

I am the president of the board of the Sudbury Extended Day organization, a parent at the Noyes and Curtis schools, and have been a Sudbury resident for 17 years. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

I am speaking on behalf of the SED board of directors, many of whom are here tonight, and as the elected representative of the Sudbury families who have entrusted the care of over 600 children to our organization. As you may know, SED was founded by the League of Women Voters of Sudbury in the early 1980s to provide childcare for Sudbury's working families. Our Sudbury parent-run, non-profit organization has been proud to offer high-quality, convenient, and affordable care to Sudbury families for the past 33 years. We have supported Sudbury families and the schools in many ways, including by providing tuition scholarships for low-income students, sponsoring college scholarships for LS graduates, and helping to fund the purchase and repair of equipment in the schools. We have always seen ourselves as a partner to SPS and tried to be flexible and creative in working with SPS to support the students we share.

My comments relate to item 5 from the May 17, 2017 school committee meeting, "Lease Value for After School Care Program." At this meeting, the School Committee voted to increase the annual rent paid by SED from the current value of \$31,500 to \$60K in the coming year, FY18, with the rent rising to over \$90K by FY22.

SED is in agreement with the School Committee that there ought to be a lease between the schools and the provider of before and after school care in SPS buildings, and we also recognize that a higher rent than what SED has paid in the past may now be appropriate. However, the May 17 decision has created a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety for Sudbury families, for reasons unrelated to its financial impact. I therefore have a few questions for the School Committee about this vote and its implications.

1. Did the School Committee consider that the decision to raise the rent so late in the year would create considerable anxiety for Sudbury families with children enrolled in SED, who have already signed contracts and paid deposits for next year, about whether SED will be able to continue to operate its program, given that the higher rent amount has triggered a legal requirement to award a lease through a public request for proposal (or RFP) process that may attract multiple bidders? This anxiety is shared by SED's 70 teachers and staff, some of whom have worked with our children for decades.
2. Can you please clarify when the winning bidder will be announced? The RFP indicates that bids are to be submitted by July 17, 2017 and that the SPS administration will select a winning bidder and then present that bidder to the School Committee for approval; however, there are no School Committee meetings scheduled over the summer. When will SED be able to tell our families if we are able to offer a program starting on the first day of school?
3. Some of the lease terms spelled out in the RFP are inconsistent with SED's current operating procedures – for example, the extended care program will be required to

speak to each school principal every Friday to see if the gym can be used during the following week, which could become burdensome for both parties and does not guarantee any access to the gym. Did the School Committee intend for the lease agreement to require changes to our business model and practices, and if not, would it be possible to make any revisions to the terms of the RFP, to better reflect best practices for afterschool care in our town, before it is posted on June 14?

While SED parents have been disappointed about some aspects of how the process of establishing a rental agreement with SPS have unfolded, we remain deeply committed to our mission and hope to continue to work in partnership with SPS to offer childcare services to Sudbury families for many years to come. Thank you for your time and attention.