

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 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
Erin Kehew, 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, Maggie Helon, and Lisa Kouchakdjian all affirmed in the positive.
- b. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, specifically the Sudbury Education 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, Meredith Gerson seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Maggie Helon: Aye
 3. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 4. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 5. Lisa Kouchakdjian: 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 the 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. Student Services Presentation

- i. Director of Student Services Stephanie Juriansz, Assistant Director of Student Services Jeffrey Lappin, Special Education Administrator Annaya Pedreschi, and SEPAC Chair Maya Proujansky-Bell presented to the School Committee on the state of the Student Services Department and SEPAC.
- ii. Key discussion points included an overview of departmental responsibilities, resources and services supported by the department, makeup and ratios of staffing, intensifying of services according to needs, examples of services provided by the department, school closure impacts, identification of high needs students (currently 213), COVID supplies and PPE budget impacts, mental health team efforts and behavioral resources, demographics overview and trends, ongoing priorities, and the role of SEPAC.
- iii. Committee questions centered on need for additional administrative support, Covid-related regression resources, mental health support and potentials for increased needs, mental health survey plans, areas where extra support is needed, executive functioning support, future parent information sessions and strategies, dyslexia screening protocols, preschool programming,

2. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

- i. SEA Report
 1. SEA Representative Sarah Rivera spoke to the committee regarding work being done to establish connections amongst students
- ii. Business and Finance Director's Report
 1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the committee on the bus tracking app and an upcoming meeting with the Finance Committee.
- iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
 1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain updated the committee on educator's efforts to connect with families. She also noted that the

ESL family night will occur on 12/15. Ms. Swain also described upcoming professional development sessions.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Brad Crozier updated the Committee on the in-school Covid testing initiative, and many staff members attended a training around this.
2. Superintendent Crozier described a recent METCO retreat he attended and gave an overview of his takeaways. He noted that the annual METCO update would occur on January 25th.

3. Business and Policy Matters

a. Review Draft FY22 Line Item Budget

- i. Superintendent Crozier provided an overview of the draft FY22 Line Item Budget.
- ii. Key points included a budget timeline, the budget building process, enrollment projections for FY22 and the rationale behind the variance from NESDEC, increases and decreases in sections by grade level, what is contained in the base budget, tier 1 initiatives and their costs, budget drivers like COLA and step/lane changes, and breakdown by DESE function code and object code.
- iii. Committee questions centered on base budget versus level service budget, proposed FY22 budget by object code compared to the FY2021 forecast, impact of Covid on future budgeting, SPS benefits payment source, explanation of .2 FTE positions, circuit breaker reimbursement rates, general ed services meaning, how to achieve the delta in budget versus town manager's recommendations, and science/social studies/ curriculum library initiatives.

b. Review Draft School Committee Communication

- i. The School Committee reviewed and revised their district-wide communication and discussed the rationale behind the choices made for included content.

c. Liaison Reports

- i. Lisa Kouchakdjian updated the committee on a recent Transportation Committee meeting and a Loring Playground Committee meeting.
- ii. Sarah Troiano updated the committee on a recent SEPAC meeting and an Equity Working Group meeting.
- iii. Maggie Helon updated the committee on a recent Haynes visit.
- iv. Silvia Nerssessian reported to the committee on the recent Select Board meeting, the Fairbank Working Group, an upcoming FinCom meeting, and a Toys for Tots drive at Curtis.

d. Minutes

- i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the November 2, 2020 meeting.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 2, 2020, as amended, Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - iv. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

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

- ii. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the November 16, 2020 meeting.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 16, 2020, as amended, Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - iv. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

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

Adjournment

- e. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn at 10:05 PM., Maggie Helon seconded.

- i. ROLL CALL VOTE

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the December 7, 2020 School Committee Meeting

1. Student Services FY21 Update (Draft)
2. 2021-2022 Initial Budget Overview
3. School Committee At-a-Glance Newsletter, December 2020 (Draft)
4. School Committee Meeting Minutes, November 2, 2020 (Draft)
5. School Committee Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2020 (Draft)