

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Silvia Nerssessian, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Sarah Troiano
Tyler Steffey
Mandy Sim

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Melissa Morabito, SEA President

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, Tyler Steffey, and Mandy Sim 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 School Committee Executive Session Meeting on August 30, 2021; and to return to open session, Tyler Steffey seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
4. Tyler Steffey: Aye
5. Mandy Sim: 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 7:30 PM. 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.

2. Special Matters

a. Vote to Authorize Washington, D.C. Overnight Trip

- i. Humanities Coordinator Lauren Egizio joined the Committee to discuss the proposed trip for 8th Grade students to Washington, D.C. This trip was previously proposed in 2018, with travel planned for spring of 2020, but was postponed due to the pandemic. Pedagogically, the trip would tie in with the revised curriculum frameworks for 8th grade, which focus on civics. Ms. Egizio reviewed the anticipated costs for the trip, discussed the Health and Safety protocols that will be in place, and confirmed that students will visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to authorize a trip for all 8th Grade students to Washington, D.C. from June 7-10, 2022, Sarah Troiano seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
- iii. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- iv. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- v. Mandy Sim: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

3. Public Comment

- a. None

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

- i. SEA Report

1. SEA President Melissa Morabito spoke to the Committee about all the hard work being done by the district's teachers and the difficulty of balancing that with their own mental health. Ms. Morabito also requested that the district display an increased commitment to listening, so that teachers may feel heard.

- ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer informed the Committee about the latest happenings in the Business Office. Over the course of the summer, the Business Department managed 73 onboarding processes. Mr. Sawyer estimated that this is roughly average for the summer months.
 2. Mr. Sawyer also reviewed how the actions taken over the summer roll into the school year operations, and in turn, into the FY23 budgeting process.
- iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain recognized the efforts of Humanities Coordinator Lauren Egizio for the Washington, D.C. trip and her other efforts to complete curriculum revisions in social studies and ELA. This continued into an explanation about how the CIT Department did not spend the summer "treading water," but instead worked hard to learn and prepare for the year to come.
 2. Ms. Swain spoke to the Committee about the first ILAP day of the school year, which will feature both building and district-based training sessions.
 3. Ms. Swain informed the Committee that all of the district's federal grants have been approved at full-funding. These grants fund Title I intervention programs at Loring and Curtis, the New Teacher Orientation and Mentoring Program, and additional professional development opportunities.
 4. Ms. Swain's final report covered new staffing for the district's METCO program. Even with these new hires, the district continues to seek another METCO bus monitor, which is being listed on both Indeed.com and SchoolSpring.com.
- iv. Superintendent's Report
1. Superintendent Brad Crozier reported to the Committee on how the district welcomed its new Pre-K and kindergarten students to school. These students were deliberately given a separate first day from the older students to facilitate their transition to the school environment.
 2. Mr. Crozier informed the Committee that, despite ongoing communication with the CIC, the district has yet to begin its Routine COVID Safety Checks. Another update will be provided to the Committee once plans for when the program will begin are finalized.
 3. The district's COVID-19 Resources webpage and Dashboard have been relaunched for the 2021-2022 school year. Some of the data in the Dashboard is updated live, while other pieces will be updated on a periodic basis.

4. Back to School Nights will be held virtually again this year, and Mr. Crozier stressed that parents will need to have a Google account to participate.
 - a. Upon questioning from the Committee, Mr. Crozier discussed future plans for the kindergarten orientation process; if COVID testing data will be available to district administrators over the weekend; which pieces of data on the Dashboard are live-updating; who will be included as a “close contact” in the district’s statistics; the district’s vaccination requirement for new and existing employees; and how third-party vendors such as First Student and Whitson’s are being factored into the district’s testing efforts and data.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. FY22 Budget Reset

- i. Mr. Sawyer led the Committee in a discussion of FY22 budget revisions. These changes are made to accommodate the differences between the initial budget projections and updated figures that are based on new needs and spending. The district is only permitted one budget revision/reset per cycle. Mr. Sawyer mentioned several specific staffing and building maintenance decisions that were included in the revisions, well as COVID-related budget overages from the previous school year, and staffing positions that will continue to be funded in FY23.

b. Liaison Reports

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian reported that she shared the Committee’s new reports with the Committee’s Finance Committee liaisons.

c. Minutes

- i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the August 30, 2021 meeting.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the open session meeting minutes from the August 30, 2021 meeting as amended, Tyler Steffey seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
- iii. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- iv. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- v. Mandy Sim: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

d. Adjournment

- i. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 8:57 PM, Mandy Sim seconded.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye

- b. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
- c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- d. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- e. Mandy Sim: Aye
- i. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the September 13, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. "Washington, D.C. Trip Proposal Memo from Lauren Egizio to Brad Crozier
2. SPS COVID-19 District Dashboard Update, September 10, 2021
3. FY2022 Revised Budget Memo
4. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes, August 30, 2021