

Sudbury School Committee (SSC)
Meeting Minutes
School Committee Meeting
May 13, 2019
Goodnow Library Community Room

Members Present:

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair
Margaret Helon, Vice Chair
Meredith Gerson
Christine Hogan
Silvia Nerssessian

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly Swain, Assistant Superintendent of schools
Donald Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Betsy Joseph, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Ms. Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 7:01 PM and welcomed SEA Representative Betsy Joseph to the meeting.

1. Open Forum - None.

2. Special Matters

a. Welcome to New Member Meredith Gerson

Ms. Kouchakdjian welcomed new Member Meredith Gerson to the Committee.
Ms. Gerson noted that she looks forward to working together.

3. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report - Betsy Joseph recognized sixth grade science teacher, Ed Eich, who, as part of the Riverschools Project, was honored with the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education by the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Ms. Joseph reported that there was a great turnout for the Softball Bonanza held last week; proceeds from the event support the Wally Bell Scholarship Fund. Ms. Joseph thanked Mr. Crozier and Ms. Kouchakdjian for helping out.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report - Mr. Sawyer discussed the April year-to-date budget report; he does not anticipate any issues which would prevent a smooth end of year closeout on June 30th.

Mr. Sawyer updated the School Committee regarding the TransFinder Agreement. He explained that the School Committee, in partnership with

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, voted to have an efficiency study done with Transfinder, LLC. The next step will be a conference call between TransFinder and the School Start Time Subcommittee, Superintendents, the Business and Finance Department, and anyone else who would like to be included in the review of the draft report. A proposed meeting date for the conference call has been suggested, at which time any necessary adjustments can be made prior to the completion of the final report.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report - Ms. Swain noted that Nixon welcomed a nine person team from Medway to take a look at Sudbury's Mathematics elementary instruction. Ms. Swain received positive feedback from Gabby Abrams, the Assistant Superintendent of Medway Public Schools.

iv. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Crozier recognized the 68 students who participated in the Unified Games on May 3rd and stated that it was an inspiring and fun day. Other school districts attended the Games, but Sudbury had the second highest number of participants.

Mr. Crozier updated the School Committee on the development status of the elementary schools' Learning Studios, noting that he has begun meeting with the PTO's with hopes for a successful launch this fall. The next step will be to submit a memo regarding the proposed use of Meadow Walk funds to the School Committee and Board of Selectmen for their respective approvals.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. Select Chair and Vice-Chair for 2019-2020

Chair

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to nominate/appoint Lisa Kouchakdjian for Sudbury School Committee Chair for the 2019/2020 school year. Ms. Nerssessionian seconded the motion.

Ms. Hogan nominated Meredith Gerson; Ms. Gerson stated that while she appreciates the nomination she would prefer, as a first year Member, to broaden her knowledge of SPS before taking on a leadership role. Ms. Hogan stated she thought it better not to have the same person two years in a row. Ms. Helon noted that, based upon her experience working closely with Ms. Kouchakdjian over the last year as Chair and Vice-Chair, she feels strongly in her recommendation.

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

Vice-Chair

Motion: Ms. Helon made a motion to appoint/vote Silvia Nerssessionian as Vice-Chair for the Sudbury School Committee for the 2019/2020 school year. Ms. Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

Ms. Hogan nominated Meredith Gerson; Ms. Gerson noted she is happy to be a supporting player this year. Ms. Kouchakdjian noted it has been a pleasure

working with Ms. Helon as Vice Chair this year and she values both Ms. Helon's leadership and advocacy for the schools. Ms. Hogan noted she is not 100 percent confident she can vote affirmatively for Ms. Nerssessian at this time.

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

b. Overnight Experiences Update

Mr. Crozier noted that in addition to the Music trip and the French trip to Quebec, they are adding a Spanish trip to New York beginning this fall. They are also currently working to put together an 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C., the target is June 2021. Mr. Crozier noted he is excited about this idea, as it will tie in nicely to the new 8th grade civics curriculum and a culmination of students' final year in Sudbury Public Schools. A planning committee will begin working this summer to create a formal proposal to bring to the School Committee. When asked about Odyssey, Mr. Crozier noted that, after having met with parents and reviewing the prior recommendations, as well as the cost impact, he would not support an elementary overnight trip at this point. Mr. Crozier noted the while the cost for a Washington, D.C. trip has not been completely vetted, they will make it as affordable as possible; he also explained that the cost is partially dependent on the student-teacher ratio that will be participating in the trip. Ms. Hogan expressed concern over the costs to families for all of the trips in middle school, as families with more than one child in 7th or 8th grade could be facing trips in excess of \$2,000 in one year.

c. Subcommittee Reports

i. Strategic Planning - This will be discussed at the next meeting.

ii. Superintendent Evaluation - Ms. Helon noted that Mr. Crozier plans to provide evidence/information to the Subcommittee by June 3rd. This date was changed to June 3rd by the Subcommittee to allow the Committee more time to review the information. Ms. Hogan stated she was not comfortable with the process as the School Committee had agreed to, and voted on, the timeline earlier in the year. School Committee Members agreed to change the June 17th meeting to June 11th, so as not to meet on the last day of school.

iii. SPS Administration Relocation - Nothing to report at this time.

iv. Policy Subcommittee - Nothing to report at this time.

d. Appoint Members to Master Planning Subcommittee

Motion: - Ms. Helon made a motion to appoint Lisa Kouchakdjian as a Member/Representative of the School Committee to the Master Planning Subcommittee. Ms. Hogan amended the motion to appoint Lisa Kouchakdjian as the School Committee Member to attend the Master Planning Forum. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries

e. School Committee Meeting Schedule 2019-2020

School Committee Members discussed the proposed list of School Committee Meeting dates, proposed workshops, and summer retreat dates, as well as topics for discussion during those meetings. The Committee agreed to have only one meeting in July.

Motion: Ms. Hogan made a motion to approve the School Committee Meeting Schedule for FY20, as edited, to remove the July 29th meeting date. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

f. Liaison Reports -

Ms. Hogan noted that she attended a Lincoln-Sudbury School Start Time Subcommittee meeting last Friday; the communications subgroup suggested that Superintendents send out information to the community regarding School Start Times.

Ms. Hogan noted there is a String concert at Curtis tomorrow and Thursday, and a Chorus concert on May 20th. Ms. Hogan discussed the School Committee observing classes over the course of a day at Curtis, citing LS offers this opportunity to their School Committee. Ms. Hogan discussed Art Day at LS and would like to see SPS host a similar event. Ms. Swain noted the Loring Art Show will be held this Friday from 5:00-6:00 PM at the Loring atrium.

Ms. Helon reported that SEPAC will hold their Board Meeting on May 23rd at Loring; on June 12th from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, SEPAC will hold their annual elections as well as goal planning for 2019-2020. This meeting will be followed by a Parents Social at 9:00 PM.

Ms. Kouchakdjian noted that she attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' "Day on the Hill" event; she will provide a copy of the talking points which were discussed to anyone interested.

g. Future Agenda Items -

- Recognition of Richard Tinsley
- Session with Dorothy Presser
- Members' self-assessments and protocols
- Update from Finance Director regarding a wrap up on the audit
- 4E update
- Equity between four elementary schools

h. Minutes - Regular Session Minutes (4/08/2019)

Motion: Ms. Nerssessian made a motion to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2019 as presented and edited. Ms. Helon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-1. Motion carries. (Ms. Gerson abstained).

i. Assign Liaisons, Subcommittees and Delegate to MASC

School Committee Members agreed to appoint the following:

Board of Selectmen Liaison - L. Kouchakdjian and S. Nerssessian.
Finance Committee Liaison - S. Nerssessian and M. Gerson.
MASC Delegate - M. Helon.
Lincoln-Sudbury Liaison - L. Kouchakdjian and S. Nerssessian.
SEPAC Liaison - M. Helon.
METCO Liaison - C. Hogan.
EDCO - M. Gerson.
School Building Committee - Remove from list.
Health Advisory Committee - M. Helon and M. Gerson.
Policy Liaison - M. Helon and M. Gerson.
Capital Finance - Remove from list.
SERF - K. Swain.
Park and Recreation - Remove from list.
Budget Strategies Task Force - L. Kouchakdjian and S. Nerssessian.
Haynes School Liaison - S. Nerssessian.
Loring School Liaison - L. Kouchakdjian.
Curtis School Liaison - C. Hogan.
Noyes School Liaison - M. Helon.
Nixon School Liaison - M. Gerson.
(Ms. Swain noted that the Moving On Ceremonies will be held on June 14th.)
Negotiations/Labor Relations - L. Kouchakdjian and S. Nerssessian.
Public Relations/Communications - L. Kouchakdjian and M. Gerson.
School Start Time - C. Hogan.
Superintendent Evaluation - S. Nerssessian and L. Kouchakdjian
Legislative Forum - C. Hogan.
Relocation of Administrative Offices - M. Helon and S. Nerssessian.
Strategic Planning - Remove from list.

5. Adjournment

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

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44.

Respectfully submitted.

Laura Clifford

Sudbury School Committee
Documents Reviewed during the 5/13/2019 meeting

1. Sudbury Public Schools Year-to-Date Budget Report, April 30, 2019
2. "School Committee Policy BDA; School Committee Organizational Meeting"
3. "DESE, Appendix B, End of Cycle Summative Evaluation Report; Superintendent"
4. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee Template
5. Relocation of Administrative Office Spaces Subcommittee Template
6. School Start Time Subcommittee Template
7. Strategic Planning Subcommittee Template
8. School Committee Meeting Schedule FY20
9. Minutes - Regular Session, April 8, 2019
10. FY20 Liaison and SC Responsibilities Assignments Worksheet