Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020
Goodnow Library
21 Concord Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

## **Members Present:**

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

### **Members Absent:**

Christine Hogan

### Also Present:

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

## **Regular Session Meeting**

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

- 1. Special Matters
  - a. SPS Administrative Office Space in Fairbank Update
    - i. Facilities Director Bill Barletta gave the School Committee on update on the state of planning the new Fairbank municipal building, particularly as it applies to the SPS administrative office spaces, as well as a history of the work done thus far to assess the needs of the SPS administrative team. Mr. Barletta reviewed current office usage and compared it to the proposed space allocation for SPS.
    - ii. Following Mr. Barletta's update, the Committee discussed several topics, including: upcoming community meetings at which the Fairbank center would be reviewed; the adaptability of the space for future expansion of the SPS staff; how spaces are, and can be, shared between the building's occupants; and the sizes and maximum occupancies of the proposed conference rooms.

## 2. Public Comment

- a. Maia Proujansky-Bell spoke to the Committee about the importance of parent-teacher conferences.
- b. Stephen Cass spoke to the Committee about concerns he has regarding SPS employing Superintendent Brad Crozier.

### 3. Educational Matters

- a. Districts Reports
  - i. SEA Report
    - SEA Representative Annemarie Andrews informed the Committee on how Noyes observed the International Day of Play on February 5th. Ms. Andrews reported that some students played outside, some played with magnetic darts, and others played with crafts.
  - ii. Business and Finance Director's Report
    - Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the Committee on the importance of an early bus registration period in light of the upcoming change in school start times. The district will be communicating with parents in the coming days on this matter.
  - iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
    - 1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain told the Committee about the district's upcoming Family Math Night at Noyes on March 9.
  - iv. Superintendent's Report
    - Superintendent Brad Crozier began his report with a statement in response to the allegations made earlier in the evening by Mr. Cass.
    - 2. Superintendent Crozier then reported to the Committee on the Homework Forum that will happen on March 4. This Forum, to be held at Curtis Middle School, will feature a presentation by Dr. Victor Mercurio, followed by a question-and-answer period.
    - Superintendent Crozier informed the Committee about his recent participation in Read Across America, at Loring Elementary School.

# 4. Business and Policy Matters

- a. Review Student Opportunity Act Submission Requirements
  - i. Superintendent Crozier led the Committee in a review of the details related to the additional funding being provided by the Student Opportunity Act. The district will need to write a grant, make a presentation to the community, and hold a School Committee vote on how to spend the funds. Superintendent Crozier will soon hold a meeting with the Interim Town Manager and the Town Finance Director to discuss the the Student Opportunity Act. The Committee will discuss the topic again during its second meeting in March, just before the grant submission deadline of April 1.
- b. State of the Schools Expo Planning

i. The Committee discussed its annual State of the Schools night, which will take the form of an expo this year. In addition to the expo, there will be a short School Committee meeting and a formal presentation by the school principals. The event is currently scheduled for April 6, 2020.

# c. Acceptance of Gifts

- i. The Committee reviewed a gift of \$500 from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance program.
  - Silvia Nerssessian motioned to accept the gift of \$500 from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program, Maggie Helon seconded.
    - a. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.

## d. Future Agenda Items

 School Committee handbook, School Committee professional development topics for the summer retreat, School Committee self-assessment data.

## e. Liaison Reports

- i. Maggie Helon reported that on several upcoming SEPAC events, including a discussion on safety for students with special needs, a workshop about students with high-functioning autism spectrum disorder, and a general information session about helping students with special needs transition to middle school.
- ii. Silvia Nerssessian reported that the resident artist in the district will be at Haynes from March 24-28. Ms. Nerssessian also reported on what to expect at the following night's Finance Committee meeting.
- iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian reported to the Committee on her experience participating in Read Across America at Loring.

### f. Minutes

- The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the January 27, 2020 School Committee meeting.
  - 1. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to approve the minutes from January 27, 2020, as edited, Meredith Gerson seconded.
    - a. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.
- ii. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the February 10, 2020, School Committee meeting.
  - 1. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to approve the minutes from February 10, 2020, as edited, Meredith Gerson seconded.
    - a. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

## 5. Executive Session

a. Silvia Nerssessian motioned at 8:13 to move to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; and to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with union and nonunion personnel, as to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position; and to review and approve

Executive Session minutes, to return at approximately 9:00 PM, Maggie Helon seconded.

- i. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- 6. Business and Policy Matters II
  - a. Potential Vote on Union Memorandums of Agreement
    - i. None
  - b. Potential Vote on Non-Union Contracts
    - i. None
  - c. Potential Vote Related to Exception #1, as Discussed in Executive Session
    - Silvia Nerssessian motioned to permit the student we discussed in Executive Session on February 10, 2020 to remain in the Sudbury Public Schools until the completion of eighth grade, Maggie Helon seconded.
      - 1. **VOTE: 4-0**. Motion carries.
- 7. Adjournment
  - a. Maggie Helon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM, Meredith Gerson seconded.
    - i. **VOTE: 4-0**. Motion carries, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak

## Documents Reviewed During the February 24, 2020 School Committee Meeting

- 1. Combined Fairbank Community Center Facilities Questions
- 2. General Questions About User Group Contributions for Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) Administration Toward Fairbank Center Operation and Upkeep
- 3. DESE Student Opportunity Act Memo
- 4. Award Letter from Global Companies, LLC
- 5. Letter from Exxon Mobil to Principal Jeff Mela
- 6. Alliance Energy Check to Town of Sudbury
- 7. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, January 27, 2020
- 8. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, February 10, 2020
- 9. Homework Forum Flyer