

**Sudbury Finance Committee  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2023**

**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 (arrived at 7:15), Mike Ferrari, Hank Sorett, and Colin Wang (left at 9:00).

**ABSENT**

Sonny Parente

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDANCE**

Brad Crozier, SPS Superintendent; Don Sawyer, SPS Finance Director; Silvia Nerssessian, SPS Committee Chair; Meredith Gerson, SPS Committee Vice-Chair

**ITEM 1: Open the Meeting**

- **Welcome and member roll call**

Co-Chair Joachim called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and called the roll of FinCom members present for the February 15, 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: SPS Budget Hearing**

After introductions, Superintendent Crozier went through an abbreviated presentation of the SPS slide show of the SPS FY24 Budget, showing what is in the base budget and the items that are in the override budget. The non-override budget would mean increasing the class size, eliminating 5 FTE teaching positions at the elementary level (\$384,500 savings) and 2.5 at the Middle School (\$192,500), and reducing busing to the state requirement (\$168,460).

Susan Berry went through the FinCom questions that had been sent to SPS prior to the hearing. Superintendent Crozier reminded FinCom that the cost of the 12.19 positions added in FY23 was \$631,441. There was discussion of how positions funded by ARPA and ESSER will be funded in the future, if needed. Brad Crozier stated

that those positions and all the additional positions funded in the override budget are in the SPS estimates for FY25 and FY26. Going forward with the SMILE program, SPS has increased the cost of the Explore portion of the program to something closer to market rate. There were also several questions on OOD transportation, tuition, and circuit breaker.

Several FinCom members had questions about the decisions on cuts if the override does not pass. Hank Sorett had several questions about energy and the possibility of solar panels on the SPS roofs. Eric Poch asked what the approximate cost might be for the top two items in Tier 2 – TA support for kindergarten (approximately \$280K) and World Language Curriculum review (\$50-100K). He also asked if items in Tier 2 are standard programs for peer towns, and what would be the approximate cost? Professional Development (\$100-\$150K), UDL Retrofit (no estimate available), expansion of Project Based Learning Opportunities (approximately \$100K for each grade level), Equity Initiatives (may be able to do some of this within the budget each year). Eric Poch mentioned that his rough tally of the total cost would be \$1-\$1.5M.

Superintendent Crozier added that some peer districts have full time TA support in their kindergarten, and some don't. Chair Nerssessian added that there should be money in the budget to do some piece of a curriculum review each year. FinCom also asked if SPS was sure they were asking for a large enough override and were assured that SPS had looked at the needs and were comfortable with the number.

#### **ITEM 4: Additional FY24 Budget Discussion**

- **Discuss information received at Budget Hearings and at Joint Capital Meeting**

There was no discussion under this item.

- **Questions for Town Budget Hearing**

Co-Chair Joachim volunteered to collect questions to send to the Town Manager prior to the Town Budget Hearing. Members of the committee discussed the level of detail needed to do our oversight.

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

There was no discussion under this item.

- **Other preparation for budget discussions**

There was no discussion under this item.

**ITEM 5: General Business**

- Liaison reports

Susan Berry reported that the article SPS had planned to put on the Warrant asking for reimbursement for the money the Town has received for Medicaid has been pulled. DLS has advised that this is not a method that can be used. Instead, for FY24 the Local Receipts estimate will be increased by \$150K and the SPS budget will be increased by \$150K, the amount expected to be received. There are ongoing discussions about whether this is the method that will be used in the future.

- Calendar

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

- Approve meeting minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

- 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 Mike Ferrari seconded the motion to adjourn the February 15, 2023, FinCom meeting at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Eric Poch, yes; Susan Berry, yes; Andrew Bettinelli, yes; Hank Sorett, yes; Mike Ferrari, yes; and Mike Joachim, yes.

**The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**