

Sudbury School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 17, 2020  
Virtual Meeting

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Christine Hogan

**Also Present:**

Brad Crozier, Superintendent  
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance  
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent  
Melissa Morabito, SEA President

**Regular Session Meeting**

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 6:02 PM.

1. Special Matters
  - a. Covid-19 Update
    - i. State and DESE Updates
      1. Superintendent Crozier updated the committee on a recent meeting with the DESE Commissioner, and indicated that prescriptive guidance should be forthcoming. Superintendent Crozier noted that revised guidance regarding childcare centers and camps have already been issued that relaxed some previous restrictions.
      2. Committee questions centered on the impact on preschools, details of guidance issued by DESE, deadlines for guidance issuance, guidance on impact of phase changes for remote/in school learning, estimates on how long PPE supplies ordered will last, availability of slides in other languages, the Superintendent's largest area of concern, meaning of prescriptive guidance, 1:10 camp ratio and application for schools, and transition back to school for students.
    - ii. Superintendent's Taskforce

1. Superintendent Crozier noted that the taskforce will begin meeting on June 18th, with about 25 people, including 6 parents and 6 teachers. Superintendent Crozier noted that the skillsets of applicants were assessed in terms of how they could assist in the taskforce. Others who applied and were not chosen were directed to working groups that may be utilized in the future. Principals and the SEA were utilized to identify teachers for the taskforce.
    - a. School Committee questions focused on timelines and reporting from the taskforce, potential for summaries of issued state documents, availability of list of taskforce members, and the main goal of the first meeting.
  2. Superintendent Crozier noted that playgrounds will soon open around town, with signage encouraging social distancing and personal hygiene.
  3. Analysis of the family survey will begin soon, and will be overlaid with the staff and student surveys. This information will be shared with the working groups and the committee.
    - a. Committee questions centered on close dates for the surveys and report-out dates for the survey results.
  4. Materials exchanges have been completed at the schools.
  5. The Sudbury Students site has been updated for summer learning as a resource for families for summer activities.
2. Public Comment
    - a. Gisele Ganz of Framingham, an ABA tutor at Curtis Elementary, inquired about development and attention toward special education in the pandemic response.
    - b. Kristen McClure of Pennymeadow Road asked if the district will be reviewing the online learning experience to see what did and did not work in the event that remote learning is necessary in the fall.
  3. Educational Matters
    - a. Districts Reports
      - i. SEA President Melissa Morabito highlighted the work of teachers to learn and grow with distance learning. She noted that staff has plans for summer learning, including participation in working groups, task forces, curriculum work, and courses. Also discussed were ways the administration and staff could work together moving forward.
      - ii. Business and Finance Director's Report
        1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the Committee regarding the close of the fiscal year and the one-twelfth budgeting model for next year. Mr. Sawyer noted that he has attended several MASC conferences, and the district is operating in the recommended ways fiscally.

2. Committee questions centered on FEMA reimbursements, PPE reimbursement, reimbursement caps, and material updates to the budget report.
  - iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
    1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain updated the Committee on a \$7500 SERF grant for a poster maker for eighth grade civics and social studies. She also noted that the Equity Working Group has met and is working to develop action plans. Ms. Swain reported on the updated social studies and history content and curriculum work the district is doing, and provided a draft belief statement and information on resources for families.
    2. Committee questions centered on community engagement, future updates on the working group,
  - iv. Superintendent's Report
    1. End of Year Update
      - a. Superintendent Brad Crozier updated the Committee on professional development, particularly remote-learning focused training. The district will be conducting 8 health and wellness focused classes for the teachers and may need to add extra sessions.
      - b. End-of-year activities were very successful, particularly the "beep-outs". Superintendent Crozier thanked the Sudbury Police and the teachers for their efforts in making these events a success.
      - c. Superintendent Crozier indicated that he and Ms. Swain attended a METCO event in Boston to support antiracism and support METCO students. The administrators have also formed a 'summer book club' regarding privilege and bias.
4. Business and Policy Matters
- a. School Year 2020-21 Calendar
    - i. The School Committee considered several revisions to the 2020-21 school year calendar. These included adding a day of school to September 14, 2020 (in light of the cancellation of the Boston Marathon), and renaming the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Superintendent Crozier indicated that this change would be a reflection of SPS Core Values. The Committee reviewed a list of comp districts and what they call the holiday.
      1. Maggie Helon motioned to approve the school calendar that puts Marathon Monday back in and changes Columbus Day to Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day, Silvia Nersessian seconded.
        - a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
- iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
- iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

**1. VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.

b. Superintendent Summative Report

- i. Committee questions centered on experiential learning, history standard unit development process and timeline, Curtis bridges and partners programs, superintendent induction program progress, community communications regarding school start time, moving previous communications to the start time page on the website, how to audit educational equity at each school, and a data team presentation for the committee.

c. School Committee Meeting Calendar 2020-21

- i. The Committee chose to table discussion on their meeting calendar for a future meeting, noting that they should review their calendars for future conflicts ahead of the next meeting.

5. Executive Session

- a. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with union personnel, as to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position, and not to return, at 7:35 PM., Maggie Helon seconded.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE

1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
2. Maggie Helon: Aye
3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

**a. VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Dulak

**Documents Reviewed During the June 17, 2020 School Committee Meeting**

1. FY20 Year-to-Date Budget, May 31, 2020
2. SPS History Belief Statement
3. SPS 2020-21 School Year Calendar (Columbus Day)
4. SPS 2020-21 School Year Calendar (Indigenous Peoples' Day)
5. Lauren Egizio Email Re: Columbus Day
6. Superintendent's Summative Report
7. School Committee Meeting Schedule FY21 DRAFT
8. School Committee Summer Meetings Doodle
9. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, June 1, 2020

