

Sunderland School Committee Meeting  
Sunderland Elementary School  
Tuesday, February 14, 2017

**MINUTES**

Present: Douglas Fulton, Keith McFarland, Maisie Shaw, and Gregory Gottschalk;  
Principal Ben Barshefsky; Business Manager Patricia Cavanaugh and  
Superintendent Lynn Carey

Absent: Michelle Tomlinson

Chair Doug Fulton called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

On a motion from Keith McFarland, and a second from Maisie Shaw, the Minutes of January 17, 2017 were approved 4-0-0.

Patti Cavanaugh, Business Manager, presented the Financial Statement. There were 6 warrants for a total of \$44,214.39.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Unfinished Business, there was further discussion of the proposed FY18 Budget. The budget was reduced by \$10,000 in heating expenses. There are 25 students in kindergarten for next year. In School Choice we are currently projecting a reduction in one School Choice student which also reduces an Instructional Assistant in the building. It does effect the summary page and the town appropriation. In School Choice we are no longer spending a year in arrears – the revenue is a flat \$5,000 per student. We moved our music and Spanish teacher off School Choice and into the general fund.

Our population is going up – while our School Choice is going down. However, it is an increase of students with more special needs. Last year we recommended School Choice for kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. For next year, we would most likely accept School Choice for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and we will wait until at least April to decide about opening up kindergarten.

We will be sending the Proposed Budget to the Town Administrator tomorrow. We are invited to the Town Meeting on March 20 at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall. The Public Hearing on this budget will be March 21, 2017 at 6:00 pm with the regular School Committee meeting immediately following the Public Hearing where we will vote on the budget.

There was no New Business.

Principal Barshefsky presented the Principals' Report. He spoke about the success of International Night, the Madagascar Play at Frontier Regional School brought to us by Ja'Duke

Center, and the upcoming MCAS assessments during April and May. In addition, a list of important dates was provided.

The Superintendent gave her report and spoke about the impact the new immigration law might have on the school district and reassured our families that they are welcomed and truly belong here in our schools. Dr. Carey quoted a statement from Dr. Michael Morris that we will continue to welcome students into our schools in “accordance with rulings of the Supreme Court and with guidance from the Federal Department of Justice and Department of Education [stating] that students cannot be denied a free public education on account of their immigration status.”

On a Motion from Greg Gottschalk, and a second from Maisie Shaw, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm. Approved 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn M. Carey, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Summary of Documents Presented:

1. Minutes of January 17, 2017
2. Monthly Financial Report
3. Principal’s Report
4. Monthly Enrollment