

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)  
School Committee Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT**  
October 6, 2017, 8:00 AM  
Superintendent Conference Room

**Members Present:**

Christine Hogan, Chair  
Richard Tinsley, Vice Chair  
Margaret Helon  
Lisa Kouchakdjian  
Lucie St. George

**Also Present:**

Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance  
Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools (arrived at noon)  
Kimberly Pratt, Director Human Resources  
Melissa Morabito, SEA Representative (arrived at noon)

1. **Call to Order** – Christine Hogan opened meeting at 8:03 AM

2. **Conduct Labor Counsel Interviews**

Committee conducted labor counsel interviews of the following four firms:

- A. Stoneman, Chandler and Miller
- B. Deutsch Williams
- C. Mirick O’Connell
- D. Morgan, Brown & Joy

Rich and Lisa will conduct reference checks and report back at October 18 meeting. All SC members to bring their top two or three choices ranked to make final decision October 18.

3. **Playgrounds Article and Repairs**

**Playground Article** - Committee discussed Article 11 and who would present. Discussion included some recent meetings of other Boards/Committees where Article 12 presented did not include anyone from SPS. CH clarified the Playground Article is separate from the repairs discussion. Dr. Wilson stated Jim Kelly is the author of the Article and will make the motion at Town Meeting and suggested Stephanie Juriansz, Don Sawyer or Dr. Wilson should present and would have ten minutes to present. Christine Hogan stated she thought Dr. Wilson should present and that she and Dr. Wilson had discussed earlier where Dr. Wilson suggested a SPSC member stand alongside for the presentation. Ms. Hogan offered to opportunity to the Committee and Lucie St. George accepted.

**Playground Repairs** – Don Sawyer reported on status of repairs. Currently structures are fixed, in the process of being repaired, removed or blocked from usage. Some parts identified still need to be dealt with and are quite involved but have made significant progress since the report at Town Meeting in May.

Mr. Sawyer stated some parts are still arriving. He stated there would be a follow up to the report next Friday and there are breakages occurring that were not identified in the report and are being dealt with. Christine Hogan thanked Mr. Sawyer adding she does not know why the Business Finance Director has been put in charge of playgrounds. She further stated she has been asking for weeks since receiving the Safety Report September 14 for updates on equipment including a list of what has been repaired and when and has yet to receive answers to those questions as well as many others. Richard Tinsley stated a report is forthcoming to the Committee and is due October 13. Margaret Helon stated we are responsible for the safety of the students. Lucie St. George stated Ms. Hogan needs to be respectful and trust the staff. Ms. Hogan stated she wanted to see the data to support the information.

#### **4. Restructuring District Organization**

Christine Hogan opened giving history to the discussion, stating recently SPS had MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher present September 15 about superintendent search where he mentioned this is a time when school districts will look at their organization and consider shared superintendency and other options. She also followed up with regard to concerns reported by Lisa Kouchakdjian and Lucie St. George at the previous meeting regarding a brief discussed at an LS meeting. They stated Chair Kevin Matthews attributed a legal brief secured from LS' Counsel to SPS. Ms. Hogan stated she watched the meeting again and it was Mr. Quirk who mentioned SPS, not Mr. Matthews. Ms. Hogan stated she made a public records request for the brief which she received yesterday and sent to the Committee. She also stated she followed up directly with Mr. Matthews. Ms. St. George stated she reached out to Mr. Quirk. Ms. Hogan made a motion to explore shared superintendency with LS. Rich Tinsley seconded. Ms. Kouchadjian stated she would like to see a broader discussion, not just of shared superintendency but also of all our different options as she has been speaking to constituents for years now and wants to unite our district. She also stated people feel we are moving forward too quickly, that we must take our time with the process. Ms. Kouchadjian and Mr. Tinsley stated we need to move forward respectfully of our friends and neighbors in Lincoln. Ms. Hogan asked if Ms. Kouchadjian and the rest of the Committee read the brief, as according to the brief, shared superintendency is the only option at this time. Mr. Tinsley stated he would only consider moving forward with Lincoln's approval and wanted to include Lincoln Public Schools. Christine Hogan stated she did not think LPS had any jurisdiction over the process or decision, as they are a separate town and district. She stated SPSC's responsibility is to Sudbury whereas LS School Committee has more difficult position as they are tasked with representing both Sudbury and Lincoln students. Ms. Hogan stated proper process is for SPS to work with LS and Lincoln has a voice through LS School Committee, as each of those members are to represent both Sudbury and Lincoln students. She added she realizes there will be challenges but hopes that this Committee is not the one to block the process from moving forward. Lucie St. George stated positive affirmation from Lincoln necessary. Ms. Hogan disagreed stating our responsibility to Sudbury and we should be working with LS. Christine Hogan withdrew her earlier motion.

Richard Tinsley made motion:

**Richard Tinsley moved to explore options with regard to district level organization within the Town of Sudbury pending positive affirmation from Lincoln School Committee and LS School Committee.**

Margaret Helon seconded

Vote: 5-0. Motion carried

## **5. Superintendent Search Process**

**Christine Hogan moved to suspend superintendent search until further progress made on Restructuring District Organization.**

Margaret Helon seconded.

Ms. Helon wanted clarification on interim vs. permanent superintendent and communication to community regarding. Ms. Kouchadjian wants to consider interim from within citing too much change too quickly.

Rich Tinsley does not want to completely halt the process but supports not committing to a decision.

Christine Hogan rescinded her motion.

Lucie St. George wants to reopen our discussion on who is on the superintendent search committee as since her vote she has rethought her position.

## **6. Minutes 9.15.17**

**Lisa Kouchadjian moved to approve Minutes dated 9.15.17.**

Margaret Helon seconded.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carried

Adjourn – 12:59 – 5-0

**Christine Hogan moved to adjourn at 12:59 PM**

Rich Tinsley seconded

Vote: 5-0. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Hogan