

Sudbury School Committee (SSC)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
February 4, 2019
Sudbury Senior Center

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Donald Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Melissa Morabito, President, SEA

Regular Session Meeting

Ms. Kouchakdjian called the regular session meeting to order at 7:18 PM.

1. Special Matters- School Safety Update – Chief Scott Nix, Sudbury Police Department

Chief Nix gave an overview of safety issues pertaining to the Schools. Discussion included the increased prevalence of youth vaping. Sudbury Police Department is collaborating with other Town Departments and SPS to support and educate students of the dangers of vaping. Chief Nix discussed NEMLEC (Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Counsel), a consortium of Police and Sheriff Departments who are ready and able to assist local police departments when additional resources are required. Initiatives toward improving safety are always being looked at, such as reviewing protocols of ALICE (Active Shooter Response Training), medical training, and narcan. Chief Nix discussed ways they are working to improve some of the traffic issues. Chief Nix discussed the responsibilities of the Resource Officer, as well as the possibility of hiring an additional Resource Officer. The Committee thanked Chief Nix for all he does for the schools and for taking a proactive approach.

Natalie Haight, resident, attended the meeting with a Boy Scout troop; she inquired as to how to ensure that the student surveys are accurate. Chief Nix noted that his passion for safety is both professional and personal, and that he would be happy to sit down with children. The Sudbury Police are here to offer support in any way they can.

2. Open Forum - None.

3. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report - Melissa Morabito noted that the Library Media Specialists are encouraging students to read books from the Massachusetts Children's Book Award list. Fifth grade students are working on Explorer Projects to prepare for Middle School, and some fourth grade students are working on energy/engineering. A different group of fourth graders are participating in newscasts where groups choose and research a current event before they present a newscast to the class on Fridays. Art Club for fourth and fifth grade students has grown significantly from last year. The '100th Day of School' events were discussed.

Ms. Morabito spoke in regards to the March 4th School Committee agenda topic on the funding formula, noting that this is a big initiative for the MTA. Ms. Morabito asked that the Committee consider the positive impact the possible additional funding of \$688,000 could have on Sudbury Schools.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report - Mr. Sawyer noted that in regards to the year-to-date budget, at seven months in, there is no deviation from the operating budget forecast. School buildings are also right on track.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report - Ms. Swain thanked the community partners at the Senior Center for their Intergenerational Program Celebration.

Ms. Swain acknowledged the excellent work of the METCO Parent Advisory Board, and noted there will be a potluck in Boston on the first Saturday of February vacation, as well as a roller skating event to be held shortly thereafter.

iv. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Crozier thanked the School Start Time Committee for holding an informative presentation on January 31st.

Mr. Crozier congratulated Barbara Gogan for being awarded as Super Librarian by the Massachusetts School Library Association.

Mr. Crozier noted that while there was a net change of one additional student to the enrollment number in January, overall the trending is flat.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. Subcommittee Reports

i. School Start Time - Ms. Hogan updated the Committee regarding the Forum that was held with Dr. Lim, and the status of the surveys. The Subcommittee will present to the School Committee on March 4th, and the Board will vote at the end of March. Dr. Lim's presentation is available to watch online, and Mr. Tinsley encouraged people to watch it. School Committee Members noted that it could be helpful to hear from other Districts/Committees who went through the implementation process, specifically regarding how to best communicate and educate the community; Ms. Hogan noted that she will re-share information she received from Dr. Carpenter.

ii. Strategic Planning- no update at this time.

- iii. Superintendent Evaluation- School Committee Members reviewed the School Superintendent Rubric at a Glance. The criteria being proposed by the Subcommittee will set a standard on how to review Superintendents, Administrators, and Teachers using four standards: Instructional Leadership, Management Operations, Family/Community Engagement and Professional Culture. Within these standards are additional indicators. Performance Goals were also reviewed. A discussion ensued as to whether the criteria of the evaluation was too broad. It was suggested that Members may request Mr. Crozier to report on other matters during their monthly meetings with him. Mr. Crozier will provide additional content and a summary from the New Superintendent induction Program. Mr. Crozier's first mid-cycle report will be delivered at the end of February.
- iv. SPS Administration Relocation - Ms. Hogan reported that she has spoken with the Town Manager, Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, who is putting together a warrant article for the May Town Meeting that will include SPS Administrative Office Space with a requested budget of \$20M or less. Ms. Hogan anticipates that Ms. Murphy-Rodrigues will attend a School Committee meeting in February to provide the School Committee with more information. Ms. Hogan noted she has begun researching other Town office spaces, needs and comparables. A Needs Assessment was conducted in 2013; School Committee Members discussed how to best determine the current needs of a new space. The Committee also agreed that there should be a 'Plan B' in the event the proposed warrant article does not pass at Town Meeting.
- b. State Funds for Efficiencies - Mr. Crozier noted that a \$75,000 efficiency grant has been earmarked for Sudbury by State Representative Carmine Gentile. This would be a one-time expenditure to be spread over three Districts: Sudbury Public Schools, Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Ms Hogan noted that after reaching out to Representative Gentile, she believes transportation/busing issues impact many people and hiring a transportation expert may be a good use of these funds. Mr. Tinsley agreed that compiling data could help with transportation efficiency long term, and would like the Committee to be informed as to what options are available for the use of School budget funds. Committee Members discussed the importance of maximizing student academic achievement and the need for early diagnosis of learning disabilities. Mr. Crozier will get clarity from Representative Gentile if the funds are to be used among the three Districts, or two; the Committee will continue this discussion at its next meeting.
- c. Master Planning Committee - Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that she sent the Planning Board a request for clarity as to why they were not part of the Master Planning Committee; she received a response which allayed the concern she had expressed. Ms. Kouchakdjian will forward the email to the Committee.

- d. Self-Assessment Survey - Ms. Kouchakdjian noted she would like the Committee to conduct the Self-Assessment exercise again in April; Ms. Helon will revise the previous version and bring a draft back to the Committee. If any Members have suggestions, they may be sent to Mr. Crozier.
- e. Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Update - Mr. Sawyer noted he applied for this grant last year at the direction of the School Committee. This year he is facilitating the grant application submission, but the content is being created by the respective Directors of Student Services from Sudbury Public Schools, Lincoln Public Schools, and Lincoln Sudbury High School. The grant is in the amount of \$198,000.00 and would be used for specialized programs pertaining to social, emotional, and mental health as well as autism. The deadline for submission is February 15th.
- f. Liaison Reports - Maia Proujansky Bell, resident and co-chair of SEPAC, announced that a SEPAC Board meeting is scheduled for February 14th at Noyes, and the focus will be on preschool. SEPAC is also hosting a parent forum at Curtis on the 13th, and noted to watch for the family survey later in February. Ms. Helon added that PlaySudbury.org has bricks on sale with proceeds to help fund the Playground Projects, more information for which will be available after the next meeting.
Ms. Nerssessian noted that the budget meeting with the Finance Committee is February 11th. Ms. Nerssessian and Ms. Helon attended the Kindergarten Kickoff at Nixon and noted it was an amazing event.
Ms. Kouchakdjian met with Radha Gargeya and Tim Christenfeld regarding the Tri-District meeting scheduled for March 11th at the LS Library. The focus will be anxiety; they are working on getting a speaker and there will be a facilitated discussion. The three Directors of Student Services will be discussing ways communities are addressing anxiety.
- g. Future Agenda Items - Mr. Crozier will send out the information from the State Budget meeting he attended, the Committee may want to discuss this at a future meeting.
- h. Regular Session Minutes - January 8, 2019 -
Motion: Ms. Nerssessian moved to approve the Sudbury Public Schools meeting minutes of January 8, 2019. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion was approved 4-1 (Ms. Hogan abstained as she was not present for that meeting).
- i. Adjournment-
Motion: Mr. Tinsley made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion was approved 5-0.
The meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Sudbury School Committee
Documents Reviewed during the 2/4/2019 meeting

1. Sudbury Public Schools Year to Date Budget - 1/31/2019
2. Superintendent Performance Goals
3. Draft Meeting Minutes January 8, 2019