

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2019
Community Room, Goodnow Library

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Audrey Swennes, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

1. Public Comment
 - a. None
2. Special Matters
 - a. Student Services Presentation
 - i. Director of Student Services Stephanie Juriansz, Assistant Director of Student Services Jeff Lappin, and Special Education Administrator/Team Chair Anya Pedreschi provided a departmental update to the School Committee. Topics presented included a review of departmental positions and responsibilities; an explanation of Universal Design for Learning, why the Student Services Department embraces its principles and methodologies, and examples of UDL in action within SPS; departmental strengths and opportunities for growth; the results of the DESE Coordinated Program Review; and information on the LAB, STEPS/LEAP, Foundations/Flex, Partner, ACCESS, and Bridges programs assisting students throughout the district. The presentation also included a breakdown of demographic data of students served by the department.
 - ii. Sudbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Co-Chairs Maia Proujansky Bell and Chris Everett presented to the Committee on the latest developments coming out of SEPAC. Ms. Bell reiterated the Council's mission, as well as the organization's family outreach effort and results from the 2019 Sudbury SEPAC Survey.

- iii. Ms. Juriansz ended the presentation with updates on the district's various playground projects, from the completed Noyes playground to those that are now being planned for the Loring and Nixon Elementary Schools.
- 3. Educational Matters
 - a. Districts Reports
 - i. SEA Report
 - 1. Audrey Swennes updated the Committee on the development of the Learning Studios at each of the district's elementary schools. Ms. Swennes explained to the Committee that the Learning Studios feature technology and resources that create a positive learning environment for all students, thus tying into the UDL focus described during the Student Services presentation.
 - ii. Business and Finance Director's Report
 - 1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the Committee on two items, the first of which is the year-to-date budget update is moving to the second meeting of the month. Committee members will now receive the Munis report in the week interceding the first and second meetings, with discussion of it posted for that latter meeting.
 - 2. Mr. Sawyer's second topic was that the bus tracking app First View will be launched on Wednesday, November 6, beginning with parents at Noyes Elementary School. Mr. Sawyer then proceeded to explain the process for parents to enroll in the app, as well as how the app notifies parents of bus progress.
 - iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
 - 1. Metco Event Update
 - a. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain shared with the Committee information on the professional development that occurred during the October ILAP days. Work has begun on the spring 2020 4E program, and 7th grade teachers are developing history curriculum around new virtual reality technology acquired by the Middle School.
 - iv. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. Enrollment Update and NESDEC Projections
 - a. Superintendent Brad Crozier reported to the Committee on the current student enrollment in Sudbury Public Schools, as well as the enrollment projections prepared for SPS by NESDEC. These projections indicate that SPS will have eight fewer students in FY21 than in FY20, but dialogue is ongoing with NESDEC following an FY20 projection that was off by 60 students. Mr. Crozier then described how the projections are used to determine future staffing allocations.

2. State of the Schools Presentation Update

- a. Superintendent Crozier provided an update to the Committee on the development of the State of the Schools presentation following conversations with the SALT team. The current proposal is to hold an “expo” type event held in either the Curtis Library or Cafeteria, at which each school would have its own table or section. This would be followed by a presentation by the principals on the AIM reports. This would happen no earlier than February and no later than the first School Committee meeting in April. A short School Committee meeting will be held the same night as the proposed expo.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. May 2020 Town Meeting Capital Requests

- i. Chief of Police Scott Nix joined the Committee to discuss capital requests to be made at the spring Town Meeting. The first capital request is to add cameras to the interior of the district’s schools, for student safety. Chief Nix advised the Committee that if the Committee does choose to pursue such a capital request, the desire for both safety and the perception of safety would have to be balanced against staff and student privacy concerns. Chief Nix further informed the Committee that the exterior cameras that were installed several years ago have been effective at deterring illicit activity outside of the district’s schools, and provided several examples. The Committee discussed how the proposed interior cameras could be used to decrease student vaping, and the need to update the School Committee policy manual to allow interior cameras.
- ii. The Committee discussed passing a placeholder capital request for the Loring Playground project. The maximum request at this point in time would be roughly \$92,000. Leftover funds from other playground projects and grant funding will be used to close the gap between that number and the project’s final total cost.
 1. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to approve the capital requests for interior cameras for all five schools for the May 2020 Town Meeting, Maggie Helon seconded.
 - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
 2. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to approve the Capital Request for Loring Playground project for the May 2020 Town Meeting, Maggie Helon seconded.
 - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

b. Comparable Districts Feedback

- i. Superintendent Brad Crozier presented the results of his analysis on potentially comparable school districts to the Committee. Mr. Crozier explained that his goal was to create a list of around fifteen possible

districts, then allow the Committee to curate the final selections. RADAR Data from DESE was used by Mr. Crozier to determine his recommendations. Amongst other criteria, Mr. Crozier filtered districts by geographic relation to Sudbury, district finances, student demographics, student body size, and student growth on the MCAS.

1. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to approve the following towns as Sudbury's comparable districts: Acton-Boxborough, Belmont, Lexington, Needham, Wayland, Wellesely, Lincoln, Concord, Weston, and Winchester. Maggie Helon seconded.

a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

c. Liaison Reports

- i. Silvia Nerssessian reported that the Finance Committee met the same evening as the School Committee, and they will be getting back to the School Committee soon on the continuation of the reconciliation sheet with minor adjustments. Ms. Nerssessian also reported that a joint meeting between the School Committee, Council on Aging, and Parks and Recreation will be held on Thursday evening at Town Hall to discuss the plan for the Fairbank Project; another meeting on this topic between those three groups and the Board of Selectmen will be held on November 19. Ms. Nerssessian also informed the Committee that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School School Committee approved the contract extension with transportation provider First Student, Inc. Ms. Nerssessian concluded her report by informing that the Haynes Auction will be on November 17.
- ii. Lisa Kouchakdjian noted that the December 9 meeting with the Finance Committee will be the School Committee's budget presentation, and will be posted so that a quorum of the School Committee may attend and speak. Additional budget meetings will be held on December 12 and 18, the latter of which will be the budget hearing. Ms. Kouchakdjian also reported that the town's Transportation Committee made a data request from the School Committee, which she will work with Superintendent Crozier to fulfill. Ms. Kouchakdjian also informed the Committee of her plans to attend the MASC Convention in Hyannis.

d. School Committee Minutes

- i. October 21, 2019
 1. The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from October 21, 2019.
 - a. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to approve the meeting minutes from October 21, 2019, Maggie Helon seconded.
 - i. **VOTE: 4-1,** Christine Hogan opposed. Motion carries.

5. Adjournment

- a. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to adjourn the meeting, Maggie Helon seconded.

VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the November 4, 2019 School Committee Meeting

1. Student Services FY20 Update presentation
2. Enrollment Update, October 29, 2019
3. NESDEC Historical and Projected Enrollments, 10/24/2019
4. Lan-Tel Quote for Curtis Middle School
5. Lan-Tel Quote for Haynes Elementary School
6. Lan-Tel Quote for Loring Elementary School
7. Lan-Tel Quote for Nixon Elementary School
8. Lan-Tel Quote for Noyes Elementary School
9. Comparable Districts Presentation
10. Regular Session Meeting Minutes Draft for October 21, 2019