

Sudbury School Committee (SSC)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
April 1, 2019
Curtis Middle School Auditorium
7:00 PM

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of schools
Donald Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Audrey Swennes, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Ms. Kouchakdjian welcomed all to Curtis Middle School for the State of the Schools Presentation, and thanked the faculty and staff for supporting the event tonight.

Mr. Crozier explained that each school has prepared a model of what is happening at their building, and that their goals are all interconnected. Tonight's presentation is a report on the way District-wide goals are framed, through achievement, initiatives, and models.

1. Special Matters

a. State of the Schools Presentation

i. Presented by Faculty from:

- Curtis Middle School
- Haynes Elementary School
- Loring Elementary School
- Nixon Elementary School
- Noyes Elementary School

Noyes Principal Annette Doyle and Assistant Principal Kristen Moffat shared a PowerPoint presentation modeled around science, including the Bridges Math Program and STEMscopes. The status of the playground project was discussed, including the design plans, and it was noted that a groundbreaking/kickoff event will be held on June 12th. In other news, SERF Grant funding allowed sensory paths to be installed around the building. Additionally, the Inner Explorer program enhances social emotional learning by encouraging students to practice such mindfulness techniques as breathing and meditation exercises. Noyes Teachers Erin Bearfield and Michael Huelin then discussed modeling as a practice standard in science.

Haynes Principal Jeffrey LaBroad gave an overview of his building's three School Improvement Plan Goals: to support social, emotional, safety, development and wellness of all students; to successfully implement new curriculum while maximizing resources within and beyond the school to provide optimum educational programming for all students; and to review, update or establish safety practices and protocols between the school and parents / community partners to support the effective functioning of the school for the most optimal learning and teaching environment. Julie Whitehead and Ellen Vedora spoke about the roles of the Instructional Coach as resource providers. They then shared coaching scenario videos.

Nixon Principal Susan Magoveny outlined their School Improvement Goals: to enrich the academic, social and behavioral supports for all children; implementation of Phase 2 and 3 mathematics through the Bridges Program; and, improve social and emotional supports for children. A video was shown of kindergarten and fourth grade students sharing their views and identifying their zones. Gail Doster and Maureen Acton discussed how they are working to incorporate the zones of regulation into the classroom curriculum and strategies to change their zone.

Loring Principal Sarah Harvey and Assistant Principal David Gaita highlighted the work they have done so far this year regarding their School Improvement Goals, including: implementing Phase 2 of the Bridges Math Program and STEMscopes; promoting the social, emotional, and physical wellness of all students through focused work on building connections in the Loring Community; and, to utilize the new Response to Intervention block efficiently and with accountability at each grade level.

Curtis Middle School Principal Jeff Mela thanked the School Committee and Administration for their support and leadership. Mr. Mela recognized seven students for their incredible work on the Tenacity Challenge, stating that they dedicated a lot of time toward the goal of making Curtis a more welcoming school; their efforts merited them placement second overall in the competition. Mr. Mela then reviewed his building's School Improvement Goals: to enhance our capacity to provide supports and challenges to all students; to support the social and emotional growth and well-being of all students; and to analyze curriculum standards to align with new state frameworks. Next, Mr. Mela discussed District Goal #2, on innovation. Two students shared their experiences attempting innovation and the challenges they encountered in that process. Mr. Mela thanked the students and all staff members.

Ms. Kouchakdjian thanked everyone involved in the presentation for their tremendous display of partnership, stating that it was great to see a window into the classroom and noted how important these goals are.

2. Open Forum - None.
3. Educational Matters
 - a. District Reports

- i.* SEA Report - Audrey Swennes, SEA Representative, reported that an amazing adaptation of Anne of Green Gables was presented by the Curtis Theater Troupe. The Science and Expo events are also taking place. Cultural celebrations are being held at Loring, as it hosts a One World Day; Haynes will be hosting a similar multi-cultural event on April 3rd. The SEA's largest fundraiser, the Wally Bell Softball Bonanza, will take place on May 10th, with a raindate of May 17th.
- ii.* Business and Finance Director's Report - Mr. Sawyer reported that a year-to-date budget is included in the Committee Members' packets. The budget report is dated March 31st, leaving three months in the current fiscal year; he does not foresee any issues or challenges in closing the year. Also included in the packets is the signed TransFinder contract at a cost of \$7,000. This contract will result in the production of up to five distinct transportation scenarios.
- iii.* Assistant Superintendent's Report - Ms. Swain congratulated the Curtis Middle School students for their Second Place finish in the Tenacity Challenge, as well as the staff who participated and spent many months preparing for the event. On Saturday, a team of Sudbury educators will be attending the IDEAS Conference in Waltham.

Ms. Swain discussed the benefits of conducting peer observations after the 8th grade math team visited 9th grade classrooms, and 6th grade math teachers observed 5th grade math classrooms. According to Ms. Swain, peer observations are a powerful tool for professional educators to improve learning outcomes and transitioning for students.

Ms. Swain then reminded the Committee that MCAS testing begins this week and will continue through April and May; DESE anticipates releasing the MCAS testing results in June.

Finally, Ms. Swain reported that the School Committee's Equity Workshop has been scheduled for Monday, April 8th.
- iv.* Superintendent's Report - Mr. Crozier reported that on March 20th he visited the Haynes School Colonial Day event and the activities were outstanding with great parent involvement.

Mr. Crozier also met with some of the School Start Time Subcommittee Members in Boston, where they held a presentation for the METCO families on the possible change to school start times in Sudbury. Overall, he reported that it was a positive meeting and the METCO parents look forward to staying in the loop as the changes are contemplated.

Mr. Crozier thanked the School Committee Members for their attendance at the League of Women Voters budget presentation.

Mr. Crozier reported there are two events being held next Sunday; the Civics Bee and the roller skating event at Chez Vous.

4. Business and Policy Matters

- a. Legislative Forum Planning - April 29th the Legislative Forum will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting. Both the Forum and the meeting will be conducted in the Goodnow Community Meeting Room, with an invitation to attend being extended to the students and teachers who participated in the Civics Bee.

- b. Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article on Playgrounds - School Committee Members discussed the Town Meeting Warrant Article regarding the Noyes Playground Project. Mr. Crozier noted there is a difference of opinion as to how this should proceed: whether to present or pass over the Warrant Article at the May Town Meeting. Mr. Sawyer recommended proceeding with presenting the Warrant Article, as he believes that to be the proper process; Mr. Crozier stated that either is acceptable but presenting both articles during Town Meeting may cause some confusion because the School Committee Article does not ask for money (the project is funded through CPC). The Committee also discussed a presentation being made along with the CPC funding article for the playground, to give the background and future plans of the playground project.
Motion: Mr. Tinsley made a motion to remove the Article for consideration at May Town meeting. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.
Discussion continued.
Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

- c. Tri-District Meeting Feedback - Members discussed the Tri-District meeting and noted that having just one topic at the previous Tri-District meeting worked well. It was suggested that having the school psychologists present could have been helpful to the dialogue. What to do with the information gained from the meeting was discussed, one takeaway was the importance of teaching kids to deal with stress, not simply removing it.

- d. Liaison Reports -. Ms. Helon reported that SEPAC will be meeting on April 2nd at 6:00 PM at the Senior Center regarding the DESE review of the District. April 18th at 1:00 PM at the Police Station there will be an Open House for children with Special Needs to meet Police Officers. April 24th at 6:30 at Curtis there will be a workshop on psychological and neuropsychological reports. May 3rd is the Special Olympics at Bowditch Field in Framingham.

Ms. Nerssessionian reported that on April 3rd Haynes will be hosting their Multi-Cultural Evening from 6:00-8:00 PM.

Ms. Nerssessionian thanked the League of Women Voters for an excellent event, and Mr. Crozier and Ms. Swain for coming out on a Sunday. Mr. Crozier answered many questions on the budget and the future of Sudbury Public Schools. The event was recorded, so the community can watch it on Sudbury TV.

Ms. Hogan reported joining Sandra Walters and her colleagues from LS and Lincoln Public Schools at the METCO Lobby Day on March 18th. They had the opportunity to meet with representatives and were able to ask for additional State funding of \$24.2

Million. Ms. Hogan requested the representatives consider a funding formula for towns with further distances from Boston due to the associated higher transportation costs inherently incurred by that distance. Ms. Hogan also requested the consideration of additional vehicles, citing the pilot program which reduced travel time significantly for METCO students by adding one vehicle. Ms. Hogan also suggested storing vehicles overnight in Boston, as well as funding for afterschool programs to facilitate METCO students' relationships with their peers.

The issue of school start times has gained broader interest, and an MASC workshop will be held on Saturday in Marlborough. Ms. Hogan attended the LS School Start Time Subcommittee on Friday, where LS Superintendent Bella Wong mentioned that SPS and LS will pilot a bus-tracking app called First View this spring. The LS Subcommittee also reviewed the TransFinder contract.

Curtis Select Concert will be held April 2nd. The weekend after Easter, the 7th and 8th Grade orchestra, band, and chorus will have their music festival trip to Washington D.C.

Ms. Kouchakdjian reported that the Civics Bee will be held on Sunday, April 7th at Weston High School. Ms. Helon thanked Ms. Kouchakdjian for her work on this; Ms. Kouchakdjian noted she and Ms. Nerssessian have worked together and hopes everyone will come out for the event, she thanked the League of Women Voters for hosting.

e. Future Agenda Items -

- Appoint a Member of the School Committee as a Member of the Master Planning Steering Committee (preferably by May 6th)
- Donald Sawyer and Bill Barletta to talk about capital, buildings and future projects
- Christine Hogan to withdraw from SPS Office Relocation Subcommittee
- Odyssey/Elementary curriculum based trip

f. Minutes Regular Session Minutes, Feb. 4, 2019 and Feb. 25, 2019

February 4, 2019 - Edits were made to the document.

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to approve the Sudbury School Committee Meeting minutes of February 4, 2019 minutes as amended. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

February 25, 2019 - Edits were made to the document.

Motion: Ms. Nerssessian made a motion to approve the Sudbury School Committee meeting minutes of February 25, 2019 as amended.

Vote: 4-0-1. Motion carries. Mr. Tinsley abstained as he was not present at this meeting.

5. Adjournment-

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

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted.
Laura Clifford

Sudbury School Committee
Documents Reviewed during the 4/1/2019 meeting

1. AIM Report 2018-2019 Josiah Haynes Elementary School
2. AIM Report 2018-2019 Ephraim Curtis Middle School
3. AIM Report 2018-2019 Israel Loring Elementary School
4. AIM Report 2018-2019 General John Nixon Elementary School
5. AIM Report 2018-2019 Peter Noyes Elementary School
6. State of the Schools Presentation of the Sudbury School Committee, April 1, 2019
7. Sudbury Public Schools Year-to-Date Budget, March 29, 2019
8. Transfinder Professional Services Agreement Prepared for Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School
9. Draft Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2019
10. Draft Meeting Minutes for February 25, 2019