

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
School Committee Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2017 9:00 AM

Superintendent Conference Room

Members Present:

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

Member Absent:

Richard Tinsley

Also Present:

Donald Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools

Open Session

Chair Christine Hogan called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM

Selection of Firm to Conduct Superintendent Search

Motion: Lisa Kouchakdjian moves to select Collins as firm to conduct Superintendent Search Christine Hogan seconded

Vote: 3-0 – Margaret Helon abstained. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Lisa Kouchakdjian stated Collins would be more aggressive in the search.

Maggie Helon stated she keeps going back and forth and now prefers to go towards NESDEC because they are bigger and have more experience. She does not want to be a guinea pig at this point in time. She stated it was hard to read through everything, but conversations with someone from another district make her feel like we are in a critical crunch and liked how NESDEC laid out their procedure.

Lucie St. George agrees with Maggie but feels stuck since we are in November and thinks things need to be up and going and be ahead of schedule. She does not think there is anything new to bring to table at this time and both Collins and NESDEC are very well matched. She cited the newness of Collins but understands what Anne has said in that they are a diverse group, which would bring diverse perspective to process.

Dr. Wilson stated either one would be a good choice. They both laid out plans and possess clear understanding of process. Both organizations have extensive connections throughout Massachusetts and beyond.

Christine Hogan stated she believes SPS is a high performing and desirable district for potential candidates and that the families and community members committed to academic excellence along with either search firm will bring the best candidate to our district. She stated she has concerns regarding NESDEC based upon our experience with their Strategic Planning Process.

Maggie stated strategic planning is not NESDEC's strength. Christine stated that is the experience she must go on. Christine cited contributing factors including NESDEC's bringing Dr. Wilson through SPS' previous search and Dr. Wilson's recommendations of Collins at this time. Regarding concerns of timeline, Christine stated she spoke with Mr. Sawyer Monday who stated upon Committee's approval, could negotiate a more aggressive timeline.

Motion: Lucie St. George moves to authorize Don Sawyer to negotiate contract with Collins on our behalf.

Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.

Vote – 4-0. Motion passes.

Collins will be at the School Committee Meeting Monday, November 20 to present during the Superintendent Search discussion per Dr. Wilson's and Christine Hogan's discussions and preparations to ask all three firms to be available.

Christine Hogan will draft a communication to go out to the community Friday, November 17 including vote to move forward with search for permanent superintendent, the hiring of the Collins Institute and to give notice we will be soliciting requests from community members to participate on the Superintendent Search Committee in the near future.

Motion: Lisa Kouchakdjian moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20.

Maggie Helon seconded.

Vote – 4-0. Motion passes.