

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Minutes
Workshop and Meeting

September 7, 2016 6:30 PM @ Police Station Community Room

Open Session

Chair Lucie St. George open the workshop at 6:34 PM.

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

Also Present: Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools; Kimberly A. Swain, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Manager of Business and Finance; Justin Dulak, Recording Secretary; Paige Tobin of Murphy, Lamere & Murphy PC

I. Paige Tobin Workshop

A. Paige Tobin led the school committee in a discussion regarding the role and responsibilities of the Committee. Topics discussed included:

1. Whether parents are permitted to discuss their child's situation at School Committee meetings
2. School Committee Communications
3. Confidentiality and Student Records

B. **Chair Lucie St. George** opened regular session at 7:48 PM. Sudbury TV broadcast live.

II. Protect Sudbury Discussion

A. Ray Phillips, President of Protect Sudbury, and members Amy Paquette and Carol Daniels explained the Hudson Transmission Reliability Project.

B. Carol Daniels, a licensed real estate broker and longtime Sudbury resident informed the school community about the impact the proposal is having on property sales in Sudbury.

III. Recognitions

A. **Superintendent Anne Wilson** recognized the Central Office staff for all the work they've done to make sure the district was ready "on day one."

IV. Open Forum

A. None

V. Charter School Cap Discussion

A. The Committee reviewed and discussed Question 2 on this November's ballot, which would lift the cap on the number of charter schools founded in

Massachusetts each year. It was agreed upon that Committee should draft a letter or resolution on the matter, and to discuss the issue further at the September 21 meeting.

VI. Superintendent Evaluation Timeline

- A. The Committee discussed whether it would like to change the superintendent's evaluation date from June 20th. It ultimately agreed to leave the date unchanged.

VII. Facility Naming Policy (First Reading)

A. **Ellen Winer Joachim** read the proposed policy "Memorials and Plaques."

Lisa Kouchakdjian read the proposed policy "Naming School Buildings and Related Facilities."

- B. After several edits were agreed upon, the Committee agreed to take action on the policies at their next meeting on September 21st.

VIII. School Committee Calendar- Event Attendance

- A. The committee examined the open house schedule for fiscal year 2017, to ensure that the committee is represented at each event.

IX. Superintendent Contract Extension

A. **Chair Lucie St. George** moved to extend the term of the contract of the Superintendent through June 30, 2019 and to authorize the chair to sign the contract extension.

1. **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

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

X. School Committee Communications

A. Highlights

1. **Richard Tinsley** asked that a line be inserted into the Highlights regarding the additional 43 K-8 students registered to the district between June and the first day of school, which created a total enrollment of 2,737.

2. **Christine Hogan** moved to accept the Highlights as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

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

XI. School Committee Report

A. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** will attend a meeting of the Fairbank Task Force on September 8. Ms. Kouchakdjian also provided an update on the scheduling of the committee's meeting with local legislators. She requested the committee

tentatively plan for March 8. Finally, she also announced that the SEPAC is having a new parent night on September 13.

- B. **Christine Hogan** discussed the Vocational Education Guidance Committee's last meeting. She also attended Dr. William Smith's Hands on Democracy & Boston Vs. Bullies planning meeting on anti-bullying in preparation for the larger forum on the same topic October 22nd. Since interest in this event is high throughout the community, she asked if SPS could sponsor a bus to transport members of the community to the forum. **Susan Rothermich** will investigate the costs associated with doing so.

XII. Open Forum

- A. None

XIII. Superintendent's Report

- A. **Superintendent Anne Wilson** began by examining the enrollment statistics from the first day of school against those on Tuesday, September 6. The figures presented were very close to projections, and Dr. Wilson promised to update the committee periodically, particularly as budget season approaches.
- B. Dr. Wilson informed the committee of examples of extraordinary student engagement and achievement from her visits to classrooms. She also encouraged the committee and public to visit her Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/spssupt>).
- C. **Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain** informed the Committee about a full-day professional training that occurred earlier today with Jessica Minahan. The goal was to build the capacity of teams to meet the needs of students and teachers, with a primary focus on transitions and breaks. The team involved appreciated the opportunity to have deep discussions with an expert in the field.

XIV. Communications

- A. Melissa Morabito said she looked forward to presenting a teacher's perspective to the school committee at upcoming meetings.

XV. Minutes-Regular Session Minutes

- A. **Richard Tinsley** moved to approve the July 20, 2016 minutes as edited, **Christine Hogan** seconded
 - 1. **Vote 5-0.** Motion carried.

XVI. Future Agenda Item Discussion

- A. Charter School Cap, Legislative Evening, Jim Kelly, Op-Ed

XVII. Members' Forum

- A. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** shared her excitement about the back to school nights.

B. Ellen Winer Joachim echoed Ms. Kouchakdjian's excitement about the back to school nights.

C. Melissa Morabito discussed the Wally Bells-on 5K, and invited everyone in the community to participate. The run will be on Sunday, September 11.

XVIII. Executive Session

A. **Christine Hogan** moved to enter executive session in order to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as discussion in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the school committee and to not return to open session., **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

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

XIX. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak