Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2026

Members Present:
Jessica McCready, Chair, Betsy Sues, Vice Chair, Julie Durgin-Sicree, Karyn Jones and Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco

Also Present:
Annette Doyle, Carol Cavanaugh, Buckner Creel, and Angela Spirito

Open Regular Session
Chair Jessica McCready opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Julie Durgin-Sicree, Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco, Betsy Sues and Jessica McCready all confirmed their remote presence.

1. Public Comment
    a. None

2. Educational and Operational Matters
    a. District Reports
        i. SEA Report (Angela Spirito)
            1. Ms. Spirito shared highlights from Open Houses across the district. She thanked curriculum specialists and coaches for providing presentation materials and thanked Mrs. Doyle for attending the Open Houses and demonstrating her commitment to students, families and staff.

3. Consent Calendar
    a. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission
    b. Minutes (07/02/26, 08/03/26 and 08/17/26)
    c. FY27 METCO Budget Approval
    d. FY27 Budget Reset
    e. ACCEPT Q4 Report
        i. A question related to the Budget Reset report was asked.
        ii. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.
            1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
                a. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
                b. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
                c. Betsy Sues: Aye
                d. Jessica McCready: Aye
                    i. **Vote: 4-0**. Motion carries.

    Karyn Jones joined the meeting.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. FY28 Budget Guidelines
    i. These are the guidelines approved by the Budget Subcommittee in September.
    ii. A recommendation from administration to have guidelines more aligned with the FY27 Budget Guidelines was suggested.
    iii. Discussion centered around additional details being requested in the FY28 guidelines.
    iv. A question related to budget documents accessibility was asked.
    v. Concerns were shared regarding why Mrs. Doyle and Mr. Creel were not included in the Budget Subcommittee's discussion of the FY28 Budget Guidelines.
    vi. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the fiscal year '28 Budget Guidelines as amended to reflect the fiscal year '27 Guidelines plus updates to the initiatives. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco seconded the motion.
        1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
            a. Karyn Jones: Aye
            b. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
            c. Betsy Sues: Aye
            d. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
            e. Jessica McCready: Aye
                i. **Vote: 5-0**. Motion carries.

b. Approval of Superintendent Goals
    i. Chair McCready addressed a member's concern about Interim Superintendent Doyle's participation in the NSIP program.
    ii. Discussion surrounded the particular program she is in and whether another program was brought forward for the Committee's consideration. A member shared the preference to have had a conversation about the program since the end date goes past Mrs. Doyle's contract.
    iii. Mrs. Doyle confirmed the language in the signed contract is standard and stated that with no presumption she has the position of Superintendent beyond this school year. Her hope is to hand over all the information to the new Superintendent to help set them up for success.
    iv. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to approve the Interim Superintendent goals as presented. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.
        1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
            a. Karyn Jones: Aye
            b. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
            c. Betsy Sues: Aye
            d. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Abstain
            e. Jessica McCready: Aye
                i. **Vote: 5-1.** Motion carries.

c. Approval of School Committee Goals
    i. Discussion continued around the Committee's proposed goals. Minor edits to the Superintendent Search and Community Engagement goals were discussed and approved.
    ii. The Committee decided to remove the Collaboration with Stakeholders goal as that is part of their standard practice.

iii. Clarity on the deliverables related to the Literacy, Learning Curriculum and Student Support goals was requested. The administration shared their concerns about the number of deliverables recommended and impacts to staff.
iv. For the Instructional Technology goal, it was shared that the goal is intended to build upon the reporting of device usage and approved software. A recommendation was also made to establish a Digital Technology Policy Task Force.
v. These goals will be brought to the next agenda for continued discussion.

d. Superintendent Search Update and Logistics
    i. The discussion focused on the composition and selection process for the Superintendent Search Screening Committee. Members suggested representation from parents, teachers, principals, school and town committees, curriculum leadership, and community groups.
    ii. Clarifying questions related to the selection of the Screening Committee was asked.
    iii. A member asked for clarification regarding Dr. Cavanaugh's participation and the decision to select her rather than another member of the Administration.
    iv. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to delegate Betsy Sues and Jessica McCready to work with Carol Cavanaugh to solicit Screening Committee members and develop the community survey. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.
        1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
            a. Betsy Sues: Aye
            b. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
            c. Karyn Jones: Aye
            d. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
            e. Jessica McCready: Aye
                i. **Vote: 5-0**. Motion carries.

e. Review Absentee Data for Calendar
    i. Absentee data on students and staff was shared for Committee review prior to developing the calendar for the next school year.
    ii. A member shared a continued desire to align with LS.
    iii. Without equity or alignment with LS, the Committee asked the Administration to bring two versions of a calendar including the Eid and Diwali holidays.
    iv. The Committee discussed whether to proceed with a community survey. Following a straw vote, the Committee decided not to move forward with the survey.

f. Transportation Invitation to Bid / Bus Sustainability
    i. To better align with LS, this item is being brought forward to the Committee for their approval to release the invitation for bid.
    ii. Clarification on after school buses was asked.
    iii. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to vote to approve the release by the LS Director of Operations and Finance of the Invitation For Bid for bus transportation services as amended. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.
        1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

a. Karyn Jones: Aye
b. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
c. Betsy Sues: Aye
d. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
e. Jessica McCready: Aye
i. **Vote: 5-0**. Motion carries.

iv. The Committee agreed to align with LS on a combined letter and deliverables related to the project.
v. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to appoint Buck Creel to be the point of contact for the Mass CEC School Bus Advisory Services Program. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.
1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
a. Karyn Jones: Aye
b. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
c. Betsy Sues: Aye
d. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
e. Jessica McCready: Aye
i. **Vote: 5-0**. Motion carries.

g. Supporting Jewish Students
i. Discussion centered on developing a draft charge for a PAC to support the Jewish community.
ii. The Committee discussed the possibility of consulting legal counsel for review, with a suggestion that the Committee member(s) drafting the charge work directly with counsel. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco and Julie Durgin-Sicree volunteered to work with a Task Force member to draft the charge.
iii. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to task Julie Durgin-Sicree and Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco to draft the charge for a PAC supporting Jewish students and receive input from our attorneys after the draft has been completed. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.
1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
a. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
b. Betsy Sues: Aye
c. Karyn Jones: Aye
d. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
e. Jessica McCready: Aye
i. **Vote: 5-0**. Motion carries.

h. Policy BGB: Step 2
i. ACL PROTECT Act
1. Edits were suggested and noted.
2. Carol Cavanaugh shared once the policy is in place, procedures will follow.
3. This will come back to a future agenda.

5. Liaison Reports
    i. Reports for both SEPAC and the Town Budget Working Group were shared as part of the packet.

6. Adjournment
    i. Vice Chair Betsy Sues motioned to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Julie Durgin-Sicree seconded the motion.
        1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
            a. Karyn Jones: Aye
            b. Betsy Sues: Aye
            c. Ellen Lederer-DeFrancesco: Aye
            d. Julie Durgin-Sicree: Aye
            e. Jessica McCready: Aye
                i. **Vote: 5-0**. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the September 28, 2026 School Committee Meeting

1. **SC Monthly AP and PW**
2. **072026_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT (1)**
3. **080326_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT (1)**
4. **081726_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT (1)**
5. **FY27 METCO Budget approval for SC (1)**
6. **FY27 budget reset for SC 28 Sep 26 (1)**
7. **ACCEPT FY26 Q4 Treasurers report (1) (1)**
8. **ACCEPT Q4 FY26 Executive Director quarterly memo (1)**
9. **1-Memo Regarding FY28 Budget Guidelines (1)**
10. **2-Memo Regarding Budget Guidelines - Administration Input FY27 (1)**
11. **3-SudburySchoolCommitteeFY27BudgetGuidelines (1) (1)**
12. **4-DRAFT Sudbury Public Schools School Committee FY28 Budget Guidelines (1)**
13. **Interim Superintendent Goals FY27 - DRAFT (1) (1)**
14. **Year 1 Superintendent Goals - Recommended by DESE (1) (1) (1)**
15. **ContractLanguage.docx (1)**
16. **DraftGoalsforPacket.docx (1)**
17. **Sudbury_School_Committee_Goals Sues .docx (1)**
18. **CollinsCenter 9-23-26.docx (1)**
19. **Shrewsbury Screening Committee**
20. **Westwood**
21. **Andover**
22. **Staff Absence Summary Report (1)**
23. **Student Absence Summary Report - 2026-09-09**
24. **FY27 Regular Bus IFB to SC 28 Sep 26 (1)**
25. **Healy Guidance**
26. **SEPAC Liaison Report, September 3, 2026 (1)**

27. 1- 08312026_FY28 Budget Working Group Liaison Report (1)
28. 092326_FY28 Budget Working Group Liaison Report (1)