL ATTENDANCE

Dennis Keohane, Finance Director/Treasurer; Bella Wong, LSRHS Superintendent; Kirsteen Patterson, LSRHS Director of Finance & Operations; Heather Cowap, LSRHS Committee Chair; Cara Endyke-Doran, LSRHS Committee Vice Chair; Jennifer Roberts, Select Board liaison

ITEM 1: Open the Meeting

- **Welcome and member roll call**

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called the roll of FinCom members present for the February 6, 2023, virtual meeting. He read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

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

There were no opening remarks.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: LSRHS Budget Hearing

Co-Chair Joachim introduced Superintendent Wong and Director Patterson. Superintendent Wong went over the presentation that had been shared at the LSRHS Public Hearing of the FY24 budget. She noted the decline in enrollment that is anticipated to continue for several years. To meet guidance the offset from the circuit breaker is being increased and there is a 1.0 reduction in FTEs. Additions included in the FY24 budget are an increase in staff time to support the Global Scholars program that has increased significantly since its inception, and funds to implement a new Advisory Program. Superintendent Wong explained details on the use of circuit breaker funds and information on the capital requests.

Co-Chair Joachim went through the questions that were sent from FinCom ahead of the hearing. Superintendent Wong explained the cost avoidance from the Partners Program, what LS is doing in terms of social/emotional support for students, and how any Covid expenses that might continue but will no longer be funded with grants might be covered.

There were additional questions from Hank Sorett on the reduction in interest, how payroll is handled, utilities and the solar agreement.

There were follow-up requests for detailed information on the cost of the security camera update, the cost per pupil, the 5-year capital plan, and the solar contract.

ITEM 4: Additional FY24 Budget Discussion

- **Questions for Joint Capital Meeting**

Co-Chair Joachim opened this item for discussion. Jennifer Roberts was recognized and suggested that the committee ask Dennis Keohane whether additional materials are needed for the joint meeting. She mentioned that the Warrant Articles are being reviewed at the Select Board meeting the next night, and she will get the information to FinCom as soon as possible. Co-Chair Joachim asked the committee to come to the joint meeting with questions they have after reviewing the capital items.

- **Questions for SPS Budget Hearing**

There was a request that all three cost centers be asked if they have done bench marking on payroll recently and if not, would they be willing to do that, and also, on utility costs. Susan Berry noted that by Wednesday FinCom should be sent the final SPS Budget Book. She will collect questions sent by FinCom members by midday Sunday, and she will send them to SPS next Monday.

- **Discuss other known FY24 Budget and Warrant information**

There was no discussion on this item.

ITEM 5: General Business

- Liaison reports

Susan Berry reported on a vote by SPS to increase the charge to parents for SMILES Plus, a charge that will help sustain this program into the future but that is less than other similar programs would cost. SPS voted to transfer to other budget areas \$614,795 of the \$697,494 OOD Transportation budgeted funds that are not needed

because they were prepaid. There is still approximately \$240K OOD tuition that was prepaid that has not been transferred.

- Calendar

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the dates of the next few meetings and broadly what would be on the agenda.

- Approve meeting minutes

Co-Chair Joachim reviewed the suggested edits to the draft minutes for the January 9, 2023 meeting.

Motion and Vote

Susan Berry moved, and Eric Poch seconded the motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023 as amended. Eric Poch, yes; Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Sonny Parente, abstain; Hank Sorett, yes; Colin Wang, yes; and Mike Joachim, yes.

The motion carried. The vote was 6 in favor and 1 abstention.

- Transfers and other business

There were no transfers or other business to report.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 7: Adjournment

Motion and Vote

Hank Sorett moved, and Eric Poch seconded the motion to adjourn the February 6, 2023, FinCom meeting at approximately 9:30 PM.

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

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.