

Sudbury School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2019  
Peter Noyes Elementary School  
280 Old Sudbury Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Christine Hogan

**Also Present:**

Brad Crozier, Superintendent  
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance  
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent

**Budget Hearing**

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

1. Public Comment
  - a. Maia Proujanksy-Bell spoke to the Committee about the budget, as well as the necessity for additional technological and custodial support in the district.
2. Special Matters
  - a. Budget Hearing 2020-2021
    - i. Opening the Hearing
      1. Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian shared that she reached out to Dorothy Presser of MASC regarding how to properly operate a budget hearing. Ms. Presser advised that the hearing should be opened and closed by distinct motions and votes, and that the hearing need last only as long as the public is present with questions and/or comments.
        - a. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to open the Hearing on the 2020-2021 Sudbury Public Schools budget, Maggie Helon seconded.
          - i. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries, Budget Hearing is opened.

- ii. Superintendent Recommended Budget
  - 1. Superintendent Brad Crozier presented his recommended fiscal year 2020-2021 budget to the Committee. The Committee is adhering to its previously approved timeline, and is on track to vote on the budget during its January 6 meeting. Mr. Crozier's recommended budget includes several new positions that preserve level services, as well as funding for other resources that will support new strategic initiatives. Also included in Mr. Crozier's presentation was a review of enrollment projections, the number of classrooms and teams there will be at each school, the major budget drivers, and changes made to the budget to reflect the Town Manager's recommended increase. Mr. Crozier also explained how grant funding supports the District's Budget.

- iii. Public Comment

- 1. Following Mr. Crozier's presentation, the following topics were discussed: the exclusion of the additional METCO bus from the Superintendent's Recommended Budget, and how that will affect those students' ability to get to school when considering the change in school start times coming in the 2020-21 school year; how the goals of the Tier III budget are being actualized; the value of the co-teaching model; and the importance of ensuring that all budget priorities directly impact student development.
- 2. Close Hearing
  - a. Maggie Helon motioned to close the Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 Sudbury Public Schools budget, Silvia Nersessian seconded.
    - i. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- 3. Budget Discussion
  - a. The Committee discussed whether any new information is expected prior to the Committee's anticipated vote on the budget on January 6, 2020. Other discussion centered on how additional summer workdays could be fit into the budget; the administrative support at each school; how and when items from the Tier III budget can be moved down to a lower tier, closer to implementation; the possibility of using the METCO bus differently, to allow middle school students to participate in extracurricular activities; a review of the next steps in the budget development process;

- 3. Educational Matters

- a. Districts Reports
  - i. SEA Report
    - 1. None
  - ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. None
- iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
  1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain reported to the Committee on the various forms of professional development that occurred during the ILAP period earlier that day, including the Safe and Supportive Schools training, a pair of coding workshops, and a lesson in using virtual reality to teach history.
- iv. Superintendent's Report
  1. Superintendent Brad Crozier informed the Committee that Curtis held a vaping forum with students earlier that day, and that he's been attending open houses and appreciating the hard work on display by students across the district.
4. Adjournment
  - a. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to adjourn the meeting, Maggie Helon seconded.  
**VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak

**Documents Reviewed During the December 18, 2019 School Committee Meeting**

1. 2020-2021 Proposed Budget