

**Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)**  
**School Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19, 2016 @ 7:30 PM @ Sudbury Senior Center**

**Open Session**

**Chair Lucie St. George** opened the session at 7:32 PM. Sudbury Cable TV is broadcasting live.

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

**Also Present:** Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools; Susan Rothermich, Manager of Business and Finance; Justin Dulak, Recording Secretary; Christine Grigsby, SEA Representative

**I. Recognitions**

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson recognized and thanked teacher Barry Cain for his twenty-five years in education.

**II. Open Forum**

- A. Maia Proujanksy Bell expressed her frustration to the School Committee regarding the states of both the FY18 budget and the district's math curriculum.

**III. ECMS Schedule Presentation**

- A. Principal Jeff Mela and educators Betsy Grams, Abbey Salon, and Tom Rawson presented to the School Committee on the school day extension occurring at Ephraim Curtis Middle School in the 2017-2018 school year. Highlights from the presentation ([which may be found here](#)) include:
  - 1. The time will be used for Connection (twice per week), Enrichment (once per week), and Team work (once per week).
  - 2. 20 minutes will be added to the end of the school day, so dismissal will occur at 2:25 instead of the the current 2:05.
  - 3. Information will be communicated to ECMS families at the end of this week.

**IV. Class Size Subcommittee Recommendation**

- A. The Committee continued its discussion from the December 5 meeting regarding the class size guidelines recommended by the Class Size Subcommittee. The Committee weighed the propriety of passing these guidelines as it simultaneously considers employment cuts as part of its budget balancing strategies. It was pointed out the CSRC was delayed by several months in their work due to a failure to convene and the recommendations would not change regardless of budgetary constraints.
- B. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve the Class Size Recommendations, **Richard Tinsley** seconded.

1. **VOTE: 2-3.** Motion does not carry. **Lisa Kouchakdjian, Ellen Winer Joachim,** and **Lucie St. George** in opposition.

**V. Student Fees Discussion**

A. Business and Finance Manager Susan Rothermich explained to the Committee which student programs feature fees that do not currently cover the cost of their organization. Ms. Rothermich recommended increases in participation fees for student clubs and organizations, as well as for participation in the Odyssey program. The Committee discussed ways to reduce substitute teacher costs associated with the Odyssey program, including by possibly increasing parental involvement.

B. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** motioned to raise the activity fee from \$50 to \$100 and the Odyssey fee from \$375 per student to \$425 per student, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

1. **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carried.

C. The Committee discussed the possibility of implementing a technology fee in order to subsidize the cost of the 1:1 Chromebook program at Curtis Middle School. Ms. Rothermich estimated that a \$50 fee would raise roughly \$48,500, leaving \$41,500 to be otherwise covered. A \$100 fee would fund the program entirely, but would transfer ownership of the device to the student by the time of the student's graduation from Curtis Middle School. The Committee will revisit this topic at a subsequent meeting.

**VI. FY18 Budget Planning and Preliminary Budget Projections**

A. Superintendent Anne Wilson, along with Business and Finance Manager Susan Rothermich, presented to the Committee on the fiscal year 2018 budget.

Highlights from the presentation ([which may be found here](#)) included:

1. SPS has experienced success recently by implementing a 1:1 Chromebook program at Curtis Middle School, creating/enhancing in-district special education, and implementing SIF-compliant Student Information System with enhanced family accessibility, amongst other things.
2. Several strategies have been implemented in recent years to address budget deficits, including: a moratorium on new technology in FY16 and FY17, mid-year freezes on purchases, and changing the employee-contribution to health benefits.
3. Additional cuts presented included eliminating instrumental music, 7.0 FTE in Curtis and elementary, 4.3 FTE Special Education, and 12.5 FTE Supplemental Instruction.
4. Sudbury Extended Day has committed to adjusting its hours at Loring Elementary School to reflect any changes in the school's hours.
5. Budgets were explored that reflected increases of 2.25% (the recommendation by the Town of Sudbury) and 2.75%.

6. **Richard Tinsley** motioned to approve the Preliminary 2.25% Budget, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

a) **Vote: 3-2.** Motion carried. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** and **Christine Hogan** in opposition.

**VII. Sudbury Education Association Report**

A. Sudbury Education Association Representative Christine Grigsby updated the Committee on the inclusion of “movement breaks” within the school day. These exercises benefit the student’s body and mind.

**VIII. Capital Planning/Funding**

A. James Kelly updated the Committee on the progress of Fairbank Task Force. The current thinking of the Task Force is not to include the SPS Central Offices in a new Fairbank Community Center. Mr. Kelly recommends that the School Committee begin thinking of long-term solutions outside of the new Fairbank Center. The School Committee expressed serious concern about the cost of building or acquiring any new office space at this time.

1. **Richard Tinsley** motioned to create a building subcommittee to work directly with Jim Kelly, **Christine Hogan** seconded.

a) **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carried.

2. **Richard Tinsley** motioned to nominate Lucie St. George to the Building Subcommittee, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

a) **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carried.

3. **Lucie St. George** nominated Richard Tinsley to the Building Subcommittee, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

a) **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carried.

**IX. Approve New Bus Contract**

A. Business and Finance Manager Susan Rothermich explained the bidding process that went into the development of the new bus contract. This proposal is contingent upon continuing the bus-sharing program with Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School and adjusting Loring Elementary School’s start time to maximize the efficiency of bus routes. Ms. Rothermich stated that only one bid came in, but the matter still requires a vote, and if the Committee does not vote this through, a subsequent bid could be higher.

1. **Ellen Winer Joachim** motioned to accept the bid from First Student as presented, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

a) **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carried.

**X. Request to Discuss Legal Representation**

A. The Committee discussed the propriety of entering Executive Session to discuss possible legal action. The Committee postponed further action until a later meeting.

**XI. Accept Lueder’s Donation**

A. Superintendent Anne Wilson presented a check from Lueder's Environmental, Inc., in the amount of \$75.00.

B. **Christine Hogan** motioned to accept the \$75 donation from Lueder's Environmental, Inc., **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

1. **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carried.

**XII. School Committee Communications**

A. Highlights

1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve the Highlights as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

a) **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carried

**XIII. School Committee Report [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]**

A. **Christine Hogan** reported on the latest developments from the Start Time Committee. Lincoln-Sudbury High School will be participating in the January 12 Sleep Forum with Dr. Judith Owens.

**XIV. Open Forum**

A. None

**XV. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

A. None

**XVI. Superintendent's Report**

A. Superintendent Anne Wilson reported that another Parent and Community Strategic Planning Forum will occur on January 3 at 7 PM in the Senior Center. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain is holding a Forum this evening for METCO parents in Boston.

**XVII. Minutes-Regular Session Minutes (NONE)**

**XVIII. Members' Forum**

A. **Christine Hogan** recognized the efforts of Curtis Middle School Principal Jeff Mela, who has been present at an assortment of ECMS music events in the last week, including the Select Ensembles performance at the State House where Dr. Robert Mealey was recognized by Secretary William Galvin for his many years of teaching and introducing the program to the State House that many school groups throughout the State now participate in.

**XIX. Future Agenda Item Discussion**

A.

**XX. Executive Session**

**XXI. Adjournment**

A. **Christine Hogan** motioned to adjourn, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

1. Roll Call Vote

a) **Lucie St. George:** Yes

**Ellen Winer Joachim:** Yes

**Lisa Kouchakdjian:** Yes

**Christine Hogan: Yes**

**Richard Tinsley: Yes**

b) **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 12:02 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin Dulak