

Sudbury Public Schools (SPS)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
April 23, 2018, 6:30 PM
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building
Roxbury, MA

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Richard Tinsley, Vice Chair

Also Present:

Martine Cummings, SEA Representative
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
Stephanie Juriansz, Sudbury Early Childhood Director

Open Regular Session

Chair Christine Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. District Reports

- a. SEA Report - Martine Cummings explained that kindergarten students wrapped up their social action project on animals which included a drive which collected over 400 items to be donated to Buddy Dog, they also learned about animal needs, habitats and lifescycles. New England Aquarium visited Loring third graders to launch Stemsopes on Animal Kingdoms; students adopted whales of the Atlantic Ocean which will be monitored by New England Aquarium staff; they are grateful to the PTO and families for this annual event. Third graders have just completed their biography projects which culminated in a presentation for parents in which students dressed in character of their chosen person. Fourth grade social studies classes are studying the United States, including cultural history and geographical locations, states and capitals.
- b. Business and Finance Director's Report - Don Sawyer reported that bus registration information will have initial communications going out next week, the process will need to be refined and worked out with the high school.
- c. Assistant Superintendent's Report - Kimberly Swain wished the Tenacity Team good luck at the Tenacity Challenge this week.
- d. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Anne Wilson thanked the Boston families for entrusting their children with us and for being part of our school community.

2. School Committee Reports [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]: Nothing to report at this time.

3. Open Forum - Maia Proujansky Bell, Sudbury resident, inquired as to the administrative hiring process for the Students Services Director search, noting she was confused as to whether this was for an interim or full-time position as she had previously thought the district was moving forward with an interim. Ms.

Proujansky Bell also asked for an update on the Human Resources Director position. Dr. Wilson responded that the process for the hiring of a permanent Student Services Director is continuing per plan, and there are three strong finalist candidates. Dr. Wilson noted that there was discussion by the School Committee to involve the incoming Superintendent in the hiring process of the HR Director, which she agrees is appropriate.

4. METCO Update - Sandra Walters discussed the history of the METCO Program, and noted it has been a beneficial relationship for both communities. Ms. Walters presented a slideshow including videos from METCO staff members and METCO students. Ms. Walters discussed the Stay and Play Programs, and thanked the PTO for helping with the transportation. Ms. Walters discussed extracurricular activities METCO students have participated in, such as: Bingo Night, Science Fair and the End of Year Picnic and Book Swap as well as school-based activities in the Middle School such as Band, Chorus and school sports. Ms. Walters discussed the number of students enrolled in the METCO Program. Ms. Walters discussed the budget and noted that the summer program will not be held this year due to rising transportation costs. Action Steps included goals for improving student achievement, the community's understanding of the METCO program and increasing parent satisfaction. Ms. Walters reviewed steps the METCO Program would like to see occur moving forward. Ms. Walters discussed the results of a Community Engagement Survey that was sent to the METCO parents. Ms. Walters described what is involved in the Tenacity Challenge and noted it will be held at the Bedford High School on Saturday. Ms. Hogan inquired as to what the School Committee can do to assist, Ms. Walters wants to ensure that METCO students always feel welcome and not like visitors. The Committee thanked Ms. Walters for her presentation.
5. Professional Development Update - Ms. Swain presented a slideshow and update on the ongoing professional development of Sudbury educators. Ms. Swain discussed the DESE professional development requirements and the necessary licensure. Ms. Swain reviewed the SPS Professional Learning Statement which guides the work that they do. Ms. Swain discussed the management system and how educators' requests for courses are made and how the system is kept organized, adding that the assessments and feedback are helpful for planning. Ms. Swain stated that Sudbury educators have been dedicated and open to their learning which has made for a good partnership. The School Committee thanked Ms. Swain for her presentation.
6. Proposal for Additional Hour of Instruction/Lunch for Preschool Program - Stephanie Juriansz explained that she would like the School Committee to consider a preschool opportunity for the Fall 2018 school year which would include the addition of a one hour lunch program for four-year-olds who attend morning or afternoon preschool, it also includes the option of attending an extended day from 9:00 - 3:00. Ms. Juriansz explained that in the past year they have received many requests and this would allow families more options, adding that there would be no additional instructional staffing required, the only need would be having one hour of coverage for lunch and the cost would be paid by the tuition charge. Ms. Hogan said she is eager to explore this. Ms. Juriansz stated she would like to request the School Committee to allow for the change in the tuition fee; Dr. Wilson added there are only a limited number of spaces available, and this would be reviewed at the end of the year. As this would affect the budget, and the Committee had all agreed earlier to abide by a process wherein the community could be informed and give feedback. Ms. Hogan feels it should be weighed out by the community. Ms. Helon stated as this would only affect tuition paid by families and not the budget, and that due to time constraints it may be best for the School Committee to vote tonight. Ms. Hogan would prefer to wait for all Members to be present and allow the Sudbury community to weigh in and noted she only learned about it last week. Ms. Juriansz discussed the timeline and wanting to help families plan ahead.

Ms. Kouchakdjian made a motion that we approve the fees as delineated in our packets and offer an increase in our tuition so that preschool students may derive the benefit of a longer preschool day. Ms.

St. George seconded the motion, adding that she does not believe it would affect the budget and is cost neutral.

Vote: 3-1. Motion carries. Ms. Hogan opposed, stating while she is in support of exploring the options and the program, she would prefer the Committee adhere to their process previously agreed to and allow for community discussion. Ms. Juriansz thanked the Committee and said she would bring back more information.

7. Fees for Sports/Activities - Mr. Sawyer stated that in regards to the extra-curricular activity fees and athletic activities he is not ready to make recommendations at this time; there are spring activities that still need to be added and further information to be included. Ms. Hogan has questions regarding the number of students able to participate, and if the programs should be opened up more; she would like to discuss these topics when the data reports are complete.
8. Policy Revision Update - Ms. Helon reported to the Committee on the Policy updates she and Ms. Kouchakdjian have been working on with Michael Gilbert. Ms Helon noted it has been very informative and they have found many outdated policies; there are four meetings to go, with the final meeting on May 18th. Ms. Helon proposed that Michael Gilbert attend the June 4th School Committee meeting to review the Policy changes. Ms. Hogan inquired as to the process of how policies were removed, and which policies have been vetted and checked by School Administration. Ms. Hogan would prefer to start the review now, to see the progress to this point, otherwise it may be burdensome to read through many pages and changes in a short amount of time. Ms. Hogan also expressed concern about the 60-day review time period as since the Committee has not seen any of the policies yet, she thinks a later date, perhaps October 1st is more realistic. Ms. Hogan requested the School Committee be given the materials the Policy Subcommittee has worked on to date. Dr. Wilson stated as this process stands now, it may take a bit longer to roll out than initially planned, and suggested the Committee could hold a workshop to dedicate time as a Committee to go through the Policy and the revisions and they can still have Michael Gilbert attend the June 4th meeting. Mr. Sawyer noted that the Policy Subcommittee has been ahead of the curve working at an accelerated pace, and the process of everyone seeing it hasn't happened yet; on June 4th, the Committee can discuss and decide how much time it will need, it may be October 1st.
9. Meadow Walk update - Dr. Wilson reported to the Committee that there has been one additional high school student which has no impact, she will report as she receives any additional information.
10. Superintendent Transition Plan - Dr. Wilson noted that she and Brad Crozier are diligently working on the administrative hiring.
11. Members' Forum - Ms. Swain thanked Boston Public Schools for allowing the use of their facilities, all agreed.

Ms. Hogan noted this is Ms. St. George's last School Committee meeting and thanked her for her long-time service as a Sudbury School Committee Member. Ms. Hogan noted that after two terms she has attended over 132 regular scheduled meetings.

12. School Committee Communications - none
13. Personnel Actions - none
14. Minutes - Regular Session Minutes - none
15. Future Agenda Item Discussion - Ms. Hogan will change the date for Michael Gilbert's attendance at the meeting on June 4th.

16. Executive Session none

17. Adjournment - Ms.Kouchakdjian made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Clifford