

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Minutes
Special Work Session
December 13, 2016 @ 7:30 PM @ Sudbury Senior Center

Open Session

Lucie St. George opened the session at 7:34 PM. Sudbury Cable TV recorded the session.

Members Present: Richard Tinsley, Lucie St. George, Ellen Winer Joachim, Lisa Kouchakdjian

Members Absent: Christine Hogan

Also Present: Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools; Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Business and Finance Manager

1. Open Forum

- a. Lucie St. George informed the Committee and audience that SPS would be coordinating with Sudbury Extended Day (SED) to accommodate the proposed shift in the start time for the Loring School

2. FY 18 Budget Discussion

- a. Superintendent Anne Wilson provided information regarding past override requests. The FY08 Override was the last override passed for the Operating Budget. She also provided information regarding the per pupil expenditures as reported by DESE in 2015 for surrounding communities.
- b. Business Director Sue Rothermich provided information regarding salary summaries, adjustments, and schedules. She also provided information regarding expenses. She shared that expense adjustments reflect reorganization of costs to more appropriate line items, realignment to actuals, curriculum implementation, program creation, maintenance, and the breakout of benefit categories.
- c. Superintendent Anne Wilson provided information on projected enrollment and potential impact on the number of projected class sections. Kindergarten enrollment is in process and therefore it is too early to definitively project number of sections needed (at least 12, but as many as 14). Projections suggest that it might be possible to reduce one section of grade 3 at the Haynes School and one section of grade 1 and one section of grade 4 at the Nixon School.

- d. Superintendent Anne Wilson presented an overview of budget cuts for consideration: unfunded positions requested for FY18; software subscriptions (assessment, instruction, communication), new site equipment, district and building administrative FTE, site administration FTE, elementary teaching FTE, middle school teaching FTE, special education, central administration FTE, site support FTE, supplemental instruction FTE, 1:1 program. Also presented for the Committee's consideration a furlough for 12-month administrators or freeze on administrator salary increase.
- e. Business Director Susan Rothermich discussed the need to watch the impact on unemployment costs, as additional cuts in FTE's will be necessary to cover unemployment costs.
- f. School Committee discussed other budget cutting ideas and considerations, asked questions regarding FY18 preliminary budget, and expressed concerns.
 - i. Possible and existing fees discussed: technology fee, after school clubs, Odyssey, sports, middle school musical, elementary instrumental music.
 - ii. Middle school enrollment: A 5.0 FTE reduction due to declining enrollment would result in a reduction in number of homerooms and the possibility of having teachers teach more than one grade.
 - iii. Postponing adoption of a new elementary math curriculum.
 - iv. Middle school Partner program: Discussion of costs to develop a middle school program and program design (tuitioning in students from other districts).
 - v. Administrative structure at schools.
 - vi. Whether there are any subscale operations.

g. Open Forum

- i. Erica Silverman, 21 Moran Circle: Question about impact of Loring start time on budget and what happens to Chromebooks when eighth graders leave SPS. Additional question regarding conditions resulting in an override consideration.
- h. FY 18 Budget Discussion:** The Committee discussed economic climate, past saving measures, and programmatic improvements and rebuilding efforts with regards to teaching and learning infrastructure and professional development.

i. Open Forum

- i. Christine Daniel, 26 Canterbury: Question about next steps in budget process? Concern regarding impact on SEL (Social Emotional Learning).
 - ii. Erica Silverman, 21 Moran Circle: Question regarding use of substitutes for Odyssey.
 - iii. Julie Marobella, 18 Wagonwheel Road: Concern about Loring start time.
 - iv. Susan Berry, 4 Dawson Drive: Clarification regarding how budgeting process moves through BOS and Finance Committee.
 - v. Maia Proujansky Bell, 38 Lakewood Drive: Shared thoughts about cost cutting ideas for kindergarten.
- j. **FY18 Budget Discussion:** Committee requested additional information regarding possible reductions due to enrollment, costs for professional development and the FTE totals for job categories being considered for reduction. The Committee also requested additional work to be done on lowering the “needs” budget.

3. Adjournment: Ms. Winer Joachim moved and Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:40

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Swain