

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2016 @ 7:30 PM @ The Senior Center

Open Session

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

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

Member Absent: 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; Nicole Lamoureaux, SEA

I. Recognitions

- A. **Superintendent Anne Wilson** highlighted the Mental Health team, which includes counselors, school psychologists, nurses, and district social workers. Dr. Wilson informed the Committee that the Mental Health team's work, commitment, and dedication align with the district's second stated goal, enhancing the social and emotional learning of all its students.

II. Open Forum

- A. Maia Proujansky Bell, a parent in the district, came before the Committee to present several questions. The questions were:
 - 1. What do the Sudbury Public Schools already do, and what can we do in the future to support gifted learners?
 - 2. What do the Sudbury Public Schools already do, and we can do to support "twice exceptional students"? These are gifted learners who also have challenges and/or diagnoses that require special services.
 - 3. What do the Sudbury Public Schools do to identify gifted learners and twice exceptional students? Do the assessments used help teachers identify these students and individualize their instruction accordingly?
 - 4. Do the teachers have the requisite professional development to understand giftedness and twice-exceptionality? Do the teachers have

the adequate curriculum, time, and resources allocated to them to provide differentiated instruction?

III. FY18 Capital Planning, SPS Offices (James Kelly)

- A. James Kelly came before the Committee to provide several updates
 - 1. Fairbank Task Force
 - a) While the Sudbury Public Schools offices were previously considered separate from the new Fairbank building, the FTF eventually added them to the project after requesting direction specifically with regard to SPS. The FTF is now committed to a new multi-generational community center that includes the Sudbury Public Schools offices in the building. The FTF is aiming to bring an article before Town Meeting in twelve months, Fall of 2017.
 - 2. Mr. Kelly provided the Committee with an FY18 Capital Plan for all town departments. Items included in the spreadsheet that were highlighted by Mr. Kelly were a school maintenance garage and kitchen cafeteria equipment.
- B. Police Chief Scott Nix discussed recent improvements in school security. This has included the installation of exterior security cameras and doors that can be locked/unlocked from police dispatch. Chief Nix has also reached out to school personnel to request their input as to what improvements may be made to the schools in this regard.

IV. Charter School Cap Question

- A. The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed resolution, entitled: "Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools".
- B. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** moved to approve the Resolution as edited, **Christine Hogan** seconded.
 - 1. **Vote 4-0.** Motion carried.

V. Facility Naming Policy (Second Reading)

- A. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** read aloud the proposed policies "Memorials and Plaques," and "Naming School Buildings and Related Facilities."
- B. **Christine Hogan** moved to approve the policy "Memorials and Plaques", **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - 1. **Vote 4-0.** Motion carried.
- C. **Christine Hogan** moved to approve the policy "School Building policy, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - 1. **Vote 4-0.** Motion carried.

VI. Scheduling of FY18 Budget Hearing

- A. The Committee considered dates for the fiscal year 2018 Budget Hearing, with a focus on December 7. That date was agreed upon, as was an adjusted start time of 7:00 PM.
- VII. Discussion of Open Forum Protocols
- A. The Committee agreed to delay this discussion until a subsequent meeting, once they have had an opportunity to consider the distributed readings and all members are present.
- VIII. Discussion of Legislative Meeting Format
- A. The Committee considered the questions sent by Senator Eldridge to **Lisa Kouchakdjian**. The Committee agreed to entitle the event a “Legislative Forum,” and to target the evening of March 8 to hold the Forum.
- IX. Protect Sudbury Discussion
- A. Amy Paquette, a Sudbury resident and representative from Protect Sudbury, appeared before the Committee on behalf of the organization. Ms. Paquette clarified what the aims were of Protect Sudbury’s previous appearance before the Committee. These included educating the Committee on what the organization perceives to be “a real threat to the town,” and to seek the help of the schools to disseminate information to families.
 - B. The Committee agreed to investigate the legality of their involvement with Protect Sudbury by contacting the State Ethics Commission.
- X. Role of School Committee Liaisons to Schools
- A. **Ellen Winer Joachim** requested that this item be included on the agenda in order to clarify what it means to be a liaison to the schools.
 - B. **Chair Lucie St. George** suggested that the liaisons work with Dr. Wilson to set-up tours of their schools with the principals.
- XI. School Committee Communications
- A. Highlights
 - 1. **Christine Hogan** moved to approve the Highlights as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **Vote 4-0**. Motion carried.
- XII. Discuss Possible Op-Ed Communication
- A. **Christine Hogan** suggested delaying action on the Op-Ed piece until Richard Tinsley is present.
 - B. A discussion ensued about the general format the article should take, and whether the Committee should plan on issuing just the single article, or multiple articles over the course of the next year.
 - C. The Committee agreed to discuss the topic at a subsequent meeting.

XIII. School Committee Reports [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]

- A. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** shared that SEPAC is having a “2e” event soon. Ms. Kouchakdjian then informed the Committee about an upcoming SEPAC event with Police Chief Scott Nix in October.
- B. **Ellen Winer Joachim** reported that she and **Christine Hogan** held a meeting of the School Start Time Subcommittee. An email had been sent out requesting community participation, and an ad will be in the paper tomorrow. The Subcommittee plans to have a report to the School Committee by March 22, 2017.
- C. Ms. Hogan reported that the Class Size Subcommittee did not achieve quorum at their last scheduled meeting, so an informal discussion was held. Ms. Hogan then shared with the Committee the results of a survey that went out to kindergarten and first-grade teachers last spring, seeking their feedback on what they would like to see in the classroom.

XIV. Open Forum

- A. None

XV. Superintendent’s Reports

A. Superintendent’s Report

- 1. **Superintendent Wilson** will send her first official newsletter at the end of the month, and encouraged everyone to visit her Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/spssupt>). The first Superintendent’s Chat will be held on October 25 from 6-7 PM. A new vehicle for communication, “Let’s Talk”, will be integrated into the SPS website later in the fall, but more information will be forthcoming prior to launch.
- 2. Many committees and teams are starting to prepare to begin work in October to support the district goals around inclusive practices and supporting social-emotional learning. Dr. Wilson informed the School Committee that the progress and recommendations of these teams and committees will be shared as the year progresses.
- 3. Public release of the PARCC and MCAS results is expected on Monday, September 26. Dr. Wilson will be ready to provide a preliminary report on those results at the October 5 School Committee Meeting.

B. Assistant Superintendent’s Report

- 1. **Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain** informed the Committee that the Odyssey dates have shifted slightly. They will now be from May 24-May 26 for Loring and Haynes and May 31-June 2 for Noyes and Nixon.

2. Ms. Swain also informed the Committee that the first ILAP day of the 2016-2017 school is approaching. Administrators are engaged in professional development with Mary Sterling that focuses on developing supervision and evaluation practices that emphasize student learning. Ms. Swain then informed the Committee about how the district partnered with EDCO to offer an in-district SEI (sheltered English immersion) endorsement course; thirty educators will begin this course next Tuesday. The district is also engaged in other extended learning opportunities for educators, such as sessions with Jessica Minahan.
3. Minutes- Regular Session Minutes (August 31, 2016)
 - a) After recommending edits be made, the Committee agreed to postpone action on these minutes to a later date.

XVI. Members' Forum

- A. **Kim Swain** shared with the Committee the “very uplifting” Town Meeting she had witnessed at Noyes Elementary. She was very inspired by the way children were learning the meaning of “yet,” related to “a growth mindset”.
- B. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** expressed her pleasure to be attending the district’s Back to School nights. She especially recognized the principals for mentioning SEPAC in their presentations.
- C. **Ellen Winer Joachim** appreciated that teachers have been tweeting pictures of their students’ “yet” signs.
- D. **Christine Hogan** received a lot of positive public feedback for the meeting the Committee held at the Police Station. She is wondering if future meetings may be held there.
- E. School Committee Protocols Review
 1. **Chair Lucie St. George** suggested that the Committee spend a few moments at the end of each meeting reviewing its performance against the protocols.

XVII. Future Agenda Item Discussion

- A. Open Forum Protocols, Op-Ed Communications, PARCC/MCAS results

XVIII. Executive Session

- A. None

XIX. Adjournment

- A. **Christine Hogan** moved to adjourn, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 1. **Vote 4-0.** Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted: Justin Dulak