

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021
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. Opening Statement/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. Meredith Gerson motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Education Association, the Education Support Professionals Association, the Nurses' Union, and the Custodians' Union, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee; and to review and approve minutes from the Sudbury School Committee Executive Session meeting of March 22, 2021, and to return to open session, Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 3. Sarah Troiano: Aye

4. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
5. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

c. 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.

2. Public Comment

- a. None

3. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

1. SEA Representative Abbey Salon spoke to the Committee about students' return to Curtis Middle School earlier that day. Ms. Salon detailed the ways educators and staff have been preparing for this occasion and explained how excited everyone was to be back in the room with students.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reminded the Committee that year-to-date budget reports were included in the agenda packet for the evening's meeting. The projections received by the Committee may change based on the additional costs incurred by students returning to Curtis Middle School full time.
2. Mr. Sawyer provided the Committee with an update on the COVID funding received by the District. Documents related to these grants were also included in the packet. In accordance with the terms of each grant, all awarded funds have been expended. Funds have been used for purchasing new technology and to sanitize classrooms, among other projects.
3. Mr. Sawyer informed the Committee that the federal program that covered the cost of breakfast and lunch for students has been extended through the 2021-2022 school year. The Business Department will process all the necessary paperwork to ensure this program is delivered to the students of Sudbury.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain thanked the Science Team, who spent the break feeding the tadpoles, chicks, and other animals that support the District's life sciences unit. Ms. Swain also thanked Humanities Curriculum Coordinator Lauren Egizio, who has been disseminating lessons and activities for Civics

Week; the ELA and Mathematics Teams who completed their benchmarking, allowing the District to evaluate where students are academically and what supports they need in advance of this summer's SMILE program.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. In-Person Learning Planning Update

- a. Superintendent Brad Crozier informed the Committee that he and the administration are keeping an eye on how student arrival and dismissal run at each school and how they impact traffic patterns around Sudbury. Mr. Crozier encouraged parents and community members to take note of any issues and share them with their building principal. There were no major transportation issues to report from the first day of all students being back in school full time.

2. Pooled Testing Update

- a. Superintendent Crozier provided the Committee with an update on the District's pooled testing program. Not counting that day's pools, 1,998 pools had been collected and tested thus far. That equates to nearly 14,000 individual samples, assuming 7 samples per pool.
- b. Mr. Crozier reported that the state has announced that it will continue supporting pooled testing over the summer, so testing will be available to participants in the extended school year and SMILE programs.
- c. Mr. Crozier informed the Committee that 105 people participated in the pooled testing that was offered over April break, and all pools were negative.

3. Enrollment Update

- a. Mr. Crozier reminded the Committee that an enrollment update sheet was included in the agenda packet for this evening's meeting. The data in that report is being used with the NESDEC projections to determine staffing levels at each grade and school, with special attention being paid to kindergarten. Families are being encouraged to register as soon as possible, to ensure that their children are included in class groupings. The administration will be reaching out to families who withdrew from the District as a result of the pandemic.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. Policy Manual Update

- i. The Committee reviewed and discussed updates to a pair of policies as recommended by the MASC and approved by the Policy Subcommittee. The policies considered for revision were "Policy EBCFA: Face

Coverings,” and “Policy JICH: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited.”

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve Policy Manual Update EBCFA: Face Coverings, Sarah Troiano 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.

2. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve Policy Manual Update JICH: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited, Sarah Troiano 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.

- b. Acceptance of Gifts

- i. The Committee reviewed and discussed a grant recently awarded to Josiah Haynes Elementary School by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism and the Allison Keller Educational Technology Program, worth a total of \$5,096.00. Haynes Principal Jeffrey LaBroad was recognized for finding the grant opportunity and writing the winning application. The funds will be used for the installation of a 75” TouchView Screen in the Haynes Elementary School Partners Classroom. Lisa Kouchakdjian recused herself from the vote and discussion because she has a child in the Partners Program.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to accept a gift of \$5,096.00 from the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation and the Allison Keller Educational Technology Program on behalf of Josiah Haynes Elementary School with gratitude, Maggie Helon seconded.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE

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

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

- c. School Committee Summer Retreat Professional Development Topics

- i. The Committee will hold its annual Summer Retreat/Workshop on July 9, 2021 at 9:00 AM. The purpose of this discussion was to prepare for that session by determining which professional development subjects the Committee would like to focus on. Topics considered include: financial monitoring and budgeting, student achievement, educational equity, policy, and student safety (specifically cyber-bullying and harassment). The Committee may also add another meeting/workshop to the schedule for the fall.
 - d. Future Agenda Items
 - i. None
 - e. Minutes
 - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting, as amended, Maggie Helon 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.
- f. Adjournment
 - i. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn at 7:43 PM, Maggie Helon seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - c. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - e. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the April 26, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. Sudbury Public Schools Year-to-Date Budget, March 31, 2021
2. FY21 Enrollment Data, April 22, 2021
3. Policy EBCFA- Face Coverings (Red Lined)
4. Policy EBCFA- Face Coverings (Final)
5. Policy JICH- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited (Red Lined)
6. Policy JICH- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited (Final)

7. Request for Acceptance of Gift from Flutie Foundation Email
8. Allison Keller Educational Technology Program Grant Agreement
9. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes, April 5, 2021