

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026

Members Present:

Karyn Jones, Chair
Jessica McCready, Vice Chair
Nicole Burnard
Julie Durgin-Sicree
Betsy Sues

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Annette Doyle, Assistant Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
Stephanie Juriansz, Director of Student Services
Andy Sheehan, Town Manager
Andrea Kraemer, SEPAC Chair
Amy Ackerson, SEPAC Member
Katie Dineen, SEPAC Member
Maia Proujansky-Bell, SEPAC Member

Chair Karyn Jones opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and performed a roll call vote of the Committee. Julie Durgin-Sicree, Betsy Sues, Nicole Burnard, Jessica McCready and Karyn Jones all confirmed their presence.

Open Executive Session

Chair Karyn Jones motioned to enter into Executive Session and to return to open session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes. Purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Nurses' Union because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and purpose 7 to review and approve minutes from the Sudbury School Committee executive session meeting of January 14, 2026. Vice Chair Jessica McCready seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Betsy Sues: Aye
Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
Nicole Burnard: Aye
Jessica McCready: Aye
Karyn Jones: Aye

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

Vice Chair Jessica McCready confirmed the Committee will enter into Executive Session and will return to open session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes. Purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Nurses' Union because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of

the Committee and purpose 7 to review and approve minutes from the Sudbury School Committee executive session meeting of January 14, 2026.

Open Regular Session

Chair Karyn Jones confirmed the Committee returned from Executive Session at 8:16 p.m.

1. Public Comment
 - a. Dena Salom, shared a letter written to the School Committee and SEPAC in reference to the proposed reduction of ESY and elimination of SMILE and Explore programs.
 - b. David Simon, Sudbury resident, asked for a delay in a vote to the FY27 budget to allow a solution to the proposed cuts of the summer programs.
 - c. Anne Kranz, Sudbury resident, questioned whether funding could be acquired through the town, DESE or SERF to keep the summer program running. She questioned funding options and shared her concerns about changes and transparency in the decision making process.
 - d. Liesje Quinto, Pendleton Road, Sudbury shared her disappointment of the canceling of the SMILE and Explore programs noting the timing of the announcement and the impact on families who aren't able to make alternative arrangements.
 - e. Amy Todd, Sudbury resident, shared her disappointment in the termination of the SMILE and Explore programs. She urged the Committee to find a solution to serve all students in the community.
 - f. Lindsey Giesen, Sudbury resident, shared the importance of summer programming for students with complex learning needs to help prevent regression and support ongoing development. She also shared concerns that changes to the schedule can create challenges for families who aren't able to find alternative summer options.

2. Educational and Operational Matters
 - a. Director of Business and Human Resources
 - i. The business office is currently working on completing the FY27 budget, continued work related to collective bargaining following the SEA ratification, including preparing contracts for signing. In addition, the office has been busy with new IRS tax reporting requirements and in preparing the RFP for after-school programming.

 - b. Assistant Superintendent
 - i. The Student Services departments from SPS, LSRHS, and LPS recently held a virtual information session for families of students with IEPs who will be transitioning from 8th grade to high school.
 - ii. The district will host its upcoming virtual "Kickoff to Kindergarten" event to introduce incoming families to topics such as curriculum, safety, and the registration process.
 - iii. ELD teacher, RL Sarafconn, has been selected to present at the MATSOL Conference on using data to support and advocate for multilingual learners.

 - c. Superintendent
 - i. The district recently announced the settlement of contracts with the SEA units, and the business office is now working on preparing and issuing retroactive salary payments for staff based on the new agreement.

- ii. The district is also preparing for the annual student art show at central office, which will feature over 100 pieces of artwork from students across all schools. The new exhibit will be installed in late January, with an art opening for students and families scheduled for February 25.

Open Joint Meeting with the Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Chair Andrea Kraemer called the SEPAC Board Meeting to order on January 14, 2026 at 8:37 p.m. She performed a Roll Call Vote of the Committee. Maia Proujansky-Bell, Katie Dineen, Amy Ackerson and Andrea Kraemer all confirmed their presence.

3. Business and Policy Matters

- a. Review of the FY27 Budget; Possible Action to Transmit a FY27 Budget to the Town by the January 16, 2026 Deadline
 - i. Superintendent Crozier shared his budget slides highlighting adjustments to help reduce the budget gap to meet the Town Managers guidance.
 - ii. Questions related to new hires, enrollment projections at Haynes and Noyes, the number of students currently and projected to be supported by ESPA's was asked.
 - iii. Clarification was requested on DESE object line items, ESY costs and supports for students.
 - iv. Additional questions related to revenue from the Explore Program, middle school enrollment driven increases, the impact of contractual settlements on the current year's budget, utility expenses, software subscriptions and clarification on circuit breaker funding.
 - v. Members shared concerns about not having enough time to review the budget packet and a request was made to consider a longer, more thorough budget review process.
 - vi. Stephanie Juriansz, Director of Student Services, then presented on the ESY program sharing the program's success in the past and acknowledged the concerns about being able to continue with the program. She also presented the proposed programs, services and changes.
 - vii. Questions from both the School Committee and SEPAC focused on the rationale and financial analysis for program changes, ESY participation and summer 2025 budget vs spending. Clarification was requested on aides, tutoring, partnerships, alternative camps, and consideration of student regression or increased ESY needs.
 - viii. Concerns were shared regarding potential loss of student gains, if the program is ending prematurely, schedule flexibility and support if not enough students enroll as well as the elimination of a program and the timeline for when this was communicated.
 - ix. Town Manager, Andy Sheehan, joined the call to answer Committee questions related to passing an unbalanced budget, budget approval deadline and continued conversation about the summer program.

Close Joint Meeting with the Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Chair Andrea Kraemer motioned to adjourn the SEPAC Board Meeting at 11:10 p.m. Katie Dineen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Katie Dineen: Aye
Maia Proujansky-Bell: Aye
Amy Ackerson: Aye
Andrea Kraemer: Aye

Vote: 4-0. Motion carries.

Director of Business and Human Resources, Don Sawyer, noted that related to the budget forecast, we are currently showing a significant gap between a 3% level service increase and the Town Managers Guidance with over budget projections for both FY28 and FY29. A member shared the desire for discussions about trade-offs, community priorities and strategies to bridge these gaps before the next budget cycle.

- b. Review of Draft After-School Care Request for Proposals (RFP)
 - i. This agenda item was not discussed.

- 4. Adjournment
 - a. Vice Chair Jessica McCready motioned to adjourn the January 14, 2026 meeting at 11:17 p.m. Betsy Sues seconded the motion.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - 1. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - 2. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - 3. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - 4. Jessica McCready: Aye
 - 5. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - a. **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the January 14, 2026 School Committee Meeting

1. Superintendent Recommended FY27 Budget
2. ESY Memo for Supt.
3. RFP_Facilities Lease_260113