

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026

Members Present:

Jessica McCready, Chair, Betsy Sues, Vice Chair, Julie Durgin-Sicree, Karyn Jones and Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco (remote)

Also Present:

Annette Doyle, Carol Cavanaugh, Buckner Creel, Melissa Morabito and Sandra Duran

Open Regular Session

Chair Jessica McCready opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Karyn Jones, Julie Durgin-Sicree, Betsy Sues and Jessica McCready all confirmed their presence. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco confirmed her remote presence.

1. Public Comment
 - a. Paul Henry, Sudbury resident, shared his concern that the Pledge of Allegiance is not said daily at the start of the school day.
 - b. Safa Khan, Sudbury resident, spoke on behalf of herself and her co-advocate for religious holidays, Vidya Parwani, strongly encouraging the addition of Eid and Diwali to the school calendar.
 - c. Manish Sharma, Sudbury resident, thanked teachers, administrators and staff. He wished Interim Superintendent Annette Doyle well in her role, and thanked the Committee for asking her to serve.
2. Educational and Operational Matters
 - a. District Reports
 - i. SEA Report (Melissa Morabito)
 1. The SEA Report included staff sharing their educational goals for the year ahead. These included strengthening student relationships, fostering a positive learning environment, improving curriculum and data-driven instruction, increasing collaboration and co-planning and advocating for student needs. Staff also expressed appreciation for the Interim Superintendent's opening day remarks noting her connection to staff and leaving them feeling inspired.
 2. A question related to teachers' perspectives on digital literacy and technology was asked.
 - ii. Acting Director of Business and Human Resources
 1. Sudbury will receive a \$50,000 grant through the efforts of Carmine Gentile.
 2. The METCO bus contract was awarded to First Student.
 3. Mr. Creel recently met with LSRHS related to the bid process for busing.

- iii. Interim Assistant Superintendent
 - 1. The first ILAP meeting of the year is next week. Topics will include the Principals' annual review of intruder training, a review of the Sandy Hook Say Something Anonymous Program, which staff and students will participate in again this year, and Signs of Suicide and prevention training.
- iv. Interim Superintendent
 - 1. Curtis Middle School is receiving the National Banner Recognition from the Special Olympics.
 - 2. Mrs. Doyle provided an update on Open Houses. She thanked the PTO's for providing dinners for staff and shared that local groups such as SERF, HOPEsudbury, SEPAC and LGBTQ+ all participated.
 - 3. Questions related to an enrichment program at Haynes were asked.

3. Consent Calendar

- a. Community Preservation Committee Request
- b. Metrowest Grant Approval
- c. Budget Revision Request for MSBA Approved Funds
 - i. A member requested to pull the CPC Request.
 - ii. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Karyn Jones: Aye
- b. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
- c. Betsy Sues: Aye
- d. Jessica McCready: Aye
- e. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
- i. **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carries.

- iii. Questions were raised about why items addressed in the ADA Transition Plan were not included in the CPC Request.

- 1. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the CPC Request. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- i. Karyn Jones: Aye
- ii. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
- iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
- iv. Jessica McCready: Aye
- v. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye

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

4. Business and Policy Matters

- a. Combined Facilities Director
 - i. Haynes and Nixon Roof Projects Update
 - 1. At Nixon, the existing roof has been removed and the new roof installed. Installation of the structural steel has been postponed until next summer.

The large skylights remain outstanding, and work on the flashing and edge metal is ongoing.

2. At Haynes, roof removal is still underway. Work on the flashing and metal continues, and the skylights have not yet been installed. ADA-related items are being addressed, and the fire alarm project is complete.
3. Questions about whether skylights getting completed before winter could cause problems were asked.

b. Interim Superintendent Entry Plan and Goals

- i. Annette welcomed Dr. Becky McFall.
- ii. Dr. McFall shared how the NSIP (New Superintendent Induction Program) runs noting that coaches meet with School Committee's to talk about the program. She shared the model and expectations of the program and what the structure of the program is over years one through three.
- iii. A member expressed concerns about asking the Interim Superintendent to undertake the strategic entry work typically completed by a permanent Superintendent, the transition when the new Superintendent begins, and the cost of the program.
- iv. Clarification on intended outcomes of strategic listening sessions was asked.
- v. Mrs. Doyle then shared her entry plan and proposed goals noting that they are aligned with DESE and particular to new Superintendents.
- vi. A comment related to implementing policies was shared.

c. Review District Strategic Plan and District Goals

- i. Mrs. Doyle shared the District Strategic Plan and District Goals, noting the collaborative work of the Curriculum Instructional Team, Principals and their leadership teams, as well as the PDC Committee. She reviewed the proposed changes with the Committee.
- ii. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the District Strategic Plan and District Goals. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - a. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - b. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - c. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - d. Jessica McCready: Aye
 - e. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - i. **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carries.

d. School Committee Workshop - School Committee Goals

- i. The School Committee continued their work on aligning their goals.
- ii. All members agreed with having the Superintendent Search as part of their goals.
- iii. Potential goals discussed included Community Engagement with deliverables such as digital communications, listening sessions, office hours and participation in community events. Collaboration with Stakeholders was also identified as a potential goal, emphasizing the importance of working closely with Town and District Administrators.
- iv. A desire to survey parents and students in digital technology was shared.

- e. Delegate Communications Liaison to write letter to Carmine Gentile
 - i. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to delegate the Communications Liaison to draft a letter of thanks to Representative Carmine Gentile for his gift of \$50,000. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - b. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - c. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - d. Jessica McCready: Aye
 - e. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - i. **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carries.

- f. Superintendent Search Updates

- i. The Evaluation Committee met and is recommending the Collins Center as the firm to conduct the Superintendent search.
 - ii. Two members shared their concern about the process of the Evaluation Committee with questions relating to scoring and clarification on how the Collins Center was chosen.
 - iii. A member expressed further concerns regarding the Evaluation Committee's selection of the Center, noting they thought the decision would be made by the full Committee and a desire for the full Committee to collaborate with the selected consultant was shared.
 - iv. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the Collins Center to aid the School Committee in their search for a Superintendent. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Karyn Jones: Abstain
 - b. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - c. Betsy Sues: Abstain
 - d. Jessica McCready: Aye
 - e. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
 - i. **Vote: 3-2.** Motion carries.

- v. Both Julie Durgin-Sicree and Betsy Sues volunteered to be members of the Superintendent Search Committee as Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco is unable to commit due to the timing of work commitments.

- 1. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to appoint Jessica McCready and Betsy Sues to the Search Committee. Karyn Jones seconded the motion.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- i. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - ii. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
 - iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
 - iv. Jessica McCready: Aye
 - v. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye

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

- 2. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to appoint Jessica McCready as the point of contact with the search firm. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- i. Karyn Jones: Aye
- ii. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
- iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
- iv. Jessica McCready: Aye
- v. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye

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

3. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to authorize Buck Creel to enter into agreement with the Collins Center. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- i. Karyn Jones: Aye
- ii. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
- iii. Betsy Sues: Aye
- iv. Jessica McCready: Aye
- v. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye

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

g. Policy BGB: Step 1: Informational Only

- i. JLCD Administration of Medication of Students
- ii. JLCDC Self Administration and Self-Carry of Medication
- iii. JKAA Prevention of Physical Restraint of Students
- iv. ACL PROTECT Act

1. These policies are listed as part one of policy review. They will be brought to a future agenda.

5. Future Agenda Items

- i. Member requests included an update on Mr. Sawyer's medical leave, moving the budget letter vote to an earlier date and discussion of a Digital Task Force was asked.

6. Adjournment

- i. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Karyn Jones: Aye
- b. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
- c. Betsy Sues: Aye
- d. Jessica McCready: Aye
- e. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Williams

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the September 14, 2026 School Committee Meeting

- 1. 1-2026-Josiah Haynes Playground CPA-Application-Form-260903-with shade structure**
- 2. 2-FY28 DRAFT SPS CPC Haynes Playground presentation with shade structure.pptx**
- 3. 3-Haynes Playground CPC Application questions and answers with shade structure.docx**
- 4. 4-Haynes_Playground_CPA_School_Committee_Memo_Budget with shade structure.docx**
- 5. 5-Kimberly Horn Haynes Parking Lot Recommendation map Attachment 1 - Map of Maintenance & Rehabilitation Recommendations by Town Lot**
- 6. 6-Surface America Haynes Elementary Quote - Sudbury, MA**
- 7. 7-SC Memo MWHF Grant \$10,000 for 9-14-26 (1)**
- 8. 8-BRR_MSBA_1**
- 9. 9-BRR_MSBA_2**
- 10. MEMORANDUM to SC Capital Projects Update 9.14.2026**
- 11. School Committee Capital update 9.14.2026**
- 12. Entry Plan FY27 Updated**
- 13. Interim Superintendent Draft Goals FY27**
- 14. 26-27 SPS Strategic Plan DRAFT**
- 15. SSC Goal Setting Template**
- 16. SPS Superintendent Search Firm updates for SC 14 Sep 26**
- 17. 1 - MEMO Regarding Policy Sub Vote and Next Steps**
- 18. 2 - Policy BGB - Policy Adoption**
- 19. 3 - Current Policy JLCD**
- 20. 4 - Redlined JLCD**
- 21. 5 - DRAFT JLCD – Administration of Medication to Students - Clean.docx**
- 22. 6-New - DRAFT JLCDC – Self-Administration and Self-Carry of Medication**
- 23. 7-DRAFT JKAA Restraint Prevention Policy (1)**
- 24. 8-K-12Guidance**
- 25. 9-MASC-DRAFT-protect-act-Policy-Clean-v2 (2).docx**
- 26. '26-'27 Committee Rolling Agenda (1)**