

Sudbury School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 9, 2025

**Members Present:**

Karyn Jones, Chair  
Jessica McCready, Vice Chair  
Nicole Burnard  
Betsy Sues

**Also Present:**

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board Chair  
Dan Carty  
Janie Dretler  
Radha Gargeya  
Charlie Russo  
Andy Sheehan, Town Manager

**Open Regular Session**

1. The Sudbury School Committee will vote to enter a joint meeting with the Select Board to meet with candidates, deliberate and vote to fill a Committee vacancy.

Chair of the Select Board, Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the joint Select Board and School Committee Meeting.

She then performed a roll call vote of the Select Board:

Janie Dretler: Present  
Dan Carty: Present  
Radha Gargeya: Present  
Charlie Russo: Present  
Lisa Kouchakdjian: Present

Chair of the Sudbury School Committee, Karyn Jones, performed a roll call vote of the School Committee:

Nicole Burnard: Present  
Jessica McCready: Present  
Betsy Sues: Present  
Karyn Jones: Present

Ms. Kouchakdjian shared that each candidate will be given the opportunity to share an opening and closing statement. They will each be asked the same questions which include how the School Committee should use community feedback in consideration of educational practices, personnel management experience, views regarding School Committee goals, ways to approach your role on School Committee to reinforce budget, how to approach school budget cuts in a challenging budget season, how to prepare for the School

Committee role, how to foster healthy collaboration with School Committee members, if there were anything the candidate would add or change to the SPS goals, and what their top 3 SPS priorities would be. In addition, they were asked whether they intended to run in the future for the full time position.

The candidates who submitted applications are Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco, Julie Durgin-Sicree and Tyler Steffey. Each candidate was then interviewed in the order their applications were received and given an opportunity to share their background and answers to the questions. .

Once the interview process was completed, the Committees then engaged in discussion. Each had an opportunity to share their thoughts on the applicants and why they would like to have them considered for the role.

Questions related to the process on majority voting was asked.

Betsy Sues motioned to appoint Julie Durgin-Sicree to the SPS School Committee for a term duration until end of May town meeting 2026. School Committee Chair, Karyn Jones seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Nicole Burnard: Nay  
Dan Carty: Nay  
Janie Dretler: Aye  
Radya Gargeya: Aye  
Jessica McCready: Aye  
Charlie Russo: Aye  
Betsy Sues: Aye  
Karyn Jones: Aye  
Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye

**Vote: 7-2.** Motion carries.

2. Adjournment

- a. School Committee Chair Karyn Jones motioned to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Betsy Sues seconded the motion.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE:

1. Nicole Burnard: Aye
2. Betsy Sues: Aye
3. Karyn Jones: Aye
4. Jessica McCready: Aye

a. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.

- b. Janie Dretler motioned to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 9:04 p.m. Dan Carty seconded the motion.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE:

1. Janie Dretler: Aye
2. Dan Carty: Aye
3. Radha Gargeya: Aye
4. Charlie Russo: Aye
5. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie Williams  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

**Documents Reviewed During the December 9, 2025 School Committee Meeting**

1. Memo from SB outlining the appointment process
2. Application for Appointment - Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco
3. Resume - Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco
4. Application for Appointment - Julie Durgin-Sicree
5. Resume - Julie Durgin-Sicree
6. Application for Appointment - Tyler Steffey