

Sudbury School Committee (SSC)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
Bruce Bolling Building
2300 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119
November 5, 2018

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Open Regular Session

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

1. Open Forum

Maia Proujansky-Bell, Sudbury resident and Co-Chair of Sudbury SEPAC, discussed an update to the SEPAC bylaw, she stated that SEPAC is open to parents in and outside of Sudbury; she encouraged members of the METCO community to sign up for the SEPAC newsletter, become a SEPAC Member, and to be involved, even if remotely.

Jodie Williams, parent of an 8th grade student, inquired about the ranking of Sudbury schools and what they attribute to the ranking, and asked what is the long term goal to improve. Ms. Williams inquired about diversity training for teachers, where it stands.

Ms. Kouchakdjian thanked Ms. Swain and Mr. Crozier, and METCO Director, Sandra Walters, as well as the METCO community for coordinating and attending tonight's meeting.

2. Special Matters

a. METCO Presentation (Sandra Walters, METCO Director)

Sandra Walters, began the presentation by discussing the history of the METCO Program which began in Sudbury in 1975; she noted there are currently 70 students across five schools, from many cultural backgrounds.

Jodie Williams was interviewed in the presentation and discussed the success her children have achieved through the METCO Program.

Ms. Walters' presentation highlighted elementary programs such as the Mentoring Program, Lunch Groups and a Keyboarding Program; and Middle School programs such as the Growing Club, MDA Youth Leadership Conference and the Tenacity Challenge were discussed. Ms.

Walters discussed Action Steps including efforts to increase membership to the METCO Parent Advisory Board, increase attendance at parent meetings, and participation in the “Family Friends” Program. Ms. Walters is grateful for the PTO’s continued support, and thanked the School Committee, administration, and staff for making this METCO Program such a success. Jodie Williams discussed the importance of her children seeing her as an active part of the Sudbury School Community.

Parent Advisory Board Member, Sandra Cortez, offered assistance to other parents who may want to get involved; she suggested joining the PTO and making connections through the schools’ social media pages, as she did.

Mr. Crozier shared his thoughts on the METCO Program and noted he is proud to be a METCO District.

School Committee Members asked Ms. Walters follow-up questions regarding summer programs, MCAS testing, and discussed promoting awareness of being a community, no matter where you live.

3. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

- i. SEA Report - Ms. Swain reported, on behalf of Abbey Salon, that 6th grade students are enjoying a science pilot program with Mass. Audubon to study effects of climate change.

The Curtis First League Robotics Team is in its fourth year. With the assistance of LS robotics student volunteers, the Robotics Team will design and engineer robots to complete specific themed challenges. The Team will be competing on Saturday, December 1st at Shrewsbury High School.

- ii. Business and Finance Director’s Report - Mr. Crozier noted that Don Sawyer reported earlier today that only minor issues with transportation are occurring; Committee Members agreed that they would like to see data; Ms. Kouchakdjian will follow up.

- iii. Assistant Superintendent’s Report - Nothing additional at this time.

- iv. Superintendent’s Report-State of the Schools - Mr. Crozier reported that the updated enrollment projections should be ready by next week.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. School Committee Communications

I. Review Draft Letter to Community

School Committee Members reviewed the draft letter to the Community and made revisions throughout the letter.

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to approve the Sudbury School Committee letter to the community as revised. A discussion ensued regarding the letter, including whether to include “Public” in the School Committee’s title.. Ms. Nersessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-1. Motion carries. (Ms. Hogan opposed).

b. Review Draft Template for SPS Relocation Subcommittee

School Committee Members reviewed the draft template and discussed the Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives, Reporting Requirements and meeting minutes. Minor revisions were made to the draft template.

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to approve the draft template for the SPS Relocation Subcommittee as revised. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Review Draft Template for Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee

This draft template was created after meeting with Mr. Crozier. School Committee Members discussed the Mission Statement, Members, Goals and Objectives and Reporting Requirements. Minor revisions were made to the draft template.

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to approve the draft template for the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

d. EDCO Quarterly Report-Vote on Bylaw Changes

Mr. Crozier explained the changes to the bylaw, outlining the changes to EDCO.

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion on the bylaw changes, to approve of these changes. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

e. Minutes- Regular Session Minutes (9/24/18, 10/1/18)

9/24/2018 Minutes

Motion: After a minor edit was made to the draft minutes, Ms. Hogan made a motion to approve the September 24, 2018 minutes as amended. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

10/1/2018 Minutes

Motion: After a brief discussion and an edit was made to the draft minutes, Ms. Nerssessian made a motion to approve the October 1, 2018 minutes as amended. Mr. Tinsley seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

5. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to adjourn the meeting in Boston. Ms. Nerssessian seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

(See following page for a List of Documents)

Respectfully submitted.

Laura Clifford

Sudbury School Committee
Documents Reviewed during the 11.5.2018 meeting

1. Draft Letter from the Sudbury School Committee to the Community
2. Draft Template for SPS Relocation Subcommittee
3. Draft Template for Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee
4. EDCO Quarterly Report, by-law
5. 9/24/2018 and 10/1/2018 Sudbury School Committee draft meeting minutes