

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 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
Kelly Giusti, 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. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Education Association, 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 February 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 7:02 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. Tyler Steffey, of Checkerberry Circle in Sudbury, spoke to the Committee about a recent interaction he had with Haynes Principal Jeffrey LaBroad, asked for information about student learning loss, and inquired about how the return to full in-person learning will affect the teacher a student is assigned to.
- b. Maia Proujansky-Bell, of Lakewood Drive in Sudbury, asked if the Sudbury School Committee will switch to full in-person meetings with a livestream; and if the doors to Central Office soon be unlocked, with staff working in office every day.

3. Special Matters

a. Increase in In-Person Learning

1. Principals Annette Doyle, Jeff LaBroad, Susan Woods, Jeff Mela, and Sara Harvey joined the Committee, Director of Student Services Stephanie Juriansz, Director of Business and Finance Don Sawyer, and Superintendent Crozier in a discussion about the district's upcoming return to full in-person learning.
 - a. Reporting on a conversation with MASC's Dorothy Presser, confirmation was provided by Chair Silvia Nerssesian that the return to a fully in-person learning model is an administrative decision within the jurisdiction of Superintendent Crozier. No official action should or will be taken by the Committee.
 - b. Topics covered during the presentation included: steps being taken by the district to mitigate health and safety risks; factors that support increasing in-school learning, such as student mental health, equity and access, absenteeism, and learning loss; a review of principles guiding the reopening process; a list of changes to the calendar for March and April, 2021, to add professional development and asynchronous learning days ahead of the return to fully in-person learning on April 5th for elementary students and April 26th for middle schoolers; a review of the elementary learning model, with explanation of how the needs of both in-person and remote learners

will be met; how lunch will be handled indoors with 6 feet of social distancing and safe food distribution at the elementary level; what an elementary classroom set-up will look like with 3 feet of social distancing; a review of the middle school learning model; what lunch will look like with 6 feet of social distancing at the middle school level; what a middle school classroom will look like with 3 feet of social distancing; how special education services will be delivered after the reopening; a review of transportation logistics, including registration details; and sites where parents can go to learn more about the reopening process.

- c. Questions from the Committee focused on how the 3 feet of distancing is being measured; what distancing there will be when students are unmasked; what, if any delays, there have been on tents, desks, or other supplies necessary for the reopening; if any unused public spaces can be temporarily used by SPS; and if the Student Services Department will be extending all IEP meetings, or if they will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

1. SEA Representative Kelly Giusti informed the Committee the SEA has formed working groups of educators, custodians, and support staff that are partnering with the administration to prepare for the reopening of schools.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the Committee on the status of the free school lunch and breakfast programs. Both of these will continue through the end of the school year, as will the remote learner lunch distribution program.
2. Mr. Sawyer also used his report to emphasize once more the importance of families returning the bus registration form ahead of the reopening of schools. Instructions will be sent out in the coming days.
3. The transportation registration process for the 2021-2022 school year will be postponed to May.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain informed the Committee that SPS will partner with SERF and the Sudbury Foundation to do family outreach and create new learning opportunities to fill in learning gaps students may have incurred over the course of the

school year. Within SPS, this work will be conducted by the Equity Working Group.

2. Ms. Swain also recognized the members of the Curtis Middle School Chorus for their recent virtual concert.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. Pooled Testing Update

- a. Superintendent Brad Crozier reported to the Committee that the pooled testing results have been added to the dashboard on the SPS website. The pooled testing has had one positive test returned, and individual testing and contact tracing followed. Over 2,500 total tests have been performed to date. The district's goal is to get 80% student participation at each school. Consent forms are available on the SPS website and can be completed at any time.

2. Instructional Model Planning Survey Results

- a. Mr. Crozier informed the Committee that results from the February family survey were included in their agenda packets. Factors influencing families' decisions included the move to 3 feet of social distancing and a desire to maintain their child's current teacher assignment.

5. Business and Policy Matters

- a. School Building ADA Assessment Reports

- i. Facilities Director Bill Barletta joined the meeting to discuss the district's ADA self-assessment reports. Full copies of the reports are available in the Committee's agenda packet for this meeting, as well as on the Town of Sudbury's website. Mr. Barletta noted that the reports currently available are only drafts, and invited input from the Committee and the community. Within the reports, the consultants provided a list items for correction at each school, in order of project priority and with cost estimates.

1. Questions from the Committee focused on how priorities for the schools and priorities for the wider Town will be reconciled into a single list; if these projects will receive their own dedicated long-term plan; if there is a set time frame in which the projects must be completed; requesting more information about the \$61,000 Haynes playground routes change; requesting information on the new basketball hoops that were included in the Loring report; and if the \$78,000 Loring sidewalk project should have been submitted to the CIAC for review.

- b. Policy Manual Updates

- i. The Committee agreed to postpone consideration and discussion of this item until the next meeting.

- c. School Committee Self Assessment Results

- i. The Committee agreed to postpone consideration and discussion of this item until the next meeting
 - d. Liaison Reports
 - i. Sarah Troiano reported that she attended the most recent SEPAC meeting, and encouraged people in the community to attend the next SEPAC Cafe.
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessian reported on communications from the Finance Committee.
 - e. Minutes
 - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting, as amended, 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.
- f. Adjournment
 - i. Maggie Helon motioned to adjourn at 9:35 PM, Lisa Kouchakdjian 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 March 8, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. Town of Sudbury: Priority for ADA Transition Plan-Schools
2. Town of Sudbury ADA Transition Plan: Haynes Elementary School
3. Town of Sudbury ADA Transition Plan: Loring Elementary School
4. Town of Sudbury ADA Transition Plan: Nixon Elementary School
5. Town of Sudbury ADA Transition Plan: Noyes Elementary School
6. Town of Sudbury ADA Transition Plan: Curtis Middle School
7. Policy JF Red Lined

8. Policy JF Final
9. Policy JH Red Lined
10. Policy JH Final
11. Policy JICH Red Lined
12. Policy JICH Final
13. Policy JIH Red Lined
14. Policy JIH Final
15. Policy JII Red Lined
16. Policy JII Final
17. Policy JJA Red Lined
18. Policy JJA Final
19. Policy JLCB Red Lined
20. Policy JLCB Final
21. Policy JRA Red Lined
22. Policy JRA Final
23. Policy JRD Red Lined
24. Policy JRD Final
25. Pooled Testing Chart, March 5, 2021
26. School Committee Self-Assessment Survey Results 2020-2021
27. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2021 DRAFT