

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2016 @ 7:30 PM @ Nixon Elementary School

Open Session

Chair Lucie St. George opened the session at 7:34 PM. Sudbury Cable TV is broadcasting live.

Members Present: Lucie St. George (Chair), Ellen Winer Joachim (Vice Chair), Lisa Kouchakdjian, Richard Tinsley

Members Absent: Christine Hogan

Also Present: Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools; Kimberly A. Swain, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Manager of Business and Finance; Justin Dulak, Recording Secretary; Martine Cummings, SEA Representative

I. Recognitions

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson thanked all US Veterans for their service to our country, and recognized the students of ECMS who honored them at last week's Veterans' Day celebrations.

II. Open Forum

- A. None

III. Nixon State of the School Presentation

- A. Leo Flanagan, Principal of General John Nixon Elementary School, led the Nixon State of the School presentation. Highlights included:

1. Mr. Flanagan explained to the Committee that Nixon participates in many programs that encourage staff and students alike to think of others, including Pennies for Hope, Toys for Tots, clothing drives, and Book Buddies.
2. Liz Adams, Co-Chair of the Nixon Parent-Teacher Organization, detailed recent purchases by that body, including core value banners, a new play structure, and buddy benches.
3. Mr. Flanagan described to the Committee ways Nixon's staff and students build a lasting school culture, holding events such as the Monster Mash, Movie Night, Field Day, and Family Picnic.
4. Mr. Flanagan explained to the Committee how the Nixon staff collects and responds to student assessment data in literacy, mathematics, and Social Emotional Learning.
5. **Chair Lucie St. George** called for a five-minute break at 8:22 PM.

IV. Open Forum Protocols Discussion

- A. **Chair Lucie St. George** called the meeting back to order at 8:33 PM.
- B. The Committee reviewed the manner in which it holds Open Forum, and the guidelines that govern what they may address during that time. The Committee values input from the public and advises caution when raising personal issues.
- C. **Chair Lucie St. George** called for a five-minute break at 9:07 PM.
- D. **Chair Lucie St. George** called the meeting back to order at 9:17 PM.

V. Publicity for Budget Hearing Discussion

- A. The Committee discussed how to promote the upcoming Budget Hearing on December 7 at Loring Elementary School, particularly the verbiage that should form a press release from SPS on the matter. The press release will be submitted to the Town Crier for publication.
 - 1. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** moved to approve the Press Release as edited, **Richard Tinsley** seconded.
 - a) **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carried.

VI. School Committee Communications

- A. Highlights
 - 1. **Richard Tinsley** moved to approve the Highlights as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carried.
- B. Op-Ed
 - 1. **Richard Tinsley** moved to approve the Op-Ed as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carried.

VII. School Committee Report [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]

- A. **Richard Tinsley** reported to the Committee that the Strategic Planning Team has begun meeting, and will soon be holding community forums in December. Mr. Tinsley also reported on the progress of the Budget Strategies Task Force, including explaining that an override may be necessary. Mr. Tinsley also shared the latest developments from the Fairbank Task Force.
- B. **Chair Lucie St. George** updated the Committee on her experiences at the latest Capital Funding Committee meeting, including the current status of the Capital Process draft. Ms. St. George also explained to the Committee what was discussed at the most recent Tiered Systems Support Committee meeting.
- C. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** reported that she attended the recent MASC Conference, which had a heavy focus on Social Emotional Learning.
- D. **Ellen Winer Joachim** reported that the School Start Time Subcommittee met recently, and they used that meeting to discuss peer-reviewed research and plot out the timeline on which the Subcommittee will work. The Subcommittee hopes to host an event with a sleep expert in January.

VIII. Open Forum

A. None

IX. Sudbury Education Association Report

A. Martine Cummings, SEA Representative, explained to the Committee that this year's Wally Bells-On 5K fundraiser was a success despite challenges from the weather.

X. Assistant Superintendent's Report

A. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain thanked the Sudbury Education Resource Fund (SERF) for making more than \$35,000 in educational grants to SPS. Grant recipients were: Sara Fisher (for flexible seating options), Kristen Moffat and the Elementary School Assistant Principals (for video devices for METCO students), Scott Mulcahy and the Elementary Assistant Principals (for Teamworks for METCO), Betsy Grams (for an Anti-Bullying National Conference), and Mark Rodriquez (for the MS Engineering Lab).

B. Assistant Superintendent Swain updated the Committee on the MS Math Institute, the result of an earlier SERF grant made to the Teaching and Learning Department. The two-day workshop provided professional learning to the Curtis math department, and was led by nationally-renowned mathematics educator Robert Kaplinsky.

XI. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Anne Wilson updated the Committee on November's Classroom Observation Visits, which have her observing math classes throughout SPS.

B. Dr. Wilson explained to the Committee that budget meetings with principals are underway in preparation for the School Committee Budget Hearing on December 7th.

C. Dr. Wilson recognized the work of the Strategic Planning team which includes Sarah Fisher, Steven Greg, Besty Joseph, Holly Estes, Samantha Karustis, Kim Swain, Susan Rothermich, Scott Johnson, Rachel Heckler, Shirley Hettig, Scott Nix, and Richard Tinsley.

D. Dr. Wilson reported that the "Let's Talk" platform launched on November 1st. She will periodically update the Committee on its usage as time goes on.

E. The next Superintendent's Chat will be on Wednesday, November 30th from 7:30-8:30 AM.

XII. Minutes- Regular Session Minutes

A. 8/31/2016

1. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** moved to approve as edited, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

a) **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carried.

B. 9/7/2016

1. **Ellen Winer Joachim** moved to approve as edited, **Richard Tinsley** seconded.

a) **Vote 4-0.** Motion carried.

C. 9/21/2016, 10/5/2016, 10/19/2016

1. In order to allow for further review, the Committee postponed consideration of these Minutes until a later meeting.

XIII. Members' Forum

- A. **Richard Tinsley** explained to the Committee that while each school is highlighting different things in their "State of the School" presentations, many of the same successful approaches are being taken across the district.

XIV. Future Agenda Item Discussion

- A. Fairbank Building

XV. Executive Session- TBD

XVI. Adjournment

- A. **Ellen Winer Joachim** moved to adjourn at 10:28 PM, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

1. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak