

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2017 @ 7:30 PM @ Sudbury Senior Center

Open Session

Chair Lucie St. George opened the session at 7:32 PM. Sudbury Cable TV is broadcasting live.

Members Present: Lucie St. George (Chair), Ellen Winer Joachim (Vice Chair), Lisa Kouchakdjian, Richard Tinsley (arrived at 7:34), Christine Hogan (arrived at 7:41)

Also Present: Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools; Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Manager of Business and Finance; Justin Dulak, Recording Secretary; Amie Abdal-Kahbir, SEA Representative

I. Recognitions

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson recognized the students and faculty involved in the METCO bus accident on January 11. Dr. Wilson also recognized bus driver Mitch, and bus monitor Mr. Brown; all of the First Response personnel who responded; the staff at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Children's Hospital Boston, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital; and off-duty National Guard officer David Wilson, who stopped to assist after witnessing the accident. SPS administration recognized for their efforts that day included: Annalisa Michielli, Christine Boyd, Susan Rothermich, the Technology Department, Steve Desrosier, John Verre, Kim Swain, Jeff Mela, Sonia Fortin, Caron Koss Goldberg, and Jen Vlackovsky. From METCO, Dr. Wilson recognized Lance Carter and Sumner McClain. Several SPS staff were also recognized for volunteering their time, including: Nancy Casey, Bill Grubb, Betsy Joseph, Liz Kerrigan, Mary Mahoney, Lauren Mahoney, Chris Thibodeaux, and Linnea Weaver. Youth Resource Officer Al Hutchinson was recognized for providing his support in a variety of ways.

II. Open Forum

- A. Kay Bell, of 348 Old Lancaster Road, informed the Committee of her belief that SPS should be prioritizing the adoption of a unified math curriculum. Ms. Bell also informed the Committee that she believes they should be providing more and better data to the Finance Committee during the budgeting process.
- B. Allison Evan, of 196 Haynes Road, read a letter to the Committee from a group of concerned parents regarding the FY18 Budget and its potential impact on rising third-grade students at Haynes Elementary School.
- C. Len Simon, of 40 Meadowbrook Circle, spoke to the Committee about encouraging students to participate in the upcoming Civics Bee on April 2, 2017.

III. Student Services Update

- A. The Committee received a presentation from the Student Services staff. The presentation was led by John Verre, Director of Students Services; Stephanie Juriansz, Early Childhood Administrator; and Denise Rochlin, Student Services Advisor. Highlights from the presentation include ([the full presentation is located here](#)):
1. SPS has two District Goals guiding the Student Services staff
 - a) Enhance inclusive educational opportunities for students
 - b) Enhance social-emotional-behavioral supports for students
 2. Some of the foci of the Student Services team are improving the effectiveness and efficiency of programs; supporting early integration and intervention, starting in preschool; and developing and implementing effective social-emotional behavioral supports.

IV. Discussion of Relocation of SPS Administration Due to Fairbank Community Center Planning

- A. Facilities Director James Kelly presented to the Committee on the topic of the future relocation of SPS administration. Highlights from Mr. Kelly's presentation include ([full presentation available here](#)):
1. The new Fairbank Community Center, currently under development, will not include office space for the SPS administration.
 2. The Board of Selectmen has targeted May of 2017 to initiate a plan for locating or creating new office space for SPS administration.
 3. Six options were presented as future homes for the SPS office space: continuing in the current Fairbank Community Center, occupying Town Hall space, building SPS offices into the New Fairbank Community Center, Leasing/buying commercial space, building/adding administrative office space at Nixon Elementary School, or utilizing existing space by moving SPS employees into various school and town locations.
 - a) **Lisa Kouchakdjian** motioned to table the discussion until a later date. There was no second. Motion did not carry.
 4. Due to concerns about the operating budget for FY18, the Committee agreed to postpone discussion about relocating the SPS administrative offices to a later date.

V. Initial Discussion and Review of Calendar for FY18

- A. The Committee considered the first draft of the school year calendar for FY18. Start and end dates were aligned with those of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Under the proposed draft, the start day would be Wednesday, August 30, 2017; the corresponding 180th day of school, with no snow days, would be June 14, 2018.

B. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** motioned to approve the Calendar with start date of August 30, 2017 and a 180th day of June 14, 2018, **Christine Hogan** seconded.

1. **Vote: 4-1**. Motion carries. Richard Tinsley in opposition.

VI. Approval of Warrant Article Submissions

A. Bus Revolving Fund

1. **Chair Lucie St. George** motioned to approve the Bus Revolving Fund, **Ellen Winer Joachim** Seconded.

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

B. Instrumental Music Revolving Fund

1. **Chair Lucie St. George** motioned to approve the Instrumental Music Revolving Fund, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

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

VII. Sudbury Education Association Report

A. Amie Abdal Khabir spoke to the Committee about the progress being made in Language Arts classrooms throughout the district.

B. The Committee took a five minute break at 10:38 PM. The Committee came back to order at 10:45 PM.

VIII. FY18 Budget Planning

A. Director of Business and Finance Susan Rothermich discussed with the Committee potential unemployment liabilities given the budget cuts being considered.

B. The Committee examined the FTE's of Sudbury administration, central office staff, and other non-administrative support positions. The Committee also examined the professional development budget for FY18, and where cost savings may be found therein.

C. The Committee discussed the job responsibilities of several positions that may possibly be cut under the several budget proposals.

IX. School Committee Communications (Moved to Item 8)

A. Highlights

1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve the Highlights as written, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

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

X. Introductory Discussion of Legislative Forum

A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postponed discussion of the legislative forum to the February 1, 2017 meeting.

XI. Parent Survey Open Comment Report (Challenge, Tutoring)

A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postponed discussion of the Parent Survey Open Comment Report to the February 1, 2017 meeting.

XII. School Committee Report [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]

- A. **Christine Hogan** reported that the School Start Time Committee is progressing ahead of schedule, and will present its conclusions to the School Committee at the February 1, 2017 meeting. Once that has been done, the School Start Time Committee will examine the next steps necessary and adjust their mission statement accordingly.

XIII. Open Forum

- A. Maia Proujansky Bell, of 38 Lakewood Drive, noted the importance of including a unified math curriculum in every version of their budget. Ms. Bell also requested that the Committee consider adding a participation fee to the elementary instrumental music program.
- B. Silvia Nersessian, of 555 Dutton Road, requested that the Committee provide more information on each of the positions being considered as cuts.
- C. Nell Forgacs, of 12 Great Lake Drive, requested that the Committee provide the Finance Committee and Sudbury community with case studies exemplifying the human element of each of the cuts being considered.

XIV. Assistant Superintendent's Report

- A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postponed hearing the Assistant Superintendent's Report until the February 1, 2017 meeting.

XV. Superintendent's Report

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson distributed a handout summarizing the current results from the first few months the "Let's Talk" platform has been in use. Dr. Wilson also invited members of the community to the final Strategic Planning Forum on Thursday, January 26, 2017 in the Senior Center.

XVI. Minutes

- A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postponed consideration of the Meeting Minutes for November 2, November 16, December 7, and December 19 until the February 1, 2017 meeting.

XVII. Members' Forum

- A. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** expressed her desire to foster mutual respect within the community.
- B. **Christine Hogan** corrected remarks she made at a previous meeting, clarifying that she did vote for the teachers' contract with reservations. Ms. Hogan also proposed that Committee members resume holding office hours each month. The Committee agreed to discuss the topic of office hours at a later meeting.

XVIII. Future Agenda Item Discussion

- A. None

XIX. Executive Session

- A. None

XX. Adjournment

- A. **Christine Hogan** motioned to adjourn, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.
1. **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carries, meeting adjourned at 12:24 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak