

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2017 @ 7:30 PM @ Ephraim Curtis Middle School

Open Session

Vice-Chair Ellen Winer Joachim opened the session at 7:31 PM. Sudbury Cable TV is broadcasting live.

Members Present: Ellen Winer Joachim (Vice Chair), Lisa Kouchakdjian, Christine Hogan, Richard Tinsley

Members Absent: Lucie St. George (Chair)

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

I. Recognitions

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson expressed her appreciation for the middle school team for the collaboration and student-centered thinking that form the foundation of ECMS. Dr. Wilson recognized Captain Tim Choat of the Sudbury Fire Department for organizing the town-wide Command Response training. Dr. Wilson also recognized Business and Finance Director Susan Rothermich for her efforts to find and implement efficiencies in the finances of Sudbury Public Schools.

II. Open Forum

- A. Susan Richman, of 3 Kendra Drive, spoke to the Committee about the value of the house administrators to the children of Curtis Middle School.
- B. Jeff Pazak, of 6 Fox Hill Road, spoke to the Committee about the management and allocation of resources within the SPS budget.
- C. Elizabeth Richter, a teacher in SPS, spoke to the Committee about the value of the literacy program to the students of Sudbury Public Schools.

III. Curtis State of the School Presentation

- A. Principal Jeff Mela presented to the Committee on the state of Ephraim Curtis Middle School. Highlights from that presentation (which can be viewed in full [here](#)) include:
 - 1. Curtis Parent Organization Co-Chair Angela Crocker informed the Committee of efforts the CPO has undertaken to stay in contact with parents, including developing a Facebook page and a new website. The

CPO has their March Madness fundraiser coming up on March 24 at 7 PM at Conrad's.

2. ECMS has adopted the "Growth Mindset" model school-wide to communicate to students that their teachers and administrators believe in them.
3. The school day at ECMS will be extended by twenty minutes during the 2017-2018 school year. This additional time will be used for increased social-emotional learning, curriculum enrichment, and group-based learning that identifies what each student needs to grow academically. (A full presentation on the extended time at ECMS can be found [here](#).)
4. ECMS is using an engineering grant from SERF to convert the current robotics classroom into a more expansive technology lab complete with tools, machines, and technology. This includes purchasing new furniture and 3D printers.

IV. FY18 Budget Planning

- A. The Committee considered several budgets being requested by the Finance Committee: the SPS Proposed Budget, a Non-Override Budget, a \$675,078 ($\frac{1}{3}$) Override Budget, and a \$1,350,155 ($\frac{2}{3}$) Override Budget. The Committee provided feedback on the construction of each budget to Superintendent Anne Wilson and Business and Finance Manager Susan Rothermich.
- B. Community Feedback
 1. Melissa Morabito, a teacher at Noyes Elementary School, requested that clarification be drawn between "site based administration" and "Central Office Administration" during budget discussions. Ms. Morabito also spoke to the Committee about balancing additions and subtractions in their budgets.

V. Sudbury Education Association Report

- A. Curtis Middle School Social Studies Teacher and SEA Representative Betsy Joseph spoke to the Committee about the value of site-based support staff to the education of students in each of the schools of SPS.

VI. School Start Time Committee Reorganization

- A. **Christine Hogan** presented the findings of the School Start Time Committee.
 1. The School Start Time Committee recommends a later start time for Ephraim Curtis Middle School, and requests that a joint committee be formed with Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School to continue exploring the recommendation.
- B. Ada Vassilovski presented to the Committee on the results of the surveys distributed by the School Start Time Committee to students, parents, and teachers, respectively. Highlights from that presentation (which may be found [here](#)) include:

1. The surveys garnered high levels of participation: 75% of Curtis students, 55% of Curtis parents, and 62% of all Curtis staff submitted their respective survey.
 2. More than 50% of all students surveyed reported receiving fewer hours of sleep than recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
 3. Nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of all eighth-graders surveyed reported dozing-off in class at least once per week.
- C. The Committee agreed to have Ms. Hogan pursue the creation of a joint committee with Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School to further explore school start time options.

VII. Odyssey Trip Approval

- A. The Committee reviewed the timing and cost of the Odyssey trips to be taken by students at the end of May.
1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.

VIII. Legislative Forum

- A. The Committee considered the timing and format of the Legislative Forum that will be held during the March 8 School Committee meeting. The Committee agreed to begin that meeting at 7:00 PM and to begin outreach to solicit attendance and questions from the community.
1. **Richard Tinsley** motioned to begin the March 8 School Committee meeting at 7:00 PM, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 2. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- B. The Committee discussed planning an additional meeting to cover the topics for which there was not enough time during this meeting.
1. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** motioned to hold a meeting on Monday, February 6 at 6:30 PM, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.
 - a) **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.

IX. School Committee Calendar- April Dates

- A. The meeting currently scheduled for April 10 coincides with a religious holiday, so the Committee discussed alternative dates. The Committee agreed to hold the meeting on Monday, April 3 at 7:30 PM.
1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to move the April 10 School Committee meeting to April 3, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.
 - a) **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.

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

- A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postpone consideration of the Parent Survey Open Comment Report until a later meeting.

XI. School Committee Office Hours

A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postponed consideration of School Committee office hours until a later meeting.

XII. Fairbank Task Force-SPS Representative

A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postpone consideration of the Fairbank Task Force-SPS representative until a later meeting.

XIII. School Committee Communications

A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postponed the consideration of any communications documents until a later meeting.

XIV. School Committee Report [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]

A. None

XV. Open Forum

A. Kay Bell, of 348 Old Lancaster Road, requested a copy of the minutes for recent meetings. Dr. Wilson provided her with a copy of the unapproved drafts.

XVI. Assistant Superintendent's Report

A. None

XVII. Superintendent's Report

A. None

XVIII. Minutes

A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postponed the consideration of all listed Minutes documents until a later meeting.

XIX. Members' Forum

A. None

XX. Future Agenda Item Discussion

A. None

XXI. Executive Session

A. None

XXII. Adjournment

A. **Christine Hogan** motioned to adjourn, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

1. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries, meeting adjourned at 11:04 PM.