

**Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)**  
**School Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes April 3, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**The Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Rd.,**  
**Sudbury**

**Open Session:**

Chair Lucie St. George opened the session at 7:34 p.m. Sudbury Cable TV broadcasted the meeting 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; Kimberly A. Swain, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Director of Business and Finance; Betsy Joseph, SEA

**RECOGNITIONS:** Dr. Wilson recognized the Sudbury Team in the League of Women Voters Civics Bee, including the coach/teacher Ben DeMott and the students who participated, including Josie Halporn, Brianna Martindale, Elle Stevenson, Dean Mardenly, Mike Organsky, Kyle Keelan, and Mark Gregor.

**OPEN FORUM:** Maia Projansky-Bell, 38 Lakewood Drive, said she was excited about work on endangered species at Curtis and bringing science home, hands-on experience, excited about reaching out to the community. She said we need to tap into community resources, especially the senior population. Ms. Projansky-Bell suggested that the School Committee give guidance to administration to make someone a volunteer coordinator in the District. She commented that there is a very big drop in Sudbury's MCAS.

As we go on, she stated we need to strengthen our STEM curriculum. Need to prioritize ways to make STEM a priority. Ms. Projansky-Bell was really excited to hear about the science curriculum STEMSCOPES. She said the School Committee should look at the cost of programs.

**Curriculum Report:** ELA (Kimberly Swain, Dr. Jennifer Soalt, Lori Patrick, Melissa Sarno, Ellen Vedora, Elizabeth Richter

Kim Swain: She stated District experts are presenting on ELA. Kim introduced the literacy team. Dr. Soalt provided the update on ELA. There are three components of a strong ELA program. Dr. Soalt emphasized opportunities to embed chances to offer students really productive challenge. Standard based units take State and National standards and group them together around a common theme or topic and engage students to reach those standards.

The units have been remarkably inexpensive. They have been built out of texts wisely purchased. Dr. Soalt is looking into the revised standards. There are very few revisions. One of the revisions is a closer link between reading and writing. There is a greater emphasis on a diversity of texts. Close reading is an emphasis. The literacy specialists play a crucial role. They help teams develop lessons and differentiate.

Lori: Provided an example of a narrative writing sample. She broke it down standard by standard, into mini-lessons. Ms. Patrick described how the work was differentiated where the teacher was able to see if the student was grasping the concept.

Dr. Soalt: Work needs to be ongoing. Keep some of the lessons but keep re-working them. There is constant thinking about challenge.

Professional Development must be about challenging practices relative to the standard based units. PD needs to be coordinated. Need flexible support from literacy specialists. Dr. Soalt provided three examples of professional development. Dr. Soalt discussed close reading and its definition. Between 2014-2017, teachers introduced close reading with support and feedback.

Literacy specialists worked around writer's workshops and use Lucy Calkins which provides a lot of continuity across all grade levels. They were able to differentiate, meeting the needs of all learners.

Ellen—What is reading intervention? Discussion of how students are progressing. Intervention is targeted. Why is reading intervention important? Students become more independent, diverse needs are met, students develop confidence, and instill a love of reading and writing.

Lori—Measure student growth with reading. Meeting benchmark is just one way of measuring student growth.

Liz—Discussion regarding reading intervention and support. Student will take home a text and read with family and next day re-read it at school. Intervention is for today, tomorrow and forever!

Dr. Soalt discussed Literacy6 and the use of challenging and engaging novels. Literacy7 students receive small group reading intervention using literature from the ELA core curriculum with a focus on different areas.

LK—Asked Team to comment on the importance of early intervention with reading.

EWJ—Can't access STEAM without reading and writing.

CH—What units of measurement do we have in the district to look at the programs to see what is working? Kim Swain pointed to longitudinal Fountas and Pinnell assessment. Dr. Soalt said it has remained rather constant. Have also been using MAP more recently in Grades 3-8. Dr. Soalt

shared will not longer be using MAP. Once they reach benchmark, do they continue to get services? It depends on each student individually. Some students who reach benchmark no longer need support.

RT—What is the problem with MCAS for what you do? Dr. Soalt states that one gets the data too late. work needs to be on-going. Keep some of the lessons but keep re-working don't get the data until the Fall. No matter how aligned your curriculum is, tasks need to be aligned. The test also does not give a reading level.

In response to a question about using electronic books, Dr. Soalt said that kids actually learn better with printed, actual texts.

### **Capital Warrant Articles (Jim Kelly, Facilities Director):**

Presented Articles in the Warrant to be presented at Town Meeting

- Article 23, Town and School Rooftop HVAC Capital Repairs;
- Article 24, Town and School Parking Lots and Sidewalk Improvements (250K total request), Loring School (50K design cost), and Fire Station Headquarters (200K);
- Article 25, Wireless Technology Infrastructure Improvements – Sudbury Public Schools (the Four Elementary Schools);
- Article 26, Sudbury Public Schools Playground Improvements.

Jim Kelly believes updating the playgrounds is a worthwhile project. Playground are out of code. Renovations will bring the playgrounds up to code. RT stated a concern about the costs associated with bringing the playgrounds up to code. RT asked if the playgrounds are grandfathered. Jim Kelly reported no playgrounds are grandfathered. LVK stated that the safety of the students must come first. EWJ concerned about not having a plan for Town Meeting.

The Committee agreed to refrain from voting on the Articles during the meeting. **The Committee will vote at the next School Committee Meeting, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Action item at the next meeting.**

### **APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFERS AS DETAILED ON MARCH 22:**

Susan Rothermich—Discussed the reorganization of funds and normal budget transfers. Ms. Rothermich is creating a more fluid flow into end of year report. RT---Need to evaluate our chart of accounts. RT worried about what we need to manage the budget better. RT concerned about not being able to track the monies year over year. RT concerned that by moving the money, he states we are

losing the history on the budget. SR stated “you don't lose it, but you are looking at what you actually spent.” CH—What does it mean money coming out of the classroom. SR—We are not taking teachers out of the classroom. The monies pertain to expenses, not salaries. CH—Wants to see where the

money is going, each line item. CH proposes a working meeting to look at where the monies are going. SR we need to vote on this before the end of the fiscal year. Anne will send around a Doodle to schedule a working meeting. Once we get the date, Anne will post the meeting.

### **FY18 Budget Update:**

SR—No update at this time.

### **Discuss Communication For FY18 Budget:**

RT—He and Ellen are working on four or five slides. RT will meet with SR to go through the slides. Slides will show why we have an override and cuts. RT—Here is what you are getting with the override. Slides will make it clear to everyone. With the \$675,000, here is what it provides to you.

Ellen- Will have a bar that represents the budget and steps that make a path. Will have another bar that shows the cuts.

### **FY18 SCHOOL CALENDAR:**

Anne would like us to vote on the calendar as presented in the packet. CH—Proposing that we change the ILAP days to Friday from Wednesday. LVK agrees that trying a different day of the week is appropriate. Anne Wilson would like us to wait until the Fall to conduct a survey to survey families and staff about switching the dates. LVK--can we put together a survey with one question asking families and staff whether they favor Wednesday or Friday ILAP days. RT agrees with LVK that we do the survey and determine the results of the survey. LSG—Questions the busing and how change of half days to another day would impact busing. We need to do more homework on the issue. LSG not sold on the Fridays. EWJ—LS has an early release day every Wednesday. RT—Agree that we will go out and do a poll. In the meantime we will look and see the impact of busing. If it is inconclusive, we will stick with the Wednesday. If it is conclusive we move to Friday, if we can afford it. LSG stated she doesn't know of any districts that use Friday half days. CH gave Hanover as an example. CH will put together a survey that contains between one and three questions and provide to the Committee with the survey at the next meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **POLICY MANUAL UPDATES (1<sup>ST</sup> READING):**

LVK and EWJ state that the two AIDS policies are outdated and unnecessary 3.2.3 HIV/AIDS Policy for Employees and 4.2.11 School Attendance Policy – AIDS/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Action Item—For next meeting the Committee will vote on whether to remove the two AIDS policies.

LVK and EWJ discussed the update for the District Wellness Policy. LVK worked with the District Wellness Committee to update the District Wellness Policy. LVK drafted the policy and

worked in collaboration with the District Wellness Committee. EWJ and LVK, as the School Committee Policy

Subcommittee, edited the Policy. Edits made by the Subcommittee have been provided to the School Committee

CH reads the Draft Dated March 15<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Draft with red-lined edits as the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. RT

states that the teachers should have the discretion to determine whether recess is taken away from students. LVK states that it may be okay for a student to lose recess privileges for misbehaving on the playground. LVK states that it is her opinion that it is not okay to remove recess for a student for misbehaving in the classroom. RT states that the teachers should have the discretion to decide whether recess is taken away. LVK states that removing recess for punitive reasons can be harmful to students in that it is socially stigmatizing to students as it relates to their peers. LVK also states that removing recess for punitive reasons does not address the underlying issues and prevents the student from having the physical activity they need.

EWJ—The other change in policy is to prevent food from being brought into schools to share with other students. LVK states that it is an issue of safety for the students. CH—Curtis will be impacted by this new policy. LVK states that we need to look at Curtis policy manual to make sure that it is consistent with the District Policy Manual.

### **CLEARGOV DISCUSSION:**

Anne showed a free trial of the on line information system. The system does a good job of sharing information about the District. With the program, we are able to set up a peer group to see who we compare to. Our total expenditures are depicted and show where the money is being spent. Cost for SPS would be \$5,500 per year. Anne proposes to stop using the Let's Talk program that has a cost of \$8,600 to pay for Clear Gov.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION:**

None.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS (LIAISON AND SUBCOMMITTEES):**

None.

### **OPEN FORUM:**

Kay Bell, 348 Old Lancaster Road, Kay advises that the meeting for the 10<sup>th</sup> is still up on the website.

### **SEA REPORT:**

None.

## **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT :**

**None**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Director of Student Services Interviews are on-going. Strategic Planning Team is meeting again. Anne is looking for a School Committee member to sit on the Initial Interview Committee for a new Director of Business and Finance

## **MINUTES:**

CH- Motion to approve Minutes of March 22<sup>nd</sup> as presented. Seconded by EWJ. Motion Approved 5-0.

## **MEMBERS' FORUM :**

CH-Went to the Civics Bee and stated that all the students did very well. Thank you to EWJ for helping.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM DISCUSSION:**

CH—State of the Schools requested by CH. LVK requests that we put the Parent Survey Comments back on the Agenda.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

**ADJOURN at 11:24 p.m. CH-Motion to Adjourn. Ellen Seconded the Motion to Adjourn. Motion Approved 5-0**

### **AGENDA PACKET DOCUMENTS**

- ELA Update Presentation, 2017;
- Capital Warrant Articles, Article 23: Town and School Rooftop HVAC Capital Repairs, Article 24: Town and School Parking Lots and Sidewalk Improvements, Article 25: Wireless Technology Infrastructure Improvements—Sudbury Public Schools, Article 26: Sudbury Public Schools Playground Improvements;
- Memorandum to School Committee from Susan Rothermich dated March 22, 2017 regarding FY2017 Budget Update and associated Munis Report;
- Draft 2017-2018 School Year Calendar;
- District Policy Manual pages 12, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30;
- Draft District Wellness Policy with edits dates March 15<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m.;

- Personnel Actions document;
- Draft Minutes from School Committee Meeting dates March 22, 2017