

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2019
Bruce C. Bolling Building
2300 Washington Street
Roxbury, MA 02119

Members Present:

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair
Silvia Nerssessian, Vice Chair
Maggie Helon
Meredith Gerson
Christine Hogan

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Betsy Joseph, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 7:18 PM.

1. Public Comment
 - a. None
2. Special Matters
 - a. METCO Presentation
 - i. SPS students Khamrya Randall from Loring, and Stavaughn Harris, JaNoah Blalock, Mimi Ozojiofor, Ayisat Elegbe, and Kyra Italien from Curtis participated in a panel discussion.
 - ii. METCO Director Sandra Walters presented to the School Committee on the state of the SPS METCO Program. Topics covered during this presentation include a history of Sudbury's participation in the METCO program; changes in the METCO application process; the addition of kindergarten students to the SPS METCO program; a review of METCO enrollment, broken down by grade and school; a review of accomplishments at the elementary and middle school levels, such as the Tenacity Challenge, Stay and Play at the Wayside Inn, and examples of successful summer learning.
 - iii. Ms. Walters also discussed ways SPS is supporting METCO families; gave information on how SPS is offering culturally responsive professional development for educators; explained some of the next steps SPS will be taking to continue supporting its METCO student population;

and discussed how the METCO program will be impacted by the change in school start times across SPS.

- iv. A question-and-answer period with parents followed Ms. Walter's presentation. Questions centered on student homework load and after-school time management; and school start times and potential changes in the METCO bus stop schedule.

3. Educational Matters

a. Districts Reports

i. SEA Report

- 1. SEA Representative Betsy Joseph told the Committee about how Ms. Yeoman started a "Genius Hour" with her students, in which students research topics about which they are passionate. Projects developed from this Genius Hour include podcasts, TED talks, and wiki pages. Ms. Joseph also reported that Mr. Wake took the 8th grade Kelp team to the Massachusetts Historical Society to interact with primary sources from John Adams and other Founding Fathers.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

- 1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the Committee on the year-to-date budget reporting process. The reports he will now submit to the School Committee will include the original budget, the year-to-date actuals, and the best forecast for the remainder of the year possible.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Metco Event Update

- a. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain shared with the Committee information on the Teaching and Learning Department's preparations for the December 2nd Professional Development Day.

iv. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Superintendent Brad Crozier began his report to the Committee by thanking Mr. Sawyer and the Business Department for their work to rollout the First View app, which allows parents to track school bus progress.
- 2. Mr. Crozier also informed the Committee that he is working with Curtis Principal Jeff Mela to hold a parent forum on vaping. The tentative date for this event is December 9, 2019, and Mr. Crozier will look into having the forum recorded by SudburyTV. The forum will be supported by a subsequent campaign to normalize the avoidance of vaping products.
- 3. Mr. Crozier's final report was an update on the state of the FY21 budget. The SALT team will continue constructing the budget in its

next meeting, and is on track to present the budget as previously planned.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. SPS Office Space Portion of Fairbank Community Center Project

- i. The School Committee reviewed the presentation that was given by Icon Architecture to the joint meeting of the SPS School Committee, Parks and Recreation, and the Council on Aging. While final design plans were not part of the presentation, Icon provided estimates on square footage for each department, as well as the anticipated total cost for the new building. Under the current plan, SPS will decrease its square footage, but use the space it is given more efficiently.
- ii. The Committee also discussed what would happen if the Board of Selectmen alter the proposal after the School Committee's vote, as well as how cost inflation would be handled.
 1. Maggie Helon motioned to support the plan and proposed space allocation for Sudbury Public Schools Administrative Offices as part of an overall plan and article to be set forth by the Board of Selectmen on the Fairbank Community Center, Meredith Gerson seconded.
 - a. The Committee discussed the cost of the project further, how the project will proceed in the event that the community does not approve of designs for the Senior Center and/or Parks and Recreation, and the ability of the proposed space to accommodate current and future staffing needs.

b. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Review Letter to SPS Community Regarding School Committee Budget Process

- i. The Committee reviewed and discussed a brief letter to the community that will explain the FY21 budget process, including important dates that should be noted. Superintendent Crozier will make the edits requested by the Committee, then disseminate the letter.
 1. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to approve the Sudbury School Committee budget letter as amended, Maggie Helon seconded.

a. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. District Calendar 2020-21

- i. The Committee considered three potential versions of the school year 2020-21 calendar. The first version had eight days of school prior to Labor Day, but did conform to the terms of the Lincoln Public Schools or Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School teachers' contracts, and thus will not work. Versions two and three are identical, save for the Friday before Labor, which is a day off on version two and a school day on version three. The Committee discussed options for moving an August

professional development day in order to better align with LS, as well as the financial ramifications of a calendar that isn't in sync with LS.

1. Silvia Nerssessionian motioned to approve version two of the 2020-21 school year calendar, Maggie Helon seconded.

a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

5. Minutes

- a. Due to the hour, the Committee postponed consideration of minutes until a future meeting.

6. Adjournment

- a. Silvia Nerssessionian motioned to adjourn the meeting, Maggie Helon seconded.

VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the November 18, 2019 School Committee Meeting

1. SPS METCO Program 2019-2020 Presentation
2. Draft Presentation from ICON
3. Letter to SPS Community
4. SPS 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Draft
5. SPS 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Draft V.2
6. SPS 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Draft V.3
7. Regular Session Meeting Minutes Draft For November 4, 2019
8. Regular Session Meeting Minutes Draft For November 7, 2019