

Sudbury Public Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular Session Meeting
Wednesday September 3, 2014
7:30 PM

Location - Senior Center
40 Fairbank Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

Open Session

Chair Ellen Winer Joachim called the Open Session to order at 7:35 PM. SudburyTV taped the meeting.

Members Present: Ms. Ellen Winer Joachim - Chair, Mr. Bob Armour – Vice Chair, Ms. Lucie St. George, Mr. Scott Nassa, Ms. Christine Hogan

Also Present: Dr. Anne Wilson - Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kim Swain - Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Robert Mealey - Sudbury Education Association (SEA) President
Ms. Mary Will - Director of Business & Finance

Agenda

1. Recognitions
2. OPEN FORUM
3. Superintendent's Goal
4. Parent Survey Summary
5. Enrollment Update
6. Budget to Actual FY14
7. MSBA – Nixon Roof and Windows
8. School Safety Update (Scott Nix, Chief of Sudbury Police Department)
9. Capital Projects Update
10. School Committee Report
 - a. Liaison/Subcommittee Reports
11. OPEN FORUM
12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
 - a. Report
 - b. Bill Schedule
 - c. Personnel Actions
13. Communications
14. Minutes – Regular Session Minutes
15. Member's Forum
16. Executive Session – TBD
17. Adjourn

1. Recognitions

Dr. Wilson recognized everyone who made the first day of school a success. Thank you to our students who arrived with enthusiasm and our teachers, staff, and administrators for preparing to welcome our students with warmth and excitement. Thank you to our custodial staff, Joe Kupczewski, Jim Kelly, and Sudbury DPW for improvements inside and outside our schools. Thank you to the parents who entrust us with their children every day.

2. OPEN FORUM

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

3. Superintendent's Goal's FY15

Superintendent Wilson presented a draft of the Superintendent Goals 2014-2016. The two aspects of the draft goals are Student Learning and Professional Practice. The Student Learning Goal focuses on reducing the proficiency gaps for students in the SWD and LI subgroups. The Professional Practice Goal focuses on developing more effective ways to communicate District progress. Dr. Wilson also included in her presentation the District goals 2014-2015 that were approved June 25, 2014.

The School Committee discussed the draft goals. The Committee expressed concern over the two-year goal process. The School Committee would like to have detailed goals and updates throughout the two years. The Committee noted the need to address each individual child: students in the SWD and LI subgroups, high achievers, and all children. There is a need to identify measures of success in a variety of ways not only standardized testing. The Committee discussed having a closer, clearer link between the Superintendent's Student Learning Goal and the District Goal, number 1 that states "enhance our ability to meet the needs of all learners". There was discussion on increasing the number of goals for the Superintendent and a future action plan. The committee decided not to vote on the draft Superintendent Goals 2014-2016. Superintendent Wilson will meet with the subcommittee to redraft the goals, and the goals will be presented for a vote at a future meeting.

4. Parent Survey Summary

This topic is a continuation from a discussion on the survey data from the spring. The survey included questions about academics, communication, discipline and respect, homework, monitoring student progress, outreach and engagement, quality and satisfaction, responsiveness, school climate, and school pride. The survey included questions SPS customized and open-ended questions. The scores are interpreted as favorable, unfavorable, or neutral. The survey was administered in the spring of 2014. The District-wide survey had an 11.6% response rate. If we choose to use this survey again, we will look at ways to increase participation. Dr. Wilson presented on interpreting the data and how we can use the data. The data was interpreted for each grade level. Overall the highest rated questions were in communication, outreach and engagement, responsiveness, and school climate. The lowest ratings were in academic, quality and satisfaction, homework, discipline and respect, outreach and engagement, and monitoring student progress. There were discrepancies in favorable and unfavorable responses amongst the grades especially 3rd and 7th grade that had typically lower favorable ratings. Superintendent Wilson noted in order to understand better the needs of families some of the survey areas would be good topics for superintendent chat sessions.

The Committee discussed the survey. The Committee noted the favorable, neutral, and unfavorable areas. There is also the comments section of the survey and more analysis needs to be done of the information gained from the comments. There was discussion on the areas of homework and outside the school help. Christine Hogan expressed concern about the survey question regarding academic tutoring and feels the numbers and percentages are worthy of exploration. Christine noted there were comments from the survey about academic tutoring, training, and extra help. Christine noted that there were 112 responses to the comment section asking people to describe academic tutoring, training or extra help offered outside of school and of those 112 comments, 79 (71%) identified the type of extra help provided. The data is unclear about if the homework is too much/too little or too easy/too hard. The data is unclear about if the outside school help is for maintaining a student at grade level or to enhance the learning of high achievers. The Committee discussed the response rate. Parent feedback is important and the Committee is looking into continuing with the survey another year or other ways to gain parent feedback such as School Committee office hours. Included in the discussion was a report card for SPS that would keep families informed of where we are with goals and other aspects of the schools.

Dr. Wilson presented the next steps based on the information from the survey. SPS will enhance

opportunities for students to be appropriately challenged, give schools their individual data, plan Superintendent chats around topics, and look into future surveying. The Committee focused on the continuous need to meet the needs of each individual student's academic, social, and mental health. "There is also a need for more immediate understanding of the area of homework. Christine Hogan expressed concern about the questions concerning "staff" in the survey as there was no distinction among teachers, administration, support staff, etc. and would like to see addressed in upcoming surveys so we may more accurately pinpoint strengths and areas for improvement. Dr. Mealey noted the area of questioning for surveys should be homework related and not teacher performance based.

5. Enrollment Update

Superintendent Wilson presented on enrollment as of September 2, 2014. There are 2,875 students in Sudbury Public Schools. There is potential for movement in and out of the schools throughout the year. If there is an increase in certain classes, an aide may be added rather than opening a new class section so as not to disrupt a class that is already set.

The Committee, Dr. Wilson, and Ms. Will discussed class size, full-day kindergarten, and half-day kindergarten. There will be further discussion and opportunity for public input as the Committee prepares for FY16 budget development.

6. Budget to Actual FY14

Ms. Will presented the FY14 budget to actual through June 30, 2014. A summary and detailed report was part of the School Committee meeting packet. The projections were relatively accurate. Ms. Will explained the difference between the budgets listed in the reports. The year closed with a balance of \$5,166 being returned to the Town.

MOTION AND VOTE: Scott Nassa made a motion to approve the line item transfers for the final FY14 budget. Lucie St. George seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

7. MSBA – Nixon Roof and Windows

Dr. Wilson and Mr. Nassa reported on the Nixon Roof and Windows project. Craig Blake, Sudbury Permanent Building Committee, is the lead on the project.

MOTION AND VOTE: Ellen Winer Joachim made a motion to designate the Sudbury Permanent Building Committee as the School Building Committee and authorize it to act in all matters relating to the Nixon School MSBA project including, but not limited to, preparation of budgets and entering into design and owner's project manager contracts. Scott Nassa seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

8. School Safety Update (Scott Nix, Chief of Sudbury Police Department)

Chief Nix spoke on school safety and continuing to build the relationship between schools and the police department. Chief Nix reviewed the recently released Governor's Task Force Report on School Safety and Security. Sudbury already has many of the aspects highlighted in the report in place. The police department is looking into access control and exterior cameras for Town buildings. In the future access control and exterior cameras may be a possibility at schools. The ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) philosophy and the NAVIGATE system are tools that help keep our community safe and help us be prepared if a situation does arise. We continue to consider available funding and opportunities to enhance school safety. Officer Hutchinson is the full time School Liaison Officer for kindergarten through 8th grade. The DARE program is transitioning to safety awareness in many areas including dating violence, gun safety, and cyber safety at the appropriate grade levels. Officer Hutchinson will partner with teachers who will continue to play a role in implementing the safety awareness program. Chief Nix will also invite parents to participate as the expansion of the safety awareness program evolves. Wellness Curriculum Specialist Elizabeth Grams is working with Chief Nix

to identify areas of the curriculum where a partnership with Sudbury PD is possible. Chief Nix has also consulted with Principal Doyle as he plans for the most effective implementation of the enhanced/new programs.

Chief Nix always welcomes suggestions and greatly appreciates the teachers and staff of the schools.

The Committee thanked Chief Nix for his support of the schools and keeping the schools a safe learning environment for our students.

9. Capital Projects Update

The update will be presented at a future meeting.

10. School Committee Report

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Scott Nassa – The Nixon Roof and Windows is a major project. Thank you to all involved for making it possible.

11. OPEN FORUM

Lisa Kouchakdjian - Meadowbrook Circle

SEPAC would like to thank the community for supporting SEPAC. SEPAC is donating 1,500 reusable shopping bags to the schools for use at Open House.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Report – Assistant Superintendent Swain and Superintendent Wilson will be hosting a booth at the Sudbury 375 Celebration. Dr. Wilson has opened a Twitter account as another way to communicate with the community: <https://twitter.com/SPSSupt>

13. Communications

14. Minutes – Regular Session Minutes

MOTION AND VOTE: Scott Nassa made a motion to approve the April 9, 2014 meeting minutes with the change of the word standards to goals by Bob Armour in the Superintendent Evaluation Rubric discussion area. Lucie St. George seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor with one abstention. Christine Hogan abstained from the vote.

MOTION AND VOTE: Lucie St. George made a motion to approve the July 9, 2014 meeting minutes. Scott Nassa seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

MOTION AND VOTE: Christine Hogan made a motion to approve the July 21, 2014 special meeting minutes. Lucie St. George seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

15. Member's Forum

Dr. Mealey – Wally Bell 5K Run/Walk & Kids Mile will be held October 5, 2014.

Kim Swain was happy to have the chance to be at Noyes and Curtis for the first day of school. The middle schoolers were very excited about the one-to-one technology.

Bob Armour suggested that the Committee discuss possible dates for a meeting in Boston. Mr. Armour noted the Sudbury 375 celebration and the importance of such an event.

Scott Nassa noted it was a pleasure to be a part of Opening Day.

Lucie St. George could feel the opening day energy and excitement.

Christine Hogan noted how well the first day of school went and remarked on the lovely note to parents

on the first day of school from Annette Doyle, principal of Noyes elementary school. Ellen Winer Joachim thanked the Superintendent for including the Committee in the Opening Day events. The energy was amazing. Everyone was refreshed and ready to start the new school year.

16. Executive Session – none

17. Adjourn

MOTION AND VOTE: Christine Hogan made a motion to adjourn the session. Lucie St. George seconded the motion. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 10:33 PM.

Meeting Documents

Agenda

Superintendent's Goals FY15

Parent Survey Summary

Enrollment Update

Budget to Actual FY14

Personnel Actions through August 27, 2014

School Committee Meeting Minutes April 9, July 9, July 21, 2014