

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

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

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

1. Executive Session

- a. Chair Silvia Nerssessian performed a roll call and made an announcement that the session is being recorded, shared live for the public to see and hear and there should be no expected right to privacy, as this is a public forum. Silvia Nerssessian, Meredith Gerson, Sarah Troiano, and Lisa Kouchakdjian all affirmed in the positive. Maggie Helon was not present for this portion of the meeting.
- b. Meredith Gerson motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, specifically the Sudbury Education Association and the Nurses' Association, as to do so in open session would be detrimental to the District; and to review and approve Executive Session Minutes; and to return to Open Session, Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 3. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 4. Sarah Troiano: Aye

a. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

2. Special Matters

a. Return from Executive Session

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssesian noted that the Committee returned from Executive Session at 7:00 PM. Chair Silvia Nerssesian performed a roll call and made an announcement that the session is being recorded, shared live for the public to see and hear and there should be no expected right to privacy, as this is a public forum. All members affirmed in the positive.

b. School Capital Projects

- i. Superintendent Crozier invited Bill Barletta and Joe Kupczewski to present capital project requests to the committee. Some recommendations included replacement of a fire alarm system, replacing school bell and paging systems, replacement of kitchen equipment, and air conditioning and HVAC replacement.
- ii. Committee questions included school committee update initiatives, future HVAC update work, cost of refrigerant versus equipment, priority levels of items, what priorities are based on, Loring parking lot, results of ADA self-assessment, process in working with the town, timelines with future budgets, and application timing for MSBA roofs.

c. Sudbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission Discussion

- i. Janie Dretler and Dan Carty of the Sudbury Select Board joined the School Committee to discuss the Sudbury Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and how SPS can be involved in its goals. Silvia Nerssesian, Superintendent Crozier and Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain provided an overview of the district's equity work.

2. Public Comment

- a. Deb Cooley of Sudbury spoke to the Committee regarding the recent remote learning survey, indicating that the survey did not well represent full remote families. She also noted some safety issues within the Loring Playground.
- b. Kay Bell of Sudbury spoke to the Committee to request information on how the schools will deal with positive COVID cases, and to pass on concerns about the lunch policies at Curtis.
- c. Maia Proujansky-Bell of Sudbury asked the School Committee to review the facilities to ensure that spaces are set up using the opening plan protocols. She also inquired about the metrics that would shift to full remote learning, whether SPS has plans to close schools, to ask for communication around cases in the SPS and to find out what will happen to special populations in the event of school closure.

3. Educational Matters

a. Remote Learning Survey Results

- i. Superintendent Crozier presented the survey results to the School Committee. Notable information included that 51.8% of families were very satisfied with how learning was structured, 66.6% of families felt their

students should spend more time learning in person, 55% of respondents felt the remote learning tools were easy to use, but lower grades are having more difficulty with remote learning tools, nearly 90% of students find it easy to follow COVID protocols, over 50% of parents are concerned about their students educational and social-emotional health, over half of families are concerned about managing their schedule concurrently with their children, and that the majority of families felt that communication was being handled well, particularly by teachers.

- ii. Committee questions centered on a separate survey for Student Services, further information on Student Services support, strategies for future surveys, and contacting families who need additional support.
- b. District Reports
- i. SEA Report
 1. SEA Representative Ellen Vedora updated the Committee on the success of the virtual open houses that were recently held. She noted that the technology department has been incredibly supportive, and that the PTOs for different schools have devised different gestures to support the teachers.
 - ii. Business and Finance Director's Report
 1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the Committee on the FY21 YTD budget. He noted that the annual forecast by object code has begun, and the actual forecast reflects prepayments and other savings.
 2. Committee questions centered on kindergarten section savings, future funding challenges due to decreased kindergarten enrollment, and free lunch and breakfast program status.
 - iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
 1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain updated the Committee on the recent virtual Back to School night.
 2. Ms. Swain noted that an evening family forum on the new Social Studies Standard will be held in partnership with DESE.
 3. Ms. Swain discussed the METCO family parent check-in, which will focus on parent support, safety measures, and student learning.
 - iv. Superintendent's Report
 1. Superintendent Brad Crozier informed the Committee that the district is reviewing COVID safety protocols due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases. He provided an overview of current protocols and noted that he is sending communications out to the community in partnership with the Board of Health. At this time, they do not feel that a trigger matrix is appropriate to determine school closure.

2. Committee questions centered on the communication approach when there is a case, rationale behind not communicating cases district-wide, and health screening and testing.
4. Business and Policy Matters
 - a. Review Draft Equity Statement
 - i. Assistant Superintendent Swain discussed the process behind the draft equity statement. They noted that the main goals were to have the statement be actionable and concise.
 - ii. Committee questions centered around the meaning of a culture that promotes justice, defining marginalized groups, defining equity, and review of the equity policy with the committee.
 - b. Liaison Reports
 - i. The members of the school committee discussed recent meetings they had attended or will attend, including the transportation committee, the Loring playground project, policy subcommittee, METCO, FinCom, and LS School Committee.
 - c. Future Agenda Items
 - i. Budget communication with dates
 - ii. School Committee self-assessment dates
 - iii. Policy
 - d. Minutes
 - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the September 10, 2020 meeting.
 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 10, 2020, as presented, Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Abstain

1. VOTE: 4-0-1. Motion carries.
 - ii. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the September 29, 2020 meeting.
 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 29, 2020, as edited, Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

Adjournment

e. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn at 10:28 PM., Silvia Nerssessian seconded.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE

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

a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the October 19, 2020 School Committee Meeting

1. Sudbury Public Schools FY22 Capital Request Recommendations Presentation
2. Sudbury Board of Selectmen Statement on Racial Justice
3. Family Feedback Survey Results, October 2020
4. Sudbury Public Schools Year-to-Date Budget, 9/30/20
5. Sudbury Public Schools Equity Statement, 10/8/20
6. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, September 10, 2020
7. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, September 29, 2020