

**Sudbury Finance Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2024
7:00PM**

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Finance Committee present: Co-Chair Michael Joachim, Co-Chair Michael Ferrari, Andrew Bettinelli, John Baranowsky, Andrew Sousa, Ryan Lynch and Eric Poch
Absent: Henry Sorett and Karl Fires
Also in attendance: Finance Director Victor Garofalo

ITEM 1: Opening Remarks and Member Roll Call

Co-Chair Ferrari called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00PM, roll-called the members, and declared a quorum present. He read the Municipal Remote Meeting Disclaimer.

ITEM 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3: Budget Pressures Meeting with Lincoln Sudbury Public Schools

Co-Chair Ferrari welcomed Superintendent/Principal Andrew Stephens, Finance Director Kirsteen Patterson, School Committee Chair Cathie Bitter and Member Maura Carty. Mr. Poch asked Superintendent Stephens to update the Committee on where LS currently is in terms of the FY25 budget.

Superintendent Stephens noted the following highlights:

- Unpredictability of substitute coverage as long-term absences were high over last two years as well as day-to-day routine absences.
- General staffing and rest of budget lines where predicted.
- Navigating two-year trend for lower student enrollment and even out in following year; lowest based on five-year average is 1,343 and next year at 1,390.
- Contract negotiations began in September.
- Out-of-district placements last year was a high of 60 and has reverted to low 50's/high 40's which is expected to stabilize; programming within district as an option to OOD provides a wide range of services to students; Student Services Director stays in regular communication for upcoming student needs from lower grades.
- There have been no pre-payments of circuit breaker funds for FY25.
- Capital planning for roof projects.

Discussion ensued including the following highlights:

- Actual numbers for substitutes has exceeded that budgeted by \$16K; however, long-term absences have levelled off.
- Health insurance has increased 10-15%.
- Middlesex County Retirement has assessed the district \$975K over the budgeted amount of \$950K.
- Utilities running under budget of \$500K now at \$375K.

ITEM 6: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ITEM 7: Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Baranowsky and seconded by Co-Chair Joachim, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Roll call vote: Co-Chair Joachim-Y, Co-Chair Ferrari-Y, Mr. Poch-Y, Mr. Lynch-Y, Mr. Bettinelli-Y, Mr. Sousa-Y and Mr. Baranowsky-Y. Motion carries 7-0, unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary