

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting
January 8, 2018, 6:00 PM
Curtis Middle School Auditorium

Members Present:

Christine Hogan, Chair
Richard Tinsley, Vice Chair (remotely via cellphone)
Margaret Helon
Lisa Kouchakdjian
Lucie St. George

Also Present:

Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christine Grigsby, SEA Representative
William Lupini, Collins Center

Open Regular Session

Chair Christine Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ms. Hogan noted that Richard Tinsley would be participating remotely for the first part of the meeting.

1. Vision Statement for Superintendent Search

Ms. Hogan asked Bill Lupini to join the Members to discuss the Vision Statement, which Mr. Lupini stated is the superintendent position description. Mr. Lupini said that the Committee may approve this draft statement, or the Committee may suggest changes. Committee Members gave suggestions to make the statement more clear, such as adding that the position requires a commitment to long term planning, as well as reference to the value placed on the excellence of our teachers and staff and highlighting the excellent standing of Sudbury Public Schools. Ms. Hogan suggested that Committee Members submit their additional ideas to Mr. Lupino by email, adding that it is important to get this right.

2. FY19 School Calendar

Ms. Hogan stated that because LS will most likely not change their start date to after Labor Day or add Friday, August 30th to their school calendar, making these changes unilaterally would incur a bussing cost to Sudbury Public Schools. Ms. Helon would like to see the data regarding families with students in both LS and SPS. Mr. Tinsley spoke about the per student cost this would incur. Ms. St. George and Ms. Kouchakdjian feel that this expense is too costly.

Mr. Sawyer explained that \$8,800 is the combined bus transportation cost to LS and SPS per school day, SPS pays two-thirds of this cost. If the school calendars differed, and one District is not operating, the school district in operation would be responsible for 100% of the cost for that day.

Motion: Ms. St. George made a motion that we go forward with having the school start date on August 29, 2018. Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-1. Motion carries. Ms. Helon opposed.

Motion: Ms. St. George moved a motion to rescind the calendar vote from the December 18th meeting. Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

Ms. Hogan noted that the discussion on a possible change to ILAP days would be continued until Committee Members have a chance to review information regarding families with students attending both SPS and LS.

Mr. Tinsley disconnected from the meeting at this time. (6:40 PM)

3. State of the Schools Presentation

A slideshow presentation was given by administrators from each of the schools who discussed the District and School goals for each of their prospective schools, beginning with Loring which covered Social Action Projects and Student Leadership programs. Nixon School focused on the Bridges to Mathematics Program. Noyes School focused on the success of the STEMScopes Program. Curtis Middle School presented their goals and focused their presentation on Innovation and discussed the new building layout and the addition of makerspaces and more in-depth engineering classes. Noyes School focused their presentation on Balanced Literacy Integrated with Math and Science.

The presentation concluded with a final slide “How the School Committee can help the District. By maintaining or increasing support structures for curriculum, instruction and professional learning; By maintaining or increasing support for student wellness and mental health.”

Ms. Hogan thanked everyone for all the hard work in putting the State of the Schools Presentation together, that it personified what is great about the community. She also thanked all the students and parents who participated, and a special thank you to Kim Swain.

4. Open Forum

Alexis Strauss, teacher at Noyes Elementary School, spoke about the possible outsourcing of custodians. She and other teachers feel that custodians have many responsibilities and work very hard throughout the year. She would like the schools to be looked at as a family, including the custodians.

Daniel Carty, resident and Member of Board of Selectmen, thanked everyone for the great presentation. Mr. Carty, as a resident, spoke of the financial burdens on the Town, the capital budget and the need to recognize fiduciary responsibilities while maintaining Sudbury’s exceptional school standards. Mr. Carty noted that the possibility of combining services with LS should be discussed.

5. District Reports

- a. SEA Report** - Because of the earlier presentation, there was nothing further to report.
- b. Assistant Superintendent Report** - Kim Swain recognized three SERF grant recipients, Brianna Danielson, Sharon MacDonald and Kathy Brown. She thanked the grant recipients for their innovative work.
- c. Superintendent Report** - Dr. Wilson added her thanks for tonight’s presentation and said she is grateful for the staff and administration and for the opportunity to highlight all the wonderful things that are happening in the classrooms.

Dr. Wilson thanked the Department of Public Works and the Police who kept constant communication with her during the snowstorm.

Dr. Wilson mentioned that Director of Human Resources Kim Pratt will be leaving in two weeks to take advantage of another career opportunity. According to Dr. Wilson, Ms. Pratt has elevated

the Human Resources Department greatly and will be missed. The position was posted today, to start July 1. Judy Malone Neville will be Interim Director of HR.

Dr. Wilson noted that the Students Services search is progressing and hopes to have information for the community by the end of this week, and thanked all those who contributed their thoughts.

The next Superintendent Chat will be held on January 24th from 8:30 - 9:30 AM.

Ms. Hogan added thanks to the custodians who also worked during the snowstorm both Thursday and Friday, clearing the walkways and shoveling the roofs. Dr. Wilson agreed.

6. School Committee Reports (Subcommittee/Liaison Reports)

Ms. Hogan stated that she and attended the Budget Strategies Task Force meeting. Subjects discussed were possible change to the ILAP days, OPEB liabilities and out-of-district student placements as well as vocational schools costs.

Ms. Hogan noted that Lincoln did start after Labor Day this year, adding that Lincoln also conducted a recent survey where they asked if they would prefer before to start school before or after Labor Day school start. The results were 50-50. They have not yet finalized their calendar.

7. Members' Forum

Ms. Kouchakdjian thanked the school community and staff adding that it was nice to see everyone come together for the presentation this evening. Ms. Kouchakdjian voiced her concern as to why budget issues were not on tonight's agenda, as well as legislative forum. Ms. Hogan responded that it was agreed to by the Committee to pilot a State of the Schools event instead of individual school meetings to concentrate on the successes and hard work of the teachers and staff. Ms. Hogan also noted the Committee has had many additional meetings devoted to budget this year. Ms. Hogan noted she had requested a special meeting last year to go through the budget line by line and Dr. Wilson had arranged for one but no other Committee Member responded, therefore no meeting took place. Ms. Hogan added she has asked the Committee Members several times to submit their questions and suggestions to Don and Anne prior to meetings as this is the responsibility of the school committee members. She added Ms. Kouchakdjian could have requested additional meetings be scheduled.

Ms. Helon was glad to focus on the State of the Schools tonight and gave a shout out to the specialists, an integral part of learning. Ms. Helon enjoyed being a chaperone with Ms. Hogan for the Museum of Science field trip, and the positive experience for the 90 children, their teachers and chaperones.

Ms. Swain thanked everyone again for tonight's presentation and asked if there is any specific feedback or questions from Members, they would be happy to entertain them.

8. Minutes-Regular Session Minutes (12/18/2017)

Ms. Kouchakdjian made a motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2017. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion carries.

9. Future Agenda Item Discussion

Ms. Hogan discussed future agenda items.

January 22nd –

Warrant Articles

Budget to Actual FY18
Loring PTO Water Bottle Filler Donation
FY19 Budget Planning and Presentation for the FinCom Meeting
School Committee Office Hours
Legislative Forum
Friday ILAP days as a Possible Pilot Program

February:
SPS Office Space
Curriculum Night
Facility Use Fees Policy
FY19 Budget Planning.

Ms. Hogan thanked Don Sawyer for a fantastic job during his first year, adding that we have all put in a lot of extra hours and he has had a lot thrown his way.

10. Adjournment

Ms. St. George made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Clifford