

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair
Silvia Nersessian, Vice Chair
Maggie Helon
Meredith Gerson
Sarah Troiano, Member-Elect

Members Absent:

Christine Hogan

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 6:33 PM.

1. Public Comment

- a. Nicole Randazzo-Ahern of Pantry Road spoke to the committee regarding anxieties around the hybrid model and provided feedback on potential models for the upcoming school year.
- b. Benjamin Chen of Bulkley Road spoke to the committee regarding the assignment of students to cohorts based on ability.
- c. Rana Eletriby of Maynard Road spoke to the committee regarding the psychological and emotional impacts of remote learning.
- d. Monica Rogan of Goodnow Road spoke to the committee regarding the emotional and social development of the students and communication of details regarding reopening.
- e. Howard Wolke of Pinewood Avenue spoke to the committee regarding social emotional learning focuses and the need for trauma-sensitive training for teachers.
- f. Colleen Gleason-Epple of Stone Road spoke to the committee regarding flexibility in hybrid learning and requested clarity on the content and style of instruction during distance learning.

- g. Nate Cainer (address unintelligible) spoke to the committee regarding COVID testing of students and the impact of positive tests on in-person learning.
 - h. Maya Proujansky-Bell of Lakewood Drive spoke to the committee to request additional communication and live Q&A sessions for parents.
 - i. Kasey Rogers of Stonebrook Road spoke to the committee regarding student/teacher engagement during remote learning.
2. COVID-19 Update
- a. Superintendent's Reopening Taskforce Update and Reporting
 - i. Superintendent Crozier indicated that he had spoken at the Board of Health meeting regarding the hybrid reopening. Takeaways included that taking student temperatures would not be helpful and protocols for handling sick students.
 - ii. Superintendent Crozier noted that surveys on the three different models had gone out, and that they hope to make an announcement within the week regarding the hybrid model.
 - 1. Working groups are continuing to meet and plan around the hybrid and remote models.
 - 2. Scripts will soon be released regarding helping students adjust to wearing face coverings.
 - iii. Committee questions and comments centered on timelines for Board of Health guidance, guidance on specifics of acceptable face coverings, suggestions on mask types, recommendations for mask breaks, communications regarding school environment changes due to COVID, availability of clear masks for teacher instruction, timing for announcements of grouping/cohorts and remote learning structure, reopening updates on the website, update on working group activity, administration's reason for asking for names in surveys, recommendations from the working groups, accommodations to keep families on the same schedule, protocols for cleaning and contact tracing, allowing eighth grade students to do in-person learning, structure of public forums, transportation decision timetable, impact on the METCO program
 - iv. The Committee discussed the learning models for next year: in-person, hybrid and remote learning.
 - 1. Superintendent Crozier noted that DESE is working on a platform for families that choose not to send their children in physically in order to provide their education. This would be separate from the district's learning options. The committee expressed concerns regarding the quality of this education and the removal of individual touchpoints for fully remote students.
 - 2. Topics of discussion for the hybrid learning structure included cleaning between cohorts, access to synchronous learning during remote weeks, air filtration and window access, exposure of staff and students with alternating day cohorts, input from health

professionals on cleaning levels between cohorts, hybrid models that best lend themselves to moving back to a full in-person model, disjointedness in schedule changes and impact on routines, reasoning and motivations behind selecting particular hybrid models, committee feedback on hybrid model schedules, soliciting commentary from the Sudbury Facilities Director, the need for synchronous learning, and adding school committee members to different working groups.

3. Business and Policy Matters

a. Sudbury Learns from Home Survey Data

- i. Karen Wolfson updated the committee on the survey results. There were 1,344 family survey responses and 1,281 student responses.
- ii. Key takeaways included that 85% of students spent less than 4 hours per week on synchronous learning (and around 50% spent less than one hour), just under 50% of students spent less than 5 hours per week on asynchronous learning experiences, with higher grade levels spending more time learning asynchronously, families of younger children spent more time supporting their learning, some families had difficulty accessing a quiet space for learning, less than 25% stated that synchronous learning was impactful and less than 10% stated that asynchronous was impactful, families reported greater concerns for learning progress, academics and SEL than health and safety, 80% of responses indicated that teacher communication was helpful, 74% of respondents are likely to send their students to in-person education if DESE recommendations were met, and 55% of bussed students would utilize transportation if DESE standards were met.
- iii. Ms. Wolfson also reviewed a list of student comments around what was helpful and challenging for remote learning, and student/family recommendations for future remote learning.
- iv. Committee commentary centered on student needs for live instruction, remote structure, teacher touchpoints and feedback, one on one feedback, clarity around grading and other metrics, leveraging technology specialists and tech-savvy teachers,

b. FY20 Budget Savings/Expenditure Detail Report

- i. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer updated the committee on the details of the FY20 budget savings and their impact on this fiscal year.
 1. The current budget has not yet been approved and will not be finalized until after the September Town Meeting.
 2. Savings and budget shortfalls for FY21 were detailed, including circuit breaker reimbursement, the FY20 transportation balance, CARES Act funding, and transportation fee refunds and FY21 payments.

3. Superintendent Crozier noted additional funding opportunities to allow for student internet access and a pending amendment to allow for COVID-related funding.
 4. An earmarked fund for PPE and masks was not fully expended, and funds are still available if needed later. Some other funding sources may reimburse these expenses.
- ii. Committee questions centered on Chromebook reimbursements, mechanism for funds to flow back to SPS, rationale for prepayment of certain general operating expenses, appropriations in FY21 budget to reflect savings and shortfalls, mapping out of reallocations in budget, and object codes impacted by purchases thus far.
- c. Appointment of Negotiations Subcommittee
 - i. Maggie Helon motioned to appoint Silvia Nerssessian and Meredith Gerson to all negotiations for all union contracts for FY21, Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - c. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- d. Acceptance of Gifts
 - i. Bill Semple Lawn and Landscaping
 1. Bill Semple Lawn and Landscaping have agreed to donate the installation of bricks for the Haynes School playground.
 2. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to accept the generous gift of \$900 brick installation from Bill Semple Lawn and Landscaping, Meredith Gerson 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.
- e. Liaison Reports
 - i. Meredith Gerson updated the Committee on the school playground activity, as new equipment is being installed.
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessian noted that the Town Meeting will occur on September 12th at 12 PM, with a rain date/second day of September 13th at 12 PM. The meeting will be at LS, and occur outdoors. Finance Committee has also communicated with Superintendent Crozier, Mr. Sawyer, and the Town Manager.
- f. Future Agenda items

- i. Availability of Bill Barletta to attend a future meeting
 - ii. Questions for Bill Murphy from Sudbury Board of Health
 - iii. Committee Goals and Superintendent Goals
 - iv. Minutes review
 4. Adjournment
 - a. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to adjourn at 10:04 PM., Meredith Gerson 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 July 16, 2020 School Committee Meeting

1. SPS Remote Learning Survey Results: Family and Student Surveys, Spring 2020
DRAFT
2. FY21 Preliminary Update
3. FY20 SPS Year-to-Date Budget, June 30, 2020
4. Semple Lawn and Landscaping Donation Proposal
5. Semple Email to Jeff LaBroad Re: Brick Installation
6. LaBroad Email to Brad Crozier Re: Request for Acceptance of Gift from Semple
Landscaping