

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2017 @ 6:30 PM @ Sudbury Senior Center

Open Session

Chair Lucie St. George opened the session at 6:35 PM. Sudbury Cable TV is broadcasting live.

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

Also Present: Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools; Susan Rothermich, Manager of Business and Finance; Justin Dulak, Recording Secretary; Melissa Morabito, SEA President

I. Recognitions

A. None

II. Open Forum

- A. Mary Mahoney, of 19 Grindstone Lane, spoke to the Committee about finding efficiencies within the SPS FY18 budget.
- B. Bonnie McGavick, of 123 Longfellow Road, and Safura Hussain, 789 Boston Post Road, spoke to the Committee about the importance of maintaining the literacy program in the FY18 budget.
- C. Kathy Lizotte, a math coach at Nixon Elementary School, spoke to the Committee about the value of the support positions which may be cut from the FY18 budget.

III. FY18 Budget Planning

- A. Superintendent Anne Wilson and Business and Finance Director Susan Rothermich led the Committee through an examination of the latest version of each of the drafted FY18 budgets (non-override budget, $\frac{1}{3}$ override budget, $\frac{2}{3}$ override budget). Dr. Wilson explained that the Finance Committee may potentially use Free Cash to fund a portion of the unemployment benefits that result from whatever budget is settled upon by the School Committee. The Committee provided Dr. Wilson and Ms. Rothermich with guidance as to how the budget proposals should be altered.
- B. The Committee considered whether to implement a technology fee to support the 1:1 Chromebook program at Curtis Middle School.
 - 1. **Richard Tinsley** motioned to approve, in the event of a non-override budget, an annual \$50 per user technology fee, with appropriate scholarship moneys to be made available to assist economically challenged families, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

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

C. The Committee discussed potential options for reaching out to the community about the budget. Ideas considered included holding a budget-centered forum at each of the schools in SPS and/or holding School Committee meetings earlier in the evening or the daytime.

D. Future budget items to be considered/discussed: custodians, in-district SPED transit, food services budgetary surplus/deficit.

IV. Executive Session

A. **Christine Hogan** motioned at 8:33 PM to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair, and pursuant to Purpose 7 (M.G.L. c 30A, section 21(a)(7)) to comply with or act under the authority of a Massachusetts General Law by receiving legal advice from counsel protected from disclosure under Massachusetts General Law with the relevant citations of law being M.G.L. c.4, Section 7, clause twenty-sixth, M.G.L. c.30A, Section 22(f) and to discuss confidential student matters with the relevant citations of law being M.G.L. c.71, s. 34D, 603 CMR 23.00 et seq., and 20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99, to come back to open session, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

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

B. The Committee returned from Executive Session at 9:34 PM.

V. Legislative Forum Planning

A. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** presented a flyer to be sent out to the community advertising the Legislative Forum being held as part of the March 8, 2017 School Committee meeting. The Committee recommended their edits, and discussed the schedule for the event, as well as topics to be covered.

1. **Richard Tinsley** motioned to approve the flyer and conversation topics, **Ellen Winer Joachim** seconded.

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

VI. School Start Time Committee Reorganization

A. **Christine Hogan** presented the proposed composition of a new School Start Time Committee that will be formed with Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. The Committee also discussed what the mission of the reformed Start Time Committee is to be. Further discussion on the topic was postponed until a mission can be determined and the mechanics of forming a true “joint committee” can be ascertained.

VII. School Committee Office Hours

A. **Christine Hogan** presented a list of dates during which she reserved space at the Goodnow Library for the Committee members to resume holding office hours. The Committee discussed whether attendance at previous office hour sessions

merit holding them again in the future. Further consideration will be given to resuming office hours during a subsequent meeting.

VIII. School Committee Communications

A. Highlights, January 25, 2017

1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve the Highlights for January 25, 2017 as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

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

IX. Minutes-Regular Session Minutes

A. November 2, 2016

1. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** motioned to approve the Minutes for November 2, 2016 as edited, **Christine Hogan** seconded.

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

B. November 16, 2016

1. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** motioned to approve the Minutes for November 16, 2016 as presented, **Lucie St. George** seconded.

a) **Vote: 4-0**, **Christine Hogan** abstained. Motion carries.

C. December 7, 2016

1. **Lisa Kouchakdjian** motioned to approve the Minutes for December 7, 2016 as edited, **Christine Hogan** seconded.

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

D. December 19, 2016

1. **Christine Hogan** motioned to approve the Minutes for December 19, 2016 as edited, **Lisa Kouchakdjian** seconded.

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

X. Parent Survey Open Comment Summary Report

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

XI. Fairbank Task Force- SPS Representative

- A. Due to time constraints, the Committee postponed consideration of the SPS Representative to the Fairbank Task Force until a subsequent meeting.

XII. School Committee Report [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]

- A. None

XIII. Open Forum

- A. None

XIV. Future Agenda Item Discussion

- A. None

XV. Adjournment

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

1. **Vote: 5-0.** Motion carries, meeting adjourned at 11:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak