

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026

Members Present:

Betsy Sues - Vice Chair, Julie Durgin-Sicree, Karyn Jones and Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco

Also Present:

Annette Doyle, Carol Cavanaugh, Buckner Creel, Chief Scott Nix and Sandra Duran

Absent:

Jessica McCready - Chair

Open Executive Session

Vice Chair Betsy Sues opened the meeting. Julie Durgin-Sicree, Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco, and Betsy Sues confirmed their presence.

Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to vote to convene in executive session and to return to open session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes. Purpose 4 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and purpose 7 to review and approve minutes from the Sudbury School Committee executive session meetings of July 6, 2026 and July 17, 2026. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye

Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye

Betsy Sues: Aye

Vote: 3-0. Motion carries.

Julie Durgin-Sicree confirmed the committee voted 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 4 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and purpose 7 to review and approve minutes from the Sudbury School Committee executive session meetings of July 6, 2026 and July 17, 2026.

Open Regular Session

Vice Chair Betsy Sues opened the regular session.

1. Public Comment
 - a. Vidya Parwani, 45 Amanda Road, Sudbury resident, asked the Committee to reconsider adding the Diwali holiday to the school calendar.
 - b. Safa Khan, Sudbury resident, thanked the School Committee for their dedication to the community and asked to reconsider adding Eid holidays to the school calendar.
2. Special Matters
 - a. School Safety Update, Chief of Police, Scott Nix
 - i. School Safety Update, Chief of Police, Scott Nix

- ii. Chief Nix provided his annual update on school safety expectations for the school year ahead. Kim Mangano is the School Resource Officer primarily assigned to LS with Jess Latini, along with support dog Rico, primarily assigned to Sudbury Public Schools.
- iii. He noted that there is a mental health clinician on staff who is available during crises and provides resources to families in need. He also took the opportunity to remind parents to please ensure their child's safety when using ebikes, and crosswalk safety.
- iv. The Committee shared their thanks to the School Resource Officers (and Rico) for their presence in our schools.
- v. Questions were raised regarding Away All Day mobile devices and lanyards used to alert emergency authorities, as well as any concerns about connecting families with their children in the event of an emergency.
- vi. A Committee member mentioned being grateful to have a social story received during an emergency at school.

3. Educational and Operational Matters

a. District Reports

- i. Acting Director of Business and Human Resources
 - 1. The town is closing its books tomorrow.
 - 2. The Governor put out a supplemental budget with Sudbury earmarked for \$50,000.00 put in place by Representative Carmine Gentile designed for Special Education.
 - 3. The Governor also put forward legislation requesting a supplemental bill for the FY27 budget. If successful, Sudbury would receive approximately \$200,000.00.
 - 4. The Committee asked when we would be notified if the supplemental bill passed.
- ii. Interim Assistant Superintendent
 - 1. Dr. Cavanaugh shared updates on current work, including homeschool plans, preparation of student learning data, the upcoming administrative retreat, finalizing mentor pairings, writing Title I and Title II grants, working with curriculum leaders, and a Boston METCO Summer Academy update.
 - 2. Questions from the Committee included the number of homeschool students we have.
- iii. Interim Superintendent
 - 1. Mrs. Doyle provided an update on the annual Say Something training program for administrators and students.
 - 2. The Explore program's last day is on Thursday. The program went well with 72 students participating.
 - 3. She is working on interviewing finalist candidates, SALT Retreat preparation, Opening Day planning, Anti Hate Anti Bias Taskforce summer work, her entry plan and connecting with Principals while monitoring building projects and attending town Capital and Budget meetings.

Karyn Jones left the meeting.

4. Consent Calendar
 - a. Appointment of School Committee Representative to Educational Collaboratives (CASE and ACCEPT)
 - b. Medication Delegation Application
 - c. Conditions of Assistance: IDEA Part B Funding Certifications
 - i. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - a. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - b. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - c. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - i. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries.
5. Business and Policy Matters
 - a. Combined Facilities Director
 - i. Haynes and Nixon Roof Projects Update
 - ii. School Safety Update
 1. The Haynes fire alarm replacement project is going well with inspections planned.
 2. With today's rain, Nixon's roof leaked. The response was fast from the Contractor and the leak was stopped.
 3. Questions related to the leak were asked.
 4. An update was also provided on both the Curtis solar canopy project and school safety projects.
 5. Questions surrounding where electricity is being run from and whether the fire department has reviewed the bollards and gates was asked.
 - b. Update on Jewish PAC
 - i. This agenda item will be brought to the next meeting as we need proper documentation to fulfill the item.
 - ii. Questions surrounding whether we will have guests at the next meeting and whether it would be helpful to how we look at criteria for creating a PAC was asked.
 - c. Policy DKC - Expense Reimbursements
 - i. Without having advance notice of the mileage reimbursement rate increase, the Committee is being asked to expedite the approval of the rate.
 - ii. A recommendation to revise the wording in Policy DKC to state that the policy is approved in alignment with IRS standards will address needing to expedite an approval moving forward.
 - iii. A question regarding what qualifies for mileage reimbursement for staff was asked.
 1. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to dispense with the three-step process outlined in Policy BGB. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- i. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - ii. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - 1. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries.
 - 2. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to approve Policy DKC as presented / amended. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - ii. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - 1. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries
- d. At-A-Glance Newsletter, June 2026
 - i. The Committee reviewed the Draft newsletter.
 - 1. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to approve the June 2026 At-A-Glance Newsletter as presented / amended. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco:
 - ii. Julie Durgin-Sicree:
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - 1. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries.
 - 2. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to distribute the June 2026 At-A-Glance Newsletter via email. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - ii. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - 1. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries.
- e. Combined Facilities Memorandum of Agreement
 - i. This agenda item is to reassign the role to Jessica as Chair.
 - 1. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to approve the Chair of the Sudbury School Committee to continue discussions regarding the Combined Facilities MOA with the Select Board Chair, Town Manager and delegates, Superintendent and delegates, and the Combined Facilities Director. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - ii. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - 1. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries.
- f. FY26 Q4 Report (End of Year)
 - i. Mr. Creel reviewed the end of year report with the Committee noting Circuit Breaker expenses are still being reviewed and that Year to Date transfers need approval.

1. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to approve the FY26 Quarter End of Year report as presented. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - ii. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 1. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries.
2. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to approve the Year to Date transfers included in the report. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - ii. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 1. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries.
- g. Update on Superintendent Search
 - i. Mr. Creel is currently working on the Scope of the RFP and researching firms to consider sending the RFP to. The Committee will be asked to review the criteria included.
 - ii. Questions from the Committee included the timeline for the selection.
6. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Members requested a Taskforce presentation from the Anti Hate Anti Bias Taskforce and how we are using digital technology in education as future agenda items.
7. Adjournment
 - a. Julie Durgin-Sicree motioned to adjourn our meeting of Monday, August 3rd at 8:56 p.m. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 1. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 2. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 3. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - a. **Vote: 3-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Julie Williams
 Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the August 3, 2026 School Committee Meeting

1. Doyle_ACCEPT Collaborative Letter of Appointment_080426
2. Doyle_CASE Collaborative Letter of Appointment_080426
3. MCSR Signature Page (1)
4. ConditionsofAssistance_IDEAS Part B Funding
5. FY27 travel reimbursement rate for SC (1)
6. RedLinePolicyDKC
7. 2025–2026 School Committee At-A-Glance_ Year in Review

8. DRAFT_June 2026 At-A-Glance.docx (1)
9. FY26 4th Qtr report to SC rev
10. '26-'27 Committee Rolling Agenda

Additional Items Reviewed

1. School Committee Capital update 8.3.2026.pptx