

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017 @ 6:45 PM @ Sudbury Senior Center

Open Session

Chair Lucie St. George opened the session at 7:03 PM. Sudbury Cable TV is broadcasting live.

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

Member(s) Absent: Richard Tinsley

Also Present: Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools; Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Manager of Business and Finance; Justin Dulak, Recording Secretary; Angela Spirito, SEA Representative

I. Legislative Forum

- A. Chair Lucie St. George welcomed State Representative Carmine Gentile and Senators Michael Barrett and James Eldridge to the meeting. In introductory remarks, topics discussed included local aid, the Legislators' Committee assignments, and the Income Tax for Education and Transportation Amendment ("Millionaire's Tax") ballot initiative that will be voted upon statewide in 2018.
- B. The first set of questions for the Legislators centered on public school funding, particularly special education funding and unfunded mandates. The reasons behind, strategies for managing, and budgetary effects of increasing healthcare costs were also discussed.
- C. The Committee and the Legislators also discussed the topic of school start times. Representative Gentile noted that he filed legislation to have the issue studied by DESE for the State House of Representatives. The complications of later start times, including increased busing costs and the corresponding start time of after-school sports, were discussed.
- D. The lack of competition in contract bidding for school busing services was discussed. The Committee and the Legislators considered the possibility of adjusting laws to allow towns to charge a fee to all families for bus service, regardless of the distance of the family's home from the student's school.
- E. The Legislators discussed their positions on, and actions taken in support of, the Commonwealth's immigrant and LGBTQ communities.
- F. The Committee took a 10 minute break at 8:05 PM.

G. The Committee returned from its break at 8:16 PM.

II. Recognitions

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson recognized the twenty-five members of the Curtis Science Olympiad Team, which placed fifth out of thirty schools in the competition. Congratulations to the following students: Riyyan Bhandary, Noah Buttner, Ellie Gottlieb, Joel George, Jack Grosberg, Zach Halsey Hambleton, Nick Johnstone, Anisha Kundu, Trevor Lachman, Eron Leung, Katie Lu, Greg Marchev, Alex Massarotti, Gretchen Mills, Zoe Powers, Miguel Rosa, Lisa Samoylov, Ridhi Sampath, Sam Skiffington, Elle Stevenson, Anthony Wang, Rena Wang, Sarah Watson, and Evan Zhang. The Olympiad Coaches recognized were Brent McDonald and Michal Mueller, along with John George, Thep Tabtieng, Carissa Tabtieng, David Abraham, Alex Akopyan, Chris Beeler, Colby Chung, Colton Chung, Fiona Clot, Griffin Davis, Seamus Frey, Andrew George, Dan Guzi, Talia Heisey, TJ Hall, Kenny Ho, Jason Huang, Michael Rodrigues, Sadhika Sampath, Will Stone, Jacob Weinstein, Steven Yao, and Eugenia Zhang.
- B. Dr. Wilson also recognized the student-artists whose pieces were selected to be displayed at the State Transportation Building in Boston. The students so honored were Ellen Bordner, Stephanie Dorcas, Caroline Cervini, Kyle Ando, Reid Kiessling, Nathan Kaye, Alyssea Immonen, Lisa Samoylov, Nicole Smith-Vaniz, Erin Davies, Anisha Kundu, and Trevor Lachman. Credit was further given to art teachers Scott Greenaway and Yael Kupiec-Dar, for working with and inspiring the students every day.

III. Open Forum

- A. None

IV. District Assessment Overview

- A. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain presented to the Committee on the ways student assessment data is being used within the district. The slideshow presented can be [found here](#). Ms. Swain explained the types of assessments being used, what data they measure, how often the student competencies are assessed, and the purpose behind each assessment. The specific assessments used in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Emotional Learning were explored.

V. Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Report on Goals

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson provided the Committee with her Mid-Cycle Report, which may be found [online here](#). Dr. Wilson explained to the Committee how progress is being made on each of the District Goals approved by the Committee prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year, as well as her own professional goals as superintendent.

VI. Sudbury Education Association Report

- A. Sudbury Education Association Representative Angela Spirito provided examples of some of the professional development occurring within the district, and how that learning impacts what happens in the classroom.

VII. Fairbank Task Force- SPS Representative

- A. Due to the absence of member Richard Tinsley, the Committee agreed to postpone consideration of the SPS Representative to the Fairbank Task Force until a subsequent meeting.

VIII. School Start Time Subcommittee Reorganization

- A. The Committee considered whether it would be best to form a joint committee with Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School to study school start times, or for SPS to continue deliberating on the issue by and for itself.
- B. The Committee agreed to investigate the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the School Committee for Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, to discuss the progress of each district on the subject of school start times and next steps.

IX. School Committee Office Hours

- A. The Committee agreed to have Richard Tinsley and Lisa Kouchakdjian hold office hours on Monday, March 13 from 6-8 PM in the Goodnow Library. If either member is unavailable, the date may be changed.

X. FY18 Budget Planning at Schools

- A. The Committee expressed its desire to have at least one member at each of the elementary school PTO's upcoming budget meetings. A Doodle poll will be circulated amongst the Committee to coordinated members' availability.

XI. School Committee Communications

- A. Highlights
 - 1. None

XII. School Committee Report [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]

- A. Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to postpone all liaison and subcommittee reports until the March 22 meeting.

XIII. Open Forum

- A. None

XIV. Assistant Superintendent's Report

- A. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain informed the Committee that Ed Eich and Holly Estes were awarded a SERF grant in the amount of \$2,467 for the program "Headstarting Frogs". Dorothy Kramer from Haynes Elementary School was awarded \$9,951 to support the STEAM pilot program. Barbara Gogan and Elizabeth Clark were awarded a SERF grant for \$3,755 to connect SEL learning and literature. Ms. Swain presented the Teaching and Learning Curriculum newsletter to the Committee, which contains a survey for the community about

mathematical learning in Sudbury. The survey was sent out electronically the previous week, and will be emailed out again soon.

XV. Superintendent's Report

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson provided the following updates to the School Committee:
1. The next Superintendent's Chat will be on March 16, from 7:30-8:30 AM.
 2. Curtis Middle will be putting on a rendition of Disney's "High School Musical" on March 16-19.
 3. Information will soon be going out to the Committee and the Community about the hiring process for a new Director of Student Services.
 4. Dr. Wilson shared with the Committee documents from the Massachusetts Attorney General's office regarding protections for the immigrant and transgender student communities.
- B. Business and Finance Manager Susan Rothermich informed the Committee that, in order to create a smoother collections process, she recommends requiring bus fees be due May 1 instead of June 30.

XVI. Minutes- Regular Session Minutes

- A. February 6, 2017
1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve the Minutes from February 6, 2017 as presented, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- B. February 27, 2017
1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve the Minutes from February 27, 2017 as presented, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.

XVII. Future Agenda Item Discussion

- A. Construct a "pitch" for the Override Budget, State of the Schools discussion

XVIII. Members' Forum

- A. None

XIX. Executive Session

- A. **Christine Hogan** motioned to enter Executive Session pursuant to Open Meeting Law Purpose #2, to discuss contract negotiation strategy regarding non-union personnel, specifically the Interim Student Services Director, and not to return to Open Session, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

1. **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Lucie St. George: Yes

Ellen Winer Joachim: Yes

Christine Hogan: Yes

Lisa Kouchakdjian: Yes

Motion carries, the Committee entered Executive Session at 10:58

PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Dulak