

Sudbury School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 29, 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  
Abbey Salon, 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. All members affirmed in the positive.
- b. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, specifically the Nurses' Association, as to do so in open session would be detrimental to the District; and to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, specifically the Superintendent, as to do so in open session would be detrimental to the District; and to review and approve Executive Session Minutes; and to return, Meredith Gerson 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.

2. Special Matters

a. Return from Executive Session

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssesian noted that the Committee returned from Executive Session at 7:30 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 Reopening Update

- i. Superintendent Brad Crozier reported the district will be, later that week, launching a survey seeking feedback on how students are handling the hybrid learning format. A similar survey will be released again at different points throughout the year.

1. Questions from the Committee centered on who the target audience for the survey is, students or families; and what the plan is for sharing results from the survey with the community.

- ii. Superintendent Crozier also announced that, starting the day following the meeting, free breakfast and lunch will be offered to all students. This program will last through the final school day in December. A communication will soon be released to families explaining participation details. Since federal and state funds are being used to finance the program, it is budget neutral for SPS.

1. The only question from the Committee on this topic centered on how free meals will be offered to students from Boston.

- iii. Superintendent Crozier reported that DESE Commissioner Riley is allowing districts to consider snow days as full remote learning days.

- iv. Superintendent Crozier informed the Committee that several new documents have been added to the Reopening Resource Center on the SPS website.

- v. Superintendent Crozier informed the Committee that, in response to the new equipment and software across the district, the process of adding and filling the new position of Assistant Director of Technology has begun.

2. Public Comment

- a. Maia Proujansky Bell, of Lakewood Drive, spoke to the Committee about the health and safety protocols at Ephraim Curtis Middle School.
- b. Kay Bell, of 348 Old Lancaster Road, spoke to the Committee about people who work in SPS but live in communities with higher COVID infection rates.
- c. Tom Rogan, of 80 Goodnow Road, spoke to the Committee about the need for the district to create and release a remote teaching/remote learning plan.

3. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

- i. SEA Report

1. SEA Representative Abbey Salon reported to the Committee on the ten professional development days staff members had prior to the start of the school year, as well as on how the first two weeks of the year have gone.
  - ii. Business and Finance Director's Report
    1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the Committee on the Business Department's progress on annual items that are typically done following May Town Meeting, but were postponed to the Fall Town Meeting.
    2. Mr. Sawyer also spoke to the Committee about how and when he intends to deliver reports on the state of the FY21 budget.
    3. Mr. Sawyer also informed the Committee that planning is also underway on the FY22 budget.
  - iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report (31:08)
    1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain updated the Committee on the Professional Development Council meeting for planning future PD days.
    2. Ms. Swain described resources for remote learning that families can access.
  - iv. Superintendent's Report
    1. Superintendent Brad Crozier informed the Committee that preparations are underway for Back to School Night on October 8th.
    2. The Parent Information Exchange schedule has been announced, and will occur as a video conference.
4. Business and Policy Matters
  - a. Approve Memorandum of Agreement with Custodial Union
    - i. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the memorandum of agreement between Sudbury School Committee and Sudbury Education Association Custodial Employees, August 2020; Maggie Helon seconded.  
ROLL CALL VOTE
      1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
      2. Maggie Helon: Aye
      3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
      4. Silvia Nersessian: Aye
      5. Sarah Troiano: Aye
      - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
  - b. FY21 Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Timeline
    - i. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the Superintendent Evaluation timeline for the 2020-2021 school year; Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.  
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.

li. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the Superintendent's goals for the 2020-2021 school year; Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.

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.

c. Policy Manual Updates

- i. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve Policy JFABG, Enrollment of Children of Non-Resident Employees; Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.

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.

li. The School committee discussed policy BEDH: Public Comment at School Committee Meetings. It was noted that counsel was consulted and believed that public comment only requires city or town rather than exact address.

lii. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve policy BEDH: Public Comment at School Committee Meetings; Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.

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.

d. FY21 Revised Budget Review

- i. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer provided updates to the budget, comparing the initial budget to the revised version, particularly noting salary budget adjustments and contract negotiation results.
- ii. Committee questions included the meaning of operational changes, meanings of certain terms, date of revisions, and reason for a hold in budget.

- e. Transportation Committee Liaison Appointment
  - i. Maggie Helon motioned to appoint Lisa Kouchakdjian as liaison to the Transportation Committee; Sarah Troiano seconded.
    - 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.
- f. Acceptance of Gifts
  - i. Meredith Gerson motioned to accept a gift of \$300 from Wendy A Wallerstein on behalf of Haynes Elementary School; Maggie Helon seconded.
    - 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.
- g. Future Agenda Items
  - i. Budget timeline and feedback
  - ii. Future professional development opportunities
- h. Minutes
  - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the August 13, 2020 meeting.
    - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 13, 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 August 21, 2020 meeting.
    - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 21, 2020, as edited, Lisa Kouchadjian 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.

- iii. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the August 24, 2020 meeting.

- 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 24, 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: Abstain

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

- iv. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the September 2, 2020 meeting.

- 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 2, 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: Abstain

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

Adjournment

- i. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn at 8:49 PM., Meredith Gerson 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 September 29, 2020 School Committee Meeting**

- 1. Memorandum of Agreement Between Sudbury School Committee and Sudbury Education Association Custodial Employees, August 2020
- 2. Policy JFABG: Enrollment of Children of Non-resident Employees

3. Policy BEDH: Public Comment at School Committee Meetings
4. Letter from Jeffrey LaBroad to Brad Crozier Regarding Request for Acceptance of Gift from Wendy Wallerstein
5. Letter from Wendy Wallerstein to Jeffrey LaBroad
6. Check from Wendy A. Wallestein to Sudbury Public Schools
7. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, August 13, 2020
8. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, August 21, 2020
9. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, August 24, 2020
10. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, September 2, 2020