

Sudbury Public Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular Session Meeting
Wednesday May 21, 2014
7:30 PM

Location - Senior Center
40 Fairbank Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

Open Session

Superintendent Anne Wilson called the Open Session to order at 7:33 PM. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

Members Present: Ms. Ellen Winer Joachim, Ms. Lucie St. George, Mr. Bob Armour, Mr. Scott Nassa, and Ms. Christine Hogan

Also Present: Dr. Anne Wilson- Superintendent of Schools, Todd Curtis – Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Robert Mealey – Sudbury Education Association (SEA) President, and Mary Will - Director of Business and Finance

Agenda

1. Recognitions
2. OPEN FORUM
3. Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) Update – Janine Dailey, Director of METCO
4. Reorganization of the School Committee
 - A. Welcome New Member Christine Hogan
 - B. Selection of Members to Serve as Chair and Vice Chair
 - C. Discussion of Liaisons, Subcommittees, and Delegate to MASC
5. FY14 Budget to Actual Update
6. School Choice Vote for FY15
7. School Committee Report
 - A. Liaison/Subcommittee Reports
 - B. EDCO Collaborative Update
8. OPEN FORUM
9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Report
 - B. Bill Schedule
 - C. Personnel Actions
10. Communications
11. Minutes – Regular Session Minutes
12. Member's Forum
13. Executive Session – TBD
14. Adjourn

1. Recognitions

Dr. Wilson thanked all the retirees for their years of service to Sudbury Public Schools. SEA will host a retirement celebration on May 22, 2014. The retirees are Rose Calareso, Alan Catrina, Claudette Chmura, Joseph Cileno, Ann Eppling, Mary Kate Gentile, Janet Hammonds, Patricia Hartvigsen, Sandra Holicker, Kathleen Kimball, Toby Kopman, Deborah Larsen, and Martha McDermott.

2. OPEN FORUM

No members of the community addressed the School Committee during this time.

3. Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) Update

Janine Dailey - Director of METCO for Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. METCO was established in 1966. The program is a voluntary program funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Parents often place their children on the waiting list as infants. There are over 8,000 children on the waiting list, and the average wait time is six years. Sudbury Public School's METCO staff includes the director, three METCO advisors, and two bus monitors. There are seventy students in the SPS METCO program.

There are academic and social support systems in place to enable the students to be successful. Academic support is focused on math and literacy skills. The services provided to the students are based on assessments of student academic needs. Social support is also an aspect of the METCO program. There is an after school program at the middle school and at the elementary schools, "Stay & Play" supports students' participation in after school activities. "Stay in Sudbury" allows Sudbury families to host students from Boston to stay with friends in Sudbury after school. Diversity, Dine, and Dance (DDD), Frog Pond events, and potlucks provide additional opportunities for Sudbury families and METCO families to socialize in Sudbury and in Boston.

2014 Updates - The after school program was increased from two to four times a week. The summer program was increased from two to three weeks. Students entering the METCO program and students recommended by teachers attend the summer program held at the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Boston. The program has an academic focus and also is beneficial to the students socially. Students new to the program have the opportunity to develop friendships with students who are already in the Sudbury Public Schools.

Lincoln-Sudbury/Lincoln METCO Connections

Staff across all three districts meets to discuss best practices. Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School students mentor SPS students and students in the Lincoln METCO program. The connection allows for students in the Curtis Middle School METCO program and students from Brooks School to develop relationships before they go to LS.

Success Stories – With the support of teachers/staff and the use of i-Ready, many students who are in the needs improvement range or proficient range for their MCAS scores are on target to meet their goals.

Parent Dina Mata has a fourth grader at Noyes School. She thanked the Sudbury Public Schools for the support and opportunities given to her child. Ms. Mata expressed satisfaction with communication from school staff and believes that her child will be well prepared for college and will have career opportunities that she and her husband did not have.

Comments/Questions

Sudbury Committee Members asked questions and commented. Ms. Dailey responded.

The combined role of METCO director for Lincoln and Sudbury is beneficial, because the schools working together can provide more academic resources to students. The connection allows for easier transition from SPS to LS. Teachers and staff are able to establish relationships early with students and families. Once it is time to transition to high school, solid relationships are in place. METCO is beneficial to METCO families and Sudbury families.

Ninety-seven percent of seniors in the METCO program at L-S are continuing to college this year.

SPS was able to increase METCO programs without an increase in staff due to a reallocation of funding for the program. There is one less bus and a change in administrative support that allows for the increase in programs.

The METCO summer program could be used as a model for students needing academic support that live in Sudbury.

4. Reorganization of the School Committee

The veteran Committee members welcomed Christine Hogan to the Committee.

Selection of Members to serve as Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION AND VOTE: Scott Nassa made a motion to nominate Ellen Winer Joachim for Chair of the Sudbury School Committee. Lucie St. George seconded the motion. Ms. Winer Joachim accepted the nomination.

The vote was 4-0 in favor, with one abstention. Christine Hogan abstained from the vote.

MOTION AND VOTE: Christine Hogan made a motion to nominate Scott Nassa. Lucie St. George made a motion to nominate Bob Armour. There was discussion on the nominations. Mr. Nassa seconded the motion to nominate Mr. Armour. Mr. Armour accepted the nomination.

The vote was 4-0 in favor, with one abstention. Christine Hogan abstained from the vote.

Discussion of Liaisons, Subcommittees, and Delegate to Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)

School Committee members described the roles of the positions they held for FY14. The Committee members will consider the positions and decide FY15 positions at the next meeting. The positions are liaison, subcommittee, and delegate roles: Board of Selectmen, Finance & Budget, MASC Delegates, Lincoln-Sudbury RHS, SEPAC, METCO, EDCO, Fairbank Task Force, MSBA – Nixon Roof Project, Permanent Building Committee & School Building Committee, Energy Committee & Planning Board, Health Advisory Committee, Anti-Bullying Committee, S.E.R.F., Sewer Commission, Park & Recreation, Negotiations/Labor Relations, Public Relations/Communications, Policy, Budget, Superintendent's Evaluation, and Special Education. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), and Capital Financial Planning positions may be added.

5. FY 14 Budget to Actual Update

Mary Will – Director of Business/Finance

At the last meeting the Committee reviewed the budget. The supply budget is positive and schools will prepare to spend the money prior to the end of the fiscal year. As voted, additional funding (approximately \$323,000) in the Benefits line item was transferred to the operating budget and will go toward professional development and texts focusing on Common Core, technology equipment and infrastructure (Chromebooks, replacement teacher laptops, replacement Curtis phone system) and maintenance items (aging switches, outer Curtis doors, and Loring water heater). Prepayment of out of district tuitions will also occur, as appropriate. Savings in utilities are also anticipated, however, bills have not come in yet for some of the colder months therefore no definitive savings are identified at this time. At this time, we are projected to remain within our budget. Expenditures for FY14 need to be signed off by June 30, 2014.

6. School Choice Vote for FY 15

Annually, SPS decides on whether or not to participate in the School Choice Program. Superintendent Wilson and SPS administration recommended that SPS not participate in school choice. The SPS

decision on school choice does not impede SPS students from attending school choice districts outside of Sudbury.

MOTION AND VOTE: Scott Nassa made a motion to approve that SPS NOT participate in the School Choice Program for FY15. Bob Armour seconded the motion.
The vote was 5-0 in favor.

7. School Committee Report

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Lucie St. George - Policy, EDCO, and SEPAC

Policy - The fingerprinting policy of new employees is a state mandated procedure. New hires must be fingerprinted by June 30, 2014. SPS will decide if the fingerprinting policy will expand to include parent volunteers for school trips. CORI checks will continue.

EDCO - EDCO will be moving to their new facility in Bedford in July.

SEPAC – SEPAC will hold their elections at the next board meeting.

Bob Armour– Fairbank Task Force and Finance & Budget Committee

As a result of the recent elections there are new members of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and many other committees. As the School Committee members proceed with the liaison and subcommittee positions, the Committee should build relationships early with the members of the groups.

EDCO Collaborative Update

Copies of the EDCO Collaborative Update were part of the School Committee packet handed out at the meeting. EDCO provides professional development opportunities to teachers, staff, and school committee members. EDCO provides special education services.

8. OPEN FORUM

No members of the community addressed the School Committee during this time.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Goal Setting for FY15

Dr. Wilson is beginning the process of goal setting for the next school year. Superintendent Wilson would like the input of the School Committee on district goals and asked that a discussion be held at the next School Committee meeting. The goals should be set by the end of July at latest in order to plan for administrative meetings and professional development in August and for presentation to the entire staff on Opening Day. In addition to the input and guidance of the School Committee, a survey related to district goals will be sent to all staff for input prior to development of draft goals. The results of the TELL survey also are utilized in the goal setting process and will be reported at a future meeting.

MCAS/PARCC Standardized Testing

Massachusetts is in the process of identifying and implementing a new generation assessment system aligned with current content standards. SPS along with other districts in the Commonwealth is part of field testing of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC is more aligned with the 2010 MA content standards and Common Core standards than MCAS. Initially, PARCC may be administered in electronic or paper format, however the assessment is intended to be administered only electronically after the initial implementation. For FY15 districts have a choice to administer MCAS or PARCC for grades 3-8. Further information will be presented at the next School Committee meeting and Dr. Wilson will ask the Committee to vote their approval of the SPS choice for FY15.

Administrative Searches

An interim principal will be appointed for Nixon Elementary School following a search that did not yield the appointment of a permanent principal. A new search will be initiated during the fall.

SPS is in the process of scheduling interviews of candidates for the Haynes principal position. The Initial Interview Team including teachers, staff, parents, and a School Committee member will interview candidates on May 27th, June 2nd, and June 3rd. Dr. Wilson asked for a member of the School Committee to participate on the Initial Interview Team. Christine Hogan volunteered to be the School Committee representative.

10. Communications

11. Minutes

The Committee reviewed the March 26, 2014 meeting minutes. Due to the transition from the recording secretary who resigned to the newly hired recording secretary, there has been a lag in the process. Approval and posting of the meeting minutes will be caught up in the next couple of meetings.

MOTION AND VOTE: Scott Nassa made a motion to approve the March 26 meeting minutes with the correction of Chief Nix's name. Bob Armour seconded the motion.

The vote was 4-0 in favor, with one abstention. Christine Hogan abstained from the vote.

12. Member's Forum

Lucie St. George requested a date change of the August meeting. There was discussion amongst the members. The decision was to keep the August meeting date set.

Christine Hogan suggested having live-feeds of the meetings in order to promote openness and transparency of the School Committee. The Committee discussed the idea. Town Hall and the Flynn Building have live-feed capabilities. Town Hall is preferable for its size and equipment. Live-feed of meetings will be placed on a future agenda.

Assistant Superintendent Todd Curtis thanked the people involved in the Bridges Together program and the Professional Development Council. Bridges staff and volunteers Chris Hammer, Bob Dieffenbacher, Debra Galloway, and Andrea Weaver who help make this program possible were all acknowledged. Appreciation was also expressed to fourth grade teachers Jeanmarie Skahan, Melissa Morabito, and Jeff Kotkin who participated in discussions regarding future plans for the Bridges program.

Dr. Curtis also thanked the members of the Professional Development Council: Holly Estes, Karen Condouris, Stephen Lambert, Margaret McGinty, Mary Hawes Mahoney, Stephanie Rousseau, Betsy Grams, Annette Doyle, Jennifer Soalt, Donna Criswell, Anne Pumphrey, Janet Jennings, Jessica Steel, Katie Hanks, Marcy Perry, Megan Philips, and Thomas Rawson.

Dr. Robert Mealey informed the Committee about the SEA retirement event being held on May 22nd. The teachers that are retiring have over 300 years of teaching experience. SEA will hold its annual Softball Bonanza on June 13th. The money raised goes towards college scholarship funds for graduating L-S students. Six scholarships will be given this year.

13. Executive Session – none

14. Adjourn

MOTION AND VOTE: Christine Hogan made a motion to adjourn the session. Scott Nassa seconded the motion. The vote was 4–0 in favor. The time was 10:00 PM.

Meeting Documents

Agenda

METCO Update Presentation

Sudbury School Committee Assignments 2013-2014

Sudbury School Committee Assignments 2014-2015 Worksheet

FY14 Budget to Actual Update

School Choice FY15

EDCO Collaborative Update

Personnel Actions through May 14, 2014

School Committee Meeting Minutes, March 26 Draft