

Sudbury School Committee (SSC)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
December 10, 2018
Sudbury Senior Center

Members Present:

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair
Margaret Helon. Vice Chair
Christine Hogan
Silvia Nerssessionian
Richard Tinsley

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of schools
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Martine Cummings, SEA

Open Regular Session

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

1. Open Forum - None

2. Special Matters

- a. Superintendent's FY20 Recommended Budget- Superintendent Crozier presented a slideshow which described three proposed budget scenarios: Tier 1, a Level Service Budget; Tier 2 a Priority Needs Budget; Tier 3, a Developmental Needs Budget. Mr. Crozier noted they had sought ways to reallocate funds based on student needs, priorities and enrollment numbers. Some areas of cost savings will come from participation in the Medicaid Reimbursement Program, turnover savings due to retirements, and reduced cost of Special Education transportation. These funds would then be used to fund other services while keeping in line with the Town Manager's Recommended Budget.

School Committee Members discussed these reallocations and the positions being proposed. Committee Members requested to see historical data regarding the anticipated retirements. Stephanie Juriansz and Jeff Mela spoke about the addition of an Adjustment Counselor and a Tutor who will work in conjunction with the Bridges Program, and the new Eighth Grade section for students who have completed algebra.

Ms. Swain noted that in advance of this new math program, our Eighth Grade Teachers have observed the high school math classes. Ms. Swain also noted that Wednesday is a tri-district staff meeting which will allow the teachers to collaborate with their peers from Lincoln and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

Mr. Crozier discussed the positions that would be added, including two 0.5 Assistant Principals, four Building Substitutes and an 0.4 Nurse. School Committee Members discussed and provided feedback, including recommending an additional Building Substitute to include Curtis; a strategy to include teacher evaluation processes; and, to consider offering alternative World Language options.

Mr. Crozier noted that the budget hearing date was changed to December 20th due to the required timing of publication of the public notice.

Mr. Sawyer agreed to provide Members with a draft level-service budget forecast.

Ms. Kouchakdjian thanked Administrators for attending tonight's meeting, as well as for their commitment to their work and being a strong team.

3. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report - Nothing at this time.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report - Nothing at this time.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report - Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain reiterated that she is looking forward to the tri-district staff meeting on December 12th. Ms. Swain recently attended the METCO Directors Conference and commended METCO for their focus on student voice.

iv. Superintendent's Report-Space Utilization Report - Mr. Crozier discussed his visits to the schools and into the classrooms with the principals. Spending a full day at each of the buildings will allow him to familiarize himself with the District and gain operational knowledge of how things run.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. CPC Playground Application - Mr. Sawyer recently attended the CPC meeting where the funding request applications for Playground Modernization were reviewed. Mr. Sawyer updated the CPC regarding the status of the projects; he noted that the original request of \$335,000 was reduced to \$235,000 after receipt of two grants totaling \$100,000. CPC will deliberate and will meet again in January.

b. School Committee Self-Assessment Regarding Operating Protocols - School Committee Members reviewed the results of their self-assessment questionnaire; the questionnaire was a series of 12 questions, each of which was ranked by the Members using a 1-5 scaling system. Their responses showed areas where they were doing well and some where they felt they could do better. After much discussion, the Committee agreed to work together to reformat the questionnaire at a future meeting and will retake the questionnaire.

c. 2019-2020 School Year Calendar- Mr. Crozier noted that he and Ms. Swain, through contact with LS, worked to come up with a consistent Professional Development Day; that day would be December 2nd. In regards to the start date, the majority of staff prefers the pre-Labor Day start; PTO Co-Chairs preferred the

post-Labor day start. Ms. Nerssessian provided Committee Members with Start and End Date Comparison data which she prepared. Ms. Hogan noted there would be a transportation cost to the Town if they do not align with the LS start date.

Motion: Ms. Hogan made a motion to approve the pre-Labor day SPS 2019-2020 Calendar. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.

School Committee Members continued the discussion, and decided to make sure they are consistent with LS; Ms. Hogan withdrew her motion.

School Committee Members agreed to look at recognizing different cultural holidays on the calendar.

Ms. Swain noted the calendar can be voted in stages beginning with the first day.

Motion: Ms. Hogan made a motion to approve August 28th at the first day of school for our calendar year 2019-2020. Ms. Helon seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding efficiency in approving the entire calendar, and whether the start week should be a two-day or a three-day week.

Motion: Ms. Hogan made a motion to approve the SPS 2019-2020 School Year Calendar with pre-Labor Day start. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-1. Motion carries (Mr. Tinsley opposed).

d. Liaison Reports

Ms. Hogan noted that, as SPS Office Space Subcommittee Member, she believes we will be in a better position to get things passed through the Town if we utilize the \$50,000 earmarked by the Town Manager to contract a high-quality, third-party relocation study expert. Ms. Hogan also noted that State Representative Carmine Gentile will look into any grant funding that may be available. School Committee Members agreed to task Don Sawyer with putting out an RFP.

Ms. Hogan, as School Start Time Subcommittee Member, spoke with Dr. Scott Carpenter, Superintendent of Monomoy Regional School District. Dr. Carpenter stated that after one year, they saw a 40-50% decrease in office referrals and a reduction in both tardiness and discipline issues in elementary students; his MASC presentation also included scientific research in support of later start times for adolescents.

(Ms. Hogan left the meeting at this time - 10:29 PM)

Ms. Nerssessian noted that she recently attended the EDCO roundtable where she enjoyed a discussion on the Blizzard Bag concept given by the Wakefield Superintendent, a district on its second year of implementation of that program.

Ms. Nerssessian attended the CPC meeting where Mr. Sawyer presented on the Playground Projects; she thanked him for his work as well as The Sudbury Foundation for their generous grant of \$150,000.

Ms. Nerssessian noted that the designs received for the Noyes Playground look amazing; she encouraged parents to be involved by participating in the survey.

Ms. Helon noted there will be a SEPAC meeting Thursday, December 13th. There will be a Board Meeting and updates from Jeff Lappin, Assistant Director of Student Services. Ms. Helon noted there are many upcoming workshops as

well as openings on the Board. For further information email chair@sudburycpac.org. The next roundtable is on Communication.

Ms. Kouchakdjian reported that she met with Radha Gargeya at LS; she noted that, since member of the LS School Committee recently resigned, that Committee is accepting applications to replace that member.

March 11 and March 26, 2018 are proposed dates for the Tri-District School Committee Meeting. They are moving towards two topics: How to work together to share resources and how to best address the needs of students with anxiety.

- e. Legislative Forum Planning - Ms. Kouchakdjian will look at scheduling the Legislative Forum, possibly at one of the March meeting dates. School Committee Members will consider topics during a future meeting.

- f. Future Agenda Items

- Status update on the new homework recommendations
- Information regarding the Challenge Working Group
- Communication
- A comprehensive meeting on anxiety; why are we not seeing more results
- Benchmarking our budget dollar allocations to comparable Districts
- Budget forecast
- Blizzard bags
- Working groups - list and meeting schedules

- g. Minutes - Regular Session Minutes (11/19/18)

Motion: Ms. Nerssessionian made a motion to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2018. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

An edit was made to Page 4, Section A.2.

Vote: 4-0. Motion carries.

5. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Nerssessionian made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Clifford

Sudbury School Committee
Documents Reviewed during the 12/10/2018 meeting

1. The recommended FY20 budget developed by Superintendent of Schools Brad Crozier.
2. School Committee Operations Self-Assessment Questionnaire
3. School Committee Operations Self-Assessment Questionnaire responses
4. SPS 2019-2020 School Year Calendar - Post-Labor Day Start - Draft
5. SPS 2019-2020 School Year Calendar - Pre-Labor Day Start - Draft
6. SPS School Calendar Start and End Date Comparisons 2018-2019
7. Sudbury School Committee Regular Session Meeting Minutes for 11/19/2018