

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2017 @ 7:30 PM @ Sudbury Senior Center

Open Session

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

Members Present: Lucie St. George (Chair), Ellen Winer Joachim (Vice Chair), Lisa Kouchakdjian, Christine Hogan (arrived at 8:51 PM, during Fairbank Task Force discussion), Richard Tinsley

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

I. Recognitions

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson congratulated the Loring Third Grade Destination Imagination team. The Sudbury Shooting Stars captured first place in the elementary school division. Participating students consisted of Angelina Che, Bridget Fosnot, Rudy Klappenbach, Natalia Lopez, Emily Naum, and Aimy Xia.
- B. Dr. Wilson also recognized the winners of the Massachusetts Library Association's Bookmark Contest. Maheen Khan, a sixth-grade student at Curtis Middle School, was selected for Statewide Honorable Mention. Anisha Kundu, an eighth-grade student at Curtis, was selected to represent the school in Division IV. Sarah Watson, a Curtis seventh-grade student, was selected as Curtis' "Most Creative" in the contest. Librarian Joan Scott and Art Teacher Scott Greenaway were also recognized.
- C. The Bookmark Contest also had two winners at Loring Elementary School. First grade student Jackson Alderman won Honorable Mention in Division I, grades K-1. Ruby Klappenbach, third grade, won First Place in Division II, grades 2-3. Dr. Wilson congratulated both on their achievements.

II. Open Forum

- A. None

III. Curriculum Report: Science

- A. Holly Estes, Science and Engineering Curriculum Specialist, and Ed Eiches, a

sixth-grade science teacher at Curtis Middle School, presented the Committee with an update on the state of the Science and Engineering Curriculum in Sudbury Public School. Highlights from the presentation, which can be found [online here](#), include:

1. A group of Sudbury teachers are piloting use of the STEMscopes Digital Curriculum, which provides a variety of resources to them online.
2. To increase the skill and knowledge of K-2 teachers, SPS held a full day of professional development in August to introduce new standards and practices.
3. The 5E Model (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate) is being used in science classrooms throughout SPS.

IV. Budget to Actual Report FY17

- A. Manager of Business and Finance Susan Rothermich provided an update to the Committee on the state of expenses for fiscal year 2017. In addition to the previously reported increase in FTEs to support special education needs, SPS has seen an unusual increase in the number of employees taking health insurance and therefore an increase in benefits costs over the amount budgeted for FY17.
- B. The Committee will vote to approve all budget transfers at a subsequent meeting.

V. Fairbank Task Force- SPS Representative

- A. The Committee considered whether to continue having SPS representation on the Fairbank Task Force, in light of the fact that the SPS administrative offices will no longer be included in the future Fairbank community center. The Committee elected to maintain its current representation on the Task Force.

VI. Update on Joint Meeting with Lincoln-Sudbury High School Committee Regarding School Start Time

- A. **Chair Lucie St. George** informed the Committee that she and the School Committee Chairs for Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury High School are going to meet to talk about forming a joint committee to study the issue of school start times and also to schedule a tri-district meeting.

VII. Vote to Approve Interim Student Services Director Contract

- A. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** motioned to approve the contract of Dr. Denise Rochlin as Interim Student Services Director through June 23, 2017, **Lucie St. George** seconded.
 1. **VOTE: 4-0-1.** Richard Tinsley abstained.

VIII. Discussion of School Committee Administrative Tasks

- A. Due to staffing changes in the Central Office, the Committee discussed how to redistribute the Committee's administrative responsibilities. The Committee agreed to pilot electronic "paperless" packets, and to have member Lisa Kouchakdjian record minutes, beginning with the meeting on April 3, 2017.

IX. Discuss Communication for FY18 Budget

- A. The Committee discussed ways to reach out to the community to explain the intricacies of, and differences between, the override and non-override budget options. Ideas proposed included submitting an article to the Town Crier. The Committee will also talk to the selectmen about having a "School Committee Message" in the warrant for future budget years.

X. School Committee Communications

- A. Highlights, March 8, 2017
 - 1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve the Highlights for March 8, 2017 as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carries.

XI. School Committee Report [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]

- A. **Ellen Winer Joachim** reported on the business of the Policy Subcommittee. In conjunction with the Wellness Committee, the Policy Subcommittee is revising the Wellness policy. In addition, the Subcommittee has identified several policies due for revision or removal from the Manual.
- B. **Richard Tinsley** informed the Committee about the progress of the Future Relocation of SPS Administration Subcommittee. Needs, and options to fulfill those needs, are currently being reviewed. Mr. Tinsley also shared the latest developments of the Strategic Planning Committee, including that a community survey has been released and will be in the field until April 3, 2017.
- C. **Chair Lucie St. George** informed the Committee about what happened at the last Finance Committee meeting. The Capital Plan was passed, and will now be considered by the selectmen. The Committee will receive an update on the Capital Plan at an upcoming meeting.

XII. Open Forum

- A. None

XIII. Sudbury Education Association Report

- A. SEA Representative Eileen Lavoy informed the Committee of the ways support staff positively impact students' educational experience.

XIV. Assistant Superintendent's Report

- A. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain recognized the efforts of Sudbury

educators and families on behalf of the district's student-scientists. Ms. Swain informed the Committee that Science Fairs held at Noyes and Loring were robustly attended and presented a broad array of experiments. Nixon will hold its own Science Fair next week.

XV. Superintendent's Report

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson reported to the Committee that the last day of school at this moment is Tuesday, June 20th, 2017.
- B. The Director of Student Services search is underway. Twenty-eight individuals submitted applications, from which eight will be selected for interviews. The initial interview committee consists of parents, staff, and School Committee member Richard Tinsley.
- C. Dr. Wilson also informed the Committee about the survey developed by the Strategic Planning Committee. It has been distributed to community members by email, is posted on the SPS website, and will be in the field until April 3, 2017.

XVI. Minutes- Regular Session Minutes

- A. March 8, 2017
 - 1. **Ellen Winer Joachim** motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2017 as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **Vote: 4-0.** Motion Carries. **Richard Tinsley** abstains.

XVII. Members' Forum

- A. **Richard Tinsley** suggested the Committee create a seat at the Committee's meetings for the PTO co-chairs. This seat would revolve between the five schools on a per-meeting basis. Mr. Tinsley also suggested creating and releasing to the public an organization chart of SPS employees.
- B. **Christine Hogan** reported that she enjoyed reading at Loring and Noyes Elementary Schools during the recent Read Across America event. Ms. Hogan also reminded the Committee that the Civics Bee will be held on Sunday, April 2 at 2 PM at Curtis Middle School.
- C. Lisa Kouchakdjian informed the Committee about the success that was the Curtis Middle School rendition of "Disney's High School Musical."
- D. Kim Swain invited the Sudbury community to a presentation of the documentary "Screenagers" on Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 PM in the ECMS Auditorium.

XVIII. Future Agenda Item Discussion

- A. None

XIX. Executive Session

- A. None

XX. Adjournment

A. **Chair Lucie St. George** motioned to adjourn, **Christine Hogan** seconded.

1. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries, meeting adjourned at 10:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak