

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2026

Members Present:

Jessica McCready - Chair, Betsy Sues - Vice Chair, Karyn Jones and Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco

Also Present:

Annette Doyle, Carol Cavanaugh, Buckner Creel, Eric Simms, Catherine Gleason, Ben Lake and Sandra Duran

Absent:

Julie Durgin-Sicree

Open Regular Session

Chair Jessica McCready opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Betsy Sues, Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco and Jessica McCready confirmed their presence.

1. Public Comment
 - a. Jacki Sousa, Sudbury resident, shared her disappointment that the Jewish PAC wasn't listed on the agenda for tonight's meeting.
 - b. Noah Stern Weber, Sudbury resident, shared his concerns about being a Jewish family in Sudbury and how harassment has impacted his family.
 - c. Jacob Vetstein, Sudbury resident, shared his experience of antisemitism as a former student in Sudbury Public Schools.

Karyn Jones joined the meeting.

2. Chair Jessica McCready motioned to move agenda item **5b. Potential Approval of Contracts for Acting Director of Finance and Interim Assistant Superintendent** before the opening statement of the Chair. Vice Chair Betsy Sues seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - ii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - iii. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - iv. Jessica McCready: Aye
 1. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.
 - a. A member shared their appreciation for Buck and Carol and thanked Interim Superintendent Doyle for bringing them on board.
 - i. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the contracts of the Acting Director of Finance and the Interim Assistant Superintendent for the term of the contract as presented/amended. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

2. Karyn Jones: Aye
3. Betsy Sues: Aye
4. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
5. Jessica McCready: Aye
- a. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries

3. Opening Statement from Chair and Budget Subcommittee Chair

- a. Chair McCready shared that due to a technical glitch during the last meeting, it had to be unexpectedly canceled. Because of that, tonight is Interim Superintendent Doyle's first official School Committee meeting as Superintendent. The Committee is excited to welcome her and looks forward to working and engaging with her.
- b. She also took a moment to welcome Carol Cavanaugh, Interim Assistant Superintendent and announced that Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources is on medical leave. The Committee wishes him well and during his leave Bucker Creel will fill in in his absence.

4. District Reports

a. Educational and Operational Matters

i. Interim Superintendent

1. Mrs. Doyle introduced both Carol and Buck to the team. She shared her thanks to both of them for their help during the transition of administrations and noted they both came with high recommendations from peers.
2. The ESY and Explore summer programs are in full swing. Thanks to Laura Brande, Annya Pedreschi and Nicole Corron for running the programs and thanks to Rebecca Amaral for all her work in launching them.
3. Mrs. Doyle recently attended the M.A.S.S. Superintendent Conference and her first day as part of the NSIP program is today. She has begun working on the entry plan as part of her new position and her suggested goals, recommended by both NSIP and DESE, will be addressed in the coming weeks.

ii. Acting Business Director

1. Mr. Creel shared that his goal during Mr. Sawyer's absence is to move forward with what is currently in place.
2. The IRS changed the legal mileage reimbursement rate from .72 to .76. Mr. Creel intends to bring this change to the next School Committee meeting for formal approval.
3. He provided an update in Special and Early Education Grants noting that there was no information to share on Title grants at this time.
4. Governor Healy put a bill together that is currently in the house. If it passes, funds will be distributed to districts amongst the Commonwealth similar to Chapter 70 funds.
5. A question related to unanticipated costs related to Don's medical leave was asked.

iii. Interim Assistant Superintendent

1. Dr. Cavanaugh shared some tips to students and families on summer reading and ways in which to enjoy reading during the summer. She also shared recommendations on incorporating reading into family fun and shared resources on summer reading.

5. Consent Calendar

- a. Approval of Minutes (05/18/26 and 06/01/26)
- b. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submissions
- c. FY26 Q3 Budget Report
- d. Peter Noyes PTO Gift Approval
 - i. Clarifying questions about the Q3 report was asked.
 - ii. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - a. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - b. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - c. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - d. Jessica McCready: Aye
 - i. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.

6. Business and Policy Matters

- a. MassCEC Electric School Bus Advisory Service Program
 - i. Because our transportation RFP is shared with LS, the town is investigating sustainable practices including electric vehicle buses.
 - ii. A presentation was shared by Eric Simms, Catherine Gleason and Ben Lake outlining the process and resources related to new technologies to support electric buses. It also included what a program like this can benefit.
 - iii. Questions from the Committee centered around the recommended timeline and how it could impact our work, especially as we are working on our transportation RFP this year. Questions also included how the agreement would be structured if done in conjunction with LS and whether there is a fee for the analysis?
 1. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the MassCEC letter of commitment as presented. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - b. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - c. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - d. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - e. Jessica McCready: Aye
 - i. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- b. Budget Tiered Initiatives Overview
 - i. Ideas presented included spending on enrichment (stem and world language); supports in ELA; transportation for afterschool activities; textbook purchases; late bus for middle school students; Anti Hate Anti Bias Professional Development opportunities, administration of Central Office staffing; curriculum review timeline; maintenance and student services budgets and the METCO program.

- ii. Clarifying Questions related to the process were asked.
- c. Discussion on holding community Listening Session on Jewish student experiences, religious inclusion and belonging across Faith Communities
 - i. Due to concerns from families about issues their families are facing, Chair McCready spoke to local Rabbis about the option of holding Listening Sessions to better understand how schools can help support Jewish students.
 - ii. Discussion centered around other student incident experiences. One member shared her disagreement with the listening sessions and shared her support of a Jewish PAC.
- d. Review of School Committee Goals
 - i. The Committee reviewed the goals that each provided individually. Together they decided on three “buckets”: Communication, Fiscal Stewardship and Student Experience.
 - ii. One member suggested adding the Superintendent Search as a large goal area.
 - iii. Concerns about understanding deliverables were shared.
 - iv. A recommendation to rename the buckets speaking to the more general themes was suggested and clarification was provided that the District does have a strategic plan – called the District Improvement Plan when it was suggested to add a Strategic Plan as a goal.
- e. Superintendent Search Process
 - i. Discussion surrounded whether the Committee wants to hire a search firm and if so, what to include in the RFP for the search firm.
 - ii. Ideas included the general communication plan, the stakeholders who should have input and their framework for how they would best advise the School Committee, full scope of services, community forums, background checks, community communications and advice for when those are shared, recruiting strategy and references.
 - iii. Questions related to the selection of the search firm were asked.
 - iv. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to authorize a Procurement Officer to develop and issue a written request for proposals for Superintendent Executive Search Consulting Services. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - b. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - c. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - d. Jessica McCready: Aye
 - i. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- f. Combined Facilities Director
 - i. Haynes and Nixon Roof Projects Update
 - ii. Solar Panels Update
 - iii. Cafeteria Tables
 - iv. Fire Alarms

1. Ms. Duran requested approval of the surplus of cafeteria tables due to accessibility concerns. New tables have been purchased to align with compliance.
2. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the disposal of the surplus school owned personal property is described in the agenda packet with an estimated aggregate value of \$3000.00 and authorize disposal in accordance with Sudbury general bylaw section 721 and M.G.L c. 30B section 15. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - ii. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - iv. Jessica McCreedy: Aye
 1. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.
3. She reported that the solar canopy project is moving forward as expected.
4. Haynes fire alarm work has started. Materials have been delivered and vendors expect the work will be completed during the week of 8/10-8/17.
5. Roofing project updates include the demolition of the Nixon roof is scheduled for this Thursday with Haynes demolition scheduled during the week of July 27th. Additional structural reinforcement is required which will result in some days when staff cannot be in the building. There are no current concerns and the goal is for the buildings to be occupiable by September 1 with remaining work not expected to impact school operations.

7. Liaison Reports

- a. A report was provided in the packet on the LGBTQ+ PAC.
- b. Park and Rec - Chair McCreedy met with Amy Hamilton, Vivian Zeng, Laurie Eliason, and Bryant Amitrano to discuss after-school care options.
- c. Budget Subcommittee - A reorganization of the new Committee is forthcoming.
- d. Policy Subcommittee - A meeting is scheduled for August where a review of MASC policies will be considered as well as the Time Out and Restraint Policy.
- e. Questions included whether the full Committee tasks the Policy Subcommittee for policy review.
- f. Anti Hate Anti Bias Taskforce - Professional Development opportunities and potential programs that other schools run to address antisemitism are being discussed.

8. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 1. Betsy Sues: Aye
 2. Karyn Jones: Aye
 3. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 4. Jessica McCreedy: Aye
 - a. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the July 20, 2026 School Committee Meeting

1. 051826_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT
2. 060126_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT
3. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 061526
4. SC Agenda AP and Payroll Warrant Report for FY26 72026
5. SC Agenda AP and Payroll Warrant Report FY27 for 72026
6. FY26 3rd qtr report for SC
7. Noyes PTO Letter in Support of Calm Corner
8. PTO funding request (calm corner)
9. NOYES Gen ED Classroom Chill Zone Items Fall 2026 - Sheet1
10. 7.6.26 SPS Transportation.docx
11. SPS-Committee-memo-MassCEC-advisory-opportunity-7-15-26-letterhead
12. ACT School Bus Advisory Services Letter of Commitment
13. School Bus Contract FY23-FY25_Signed.pdf
14. 7.6.26 SPS Budget Tiered Initiatives .docx
15. 1 - 7.6.26 SPS Super Search
16. 2 - Example RFP Andover
17. 3 - 7.6.26 LS and SPS Super Search Summary
18. 4 - Westwood
19. 5 - ShrewsburyTimeline
20. 6 - Shrewsbury Screening Committee
21. 7 - Andover
22. 8 - Weston Timeline
23. School Committee surplus memo dated 7.14.2026 Curtis Cafeteria Surplus Tables
24. Town By-Law XII Town Property and Disposal of Surplus Goods
25. LGBTQ+ PAC Liaison Update

Additional Items Reviewed

1. Assistant Superintendent Report 7-6-26
2. Noyes Gift Proposal - SPS School Committee 7_20_26.pdf