

Sudbury Public Schools Committee (SPSC)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
August 30, 2018, 6:00 PM
Sudbury Senior Center

Members Present:

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair
Margaret Helon, Vice Chair
Christine Hogan
Silvia Nerssessian
Richard Tinsley

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Stephanie Juriansz, Director of Student Services

Open Regular Session

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Open Forum:

Resident Sarah Liberman inquired as to the status of the school capacity reports as discussed at a previous School Committee Meeting. Ms. Liberman also inquired as to when there will be an update regarding school start/end times.

Resident Kristen Fox requested that the School Committee consider phasing the proposed change of the kindergarten age entrance date from October 1st to September 1st. She stated she is in favor of the proposed change in order that SPS aligns with other towns in the Commonwealth; Ms. Fox also requested that the School Committee delay the implementation until the 2021/2022 school year.

Resident Eric Reese agreed with the previous speaker regarding the kindergarten entrance age eligibility requirement.

2. Dr. Irwin Blummer - New Superintendent's Induction Program

Dr. Blummer gave an overview of his background and credentials. Dr. Blummer explained that the Induction Program is a three year program which the Department of Education expects all school superintendents to participate. Dr. Blummer will provide the coaching portion of the Program. Dr. Blummer discussed the three main elements, which will include spending a large amount of time in the schools and the classrooms, observing and speaking with principals and teachers. A draft of three strategic objectives will occur either at end of school year or in September; this will become the District Goals and Strategic Plan which will require School Committee approval. Dr. Blummer noted that the School Committee will also provide input through sharing of information and providing feedback.

3. Possible Ratification of Contracts

a. Sudbury Education Association

Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that the Contract of the Sudbury Education Association (SEA) was approved and voted on by the School Committee during Executive Session.

Motion: Ms. Nersessian made a motion to ratify the agreements between the Sudbury Education Association and the Sudbury Public Schools Committee. Mr. Tinsley seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

Ms. Kouchakdjian described the terms of the contract which runs through June 2021 and noted that the School Committee is pleased that the contract has been finalized. Ms. Kouchakdjian proceeded to thank SEA President Melissa Morabito, the staff, and School Committee Members Christine Hogan and Richard Tinsley for their diligent work in getting this done. Ms. Hogan also thanked Don Sawyer and Brad Crozier for their hard work as well, and commending Mr. Crozier who came to Sudbury July 1 for bringing this to fulfillment before school started.

4. Acceptance of Gifts

a. Peter Noyes (PTO Co-Chair Shonda Morris and Treasurer Dana Attlan)

Ms. Morris explained that the PTO would like to use the \$14,500 gift to continue the momentum of the recent outdoor improvements by replacing older wooden benches with new benches in the front, replacing the stage curtains, and updates to the teachers' lounge.

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to accept the gifts from Peter Noyes PTO for the benches, the stage curtains and updates to the teachers' lounge in the total amount of \$14,500. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The School Committee thanked Ms. Morris and Ms. Attlan and the Noyes families for their generous contributions.

b. Aspirations Donation

Ms. Kouchakdjian explained this is an annual donation in the amount of \$50,000 from the Stoller Family and thanked them for their generosity on behalf of the students.

Motion: Mr. Tinsley made a motion that we accept this generous donation from the Jack and Mae Rosenberg Charitable Trust. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

5. Joint Office Hours

Ms. Kouchakdjian explained that, at the suggestion of Richard Tinsley, Dan Carty has been working to put together a proposed schedule of Members from Town boards and committees to hold joint office hours. This would include Members of the Board of Selectmen, LS and SPS School Committees, Planning Board and FinCom. October 9 and October 11 are proposed dates for the joint office hours. Members discussed their availability and noted to Mr. Carty (in the audience) that Ms. Hogan and Ms. Kouchakdjian are both available October 9 and Ms. Kouchakdjian is available October 11.

6. District Reports

- a. Business and Finance Director's Report - Don Sawyer thanked the maintenance and custodial staff, the vendors, and the principals in preparing the buildings for the new school year. Mr. Sawyer expressed his gratitude to Marilyn Holmes and Christine Boyd for filling the void in his office and keeping everything running over the summer. Mr. Sawyer noted there are still people registering for buses and he will have numbers at the next meeting. Mr. Sawyer noted there is no specific transportation coordinator, so his office is handling all aspects of transportation issues. Mr. Sawyer noted that the Haynes Playground is complete, and it is beautiful. Noyes is next and the Committee will need to discuss the schedule for the other schools.

Mr. Sawyer then described the steps to be taken for the next playground and joint transportation issues with LS. The \$75,000 mentioned by Carmine Gentile placed in the MA budget to investigate efficiencies across school districts was discussed. Also discussed was the Efficiencies and Regionalization grant application which was not awarded last year, whether it will be more beneficial to apply this year as regional grant with partners such as Lincoln or LS.

Mr. Tinsley would like to have bussing discussed as a future conversation, and how to use technology for efficiency in the process, possibly through Let's Talk.

- b. Assistant Superintendent's Report - Kim Swain discussed opening day and commended the efforts of the curriculum team. Ms. Swain noted the importance of having all families return their completed information packets back to the schools. Ms. Swain thanked the METCO families and the METCO Team for a successful and well-attended back to school meeting last week. Ms. Swain also noted that the Mattapan Public Library has been secured for our meeting in Boston on November 5, 2018, per the School Committee's request.
- c. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Brad Crozier reported that it has been a busy week and it was a successful opening day. Mr. Crozier discussed the upcoming open houses and noted he is looking forward to meeting with the PTO chairs; Committee Members will attend the Open House to which they are assigned as liaison. Mr. Crozier discussed enrollment and noted there was one additional enrollment at Haynes after Tuesday's update. Enrollments are being closely monitored.

7. School Committee Reports [Liaison/Subcommittee Reports]:

Maggie Helon reported that SEPAC will be having their annual election meeting on September 4th for anyone interested in a position on that Committee. Ms. Helon is proud of everyone involved in the Haynes Playground Project; Noyes Playground Project meetings will begin in the fall. Ms. Helon thanked the Noyes PTO and all who had in part in the great improvements at Noyes, the staff and children were excited to see the changes.

Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that some Members of the School Committee had the opportunity to attend a summer workshop presented by the Mass. Association of School Committees Summer Institute; she noted the topics and said the links are available on the MASC.org website.

8. Members' Forum

Mr. Tinsley discussed the importance of transparency and openness when discussing issues during School Committee meetings, such as the Melone Project.

Ms. Swain offered a warm welcome for the new administrators, noting there is a new cohort of energetic teachers. She also thanked the mentors.

Ms. Kouchakdjian welcomed new administrators, adding that Opening Day had a wonderful atmosphere and excitement.

Ms. Hogan agreed with Mr. Tinsley regarding openness, particularly pertaining to the Melone Project. Ms. Hogan believes the Board of Selectmen asked for and have been waiting for the School Committee's input. Ms. Kouchakdjian explained that she prefers a more conservative approach due to procurement and RFP processes. Ms. Kouchakdjian believes the School Committee should remain neutral and support the Board of Selectmen in their decision regarding the Melone property.

Ms. Hogan inquired as to the rescheduled School Committee meeting on September 12th, a day she is unavailable. The Committee agreed to have a discussion of meeting times as a future agenda item.

9. School Committee Communications. None.
10. Personnel Actions. None.

11. Future Agenda Item Discussion

- School Committee SMART Goals and Objectives
- Future Development Projects
- Needs of the School Committee to suggest to the Board of Selectmen
- Setting up a Sub-Committee for Superintendent evaluation

12. Minutes- Regular Session Minutes (7/16/18, 7/18/18)

July 16, 2018 - Ms. Kouchakdjian suggested a future agenda item to discuss Minutes-what should be included. Revisions were made to the draft minutes. Ms. Helon made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2018 as edited and amended at the table. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

July 18, 2018 - Ms. Helon made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18, 2018 as presented. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-2. Motion carries. Ms. Hogan and Mr. Tinsley abstained as they were not present for this meeting.

At this time there was a five minute break.

13. Review of District Policy Manual

Ms. Kouchakdjian welcomed Stephanie Juriansz, Interim Director of Student Services, and thanked her for joining the meeting. The Committee continued the review of the proposed District Policy Manual.

- a. Section G - Personnel (tabled to review recommendations from Counsel)
- b. Section H - Negotiations (no changes)
- c. Section I - Instruction - Committee Members discussed each area of this Section and agreed to replace the title with “Director of Student Services” in IHBA. Committee Members agreed to revise the language in IHCA and IB; Ms. Kouchakdjian will ask if “or designee” should be added to IMG.
- d. Section J - Students - Committee Members discussed JEB, Entrance Age. Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that the Administration has made a recommendation to change the entrance age date from October 1st to September 1st. Ms. Juriansz discussed her reasons for supporting this change, she believes this to be in the best interest of the students and it would close the current chronological age gap. The School Committee discussed the implementation of this policy. Ms. Juriansz sees no reason to prolong implementation. Committee Members discussed whether there should be waivers allowed. Ms. Hogan asked for a phased approach so current Pre-K students with September birthdays would have option to attend kindergarten and also address redshirting. Mr. Crozier suggested he would reach out to preschools and collect data regarding the impact of students who fall into this category, including projected numbers, and bring back a recommendation. Committee Members additionally proposed revisions throughout this section; Ms. Kouchakdjian will follow up with Michael Gilbert to discuss.
- e. Section K - Community Relations. The School Committee will obtain the correct Section KF for review.
- f. Section L - Education Agency Relations. (No changes)

The Committee agreed to replace “his/her” with “their” throughout the Policy Manual.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Hogan made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Clifford