

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 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
Angela Spirito, 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, 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 discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, specifically to discuss strategy with respect to a grievance from the Sudbury Education Association Unit A regarding the assignment of a teacher; and to return to open session, Sarah Troiano 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 Nerssessian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:09 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.
- ii. Chair Silvia Nerssessian recognized that October is Disability Awareness Month, and thanked the Sudbury Commission on Disability for providing pins to the Committee commemorating the month.

2. Special Matters

a. Solar Power Presentation

- i. Facilities Director Bill Barletta, Energy and Sustainability Chair Rami Alwan, Solect Energy Senior Director of Business Development Byron Woodman, Solect Energy Vice President of Development Matt Shortsleeve, and Walter Gray from PowerOptions joined the Committee for a presentation proposing the addition of solar panels to the various sites of the Sudbury Public Schools. Highlights from this presentation included: Mr. Barletta has been in discussions regarding the district's solar options for two years; background information on Solect Energy and PowerOptions; a review of the long term estimated power generation and cost savings for each of the sites; where panels would be situated at each school; Solect Energy will work with educators when requested on curriculum related to solar energy; next steps, including having the School Committee sign a letter of intent.
 1. Questions from the Committee during the presentation focused on what, if any, additional study costs may occur and who would incur them; who is responsible for maintenance costs; what happens at the end of the proposed lease; how much control the district would have over the cost savings; why the PPA for Noyes is listed for 20 years while all other projects are listed for 25 years; what the timeline for completion of the projects would look like; what, if any, issues would arise if the Committee waits until the October 18th meeting to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of intent;
- ii. The Committee agreed to postpone authorizing the Chair to sign a letter of intent until the letter is available for the Committee to review. Chair

Silvia Nerssessian will convey the Committee's general support to the Select Board liaison in the interim.

b. SMILE Program Presentation

- i. Loring Assistant Principal David Gaita, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator Lauren Egizio, Special Education Team Chair Annya Pedreschi, Math Curriculum Coordinator Karen Wolfson, and Assistant Director of Student Services Jeff Lappin joined Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain in making a presentation to the Committee on the summer 2021 Extended School Year and SMILE programs. Highlights from the presentation included: classes had a maximum of 10 students per teacher; the preschool program had two classes of 8 students; the Annual Town Meeting appropriation was for \$309,540, but a Summer School Expansion Grant of \$100,000, SMILE finished with a balance of \$102,420; a dive into the planning process that preceded the launch of the SMILE program; a review of how days were structured for SMILE students; roughly 300 student invitations to SMILE were sent out, with around 180 enrolling; staffing for SMILE included 2 administrators, 1 nurse, 19 classroom teachers, and 6 teaching assistants; a look into the SMILE Math and Literacy curricula, the professional development teachers undertook in preparation for delivering it, and reflections on what worked well and areas for improvement; a review of the ESY structures; a description of the various fun activities that happened across the programs, including the Marshmallow Challenge, Dance Party, and Snow Day; and some of the feedback families had to offer.
- ii. The only question from the Committee centered on why second grade had a lower number of enrollees than other grades.

3. Public Comment

- a. Lisa Kouchakdjian, of 30 Meadowbrook Circle, spoke to the Committee as a member of the Commission on Disabilities. Ms. Kouchakdjian thanked the Committee and administration for participating in the Commission's recognition of Disability Awareness Month.

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

1. SEA Representative Angela Spirito spoke to the Committee about the district's recent Back to School Nights.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer updated the Committee on how busy the Business Office has been behind the scenes.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain focused on how the district is getting back to the essentials. The coming Wednesday will be the

district's first ILAP Day. This professional development time will be spent listening to a presentation by a speaker on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

2. Ms. Swain reported to the Committee on how she and Brad have begun conducting curriculum-specific classroom visits, most recently with Humanities Coordinator Lauren Egizio and Principal Sara Harvey to observe Loring ELA lessons. These visits will go on for the remainder of the year and touch all subject areas to see how teachers and students are doing and what they each need.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Brad Crozier reported to the Committee on how he will soon be meeting with Don Sawyer, Bill Barletta, and Joe Kupczewski to lay the groundwork for the Superintendent's Capital Planning Task Force. Meeting dates for the Task Force have already been set, and public participants will be selected from the applications received.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Act Process and Update

- i. The Town of Sudbury will soon receive \$6 million in ARPA funds. The Select Board is considering projects for using these funds. While introducing this topic, Chair Silvia Nersessian reviewed how comparable towns and school districts are allocating their ARPA funds. Ms. Nersessian suggested that the Committee take two actions related to ARPA funds: 1) Ask Mr. Crozier and his team for a list of needs based on what is allowable under ARPA's allocation to education, and to provide that to the Town Manager, and 2) The Committee formally request in a letter that the Select Board prioritize the requests made by the Sudbury Public Schools. The Committee also considered sending the list of needs to the Select Board as well as the Town Manager. Further, the Committee discussed how the Committee will be kept aware of the communication which may be drafted by the Chair and sent to the Select Board; if the information on surrounding towns can be included in the letter to the Select Board; and the ARPA deadlines for fund appropriation (2024) and expenditure (2026). Chair Nersessian will write the letter with Mr. Crozier, send it by email, and copy the rest of the Committee on it.

b. Gift Acceptance

i. Curtis Middle School STEM Award

1. The Committee reviewed and discussed a gift of \$500 from the Raytheon Retirees' School Volunteer Association to support the Science Olympiad at Ephraim Curtis Middle School.
 - a. Meredith Gerson motioned to accept a gift of \$500 from the Raytheon Retirees' School Volunteer Association on behalf

of the Ephraim Curtis Middle School Science Olympiad,
with gratitude, Sarah Troiano 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. Liaison Reports

- i. Sarah Troiano reported that the first Equity Working Group meeting has been scheduled, and will happen prior to the next School Committee meeting.
- ii. Tyler Steffey reported that he is receiving steady updates from Jean Nam regarding the Loring playground, and progress is being made.
- iii. Silvia Nerssessian reported on several items related to the Committee's plans with the Finance Committee. The Budget Pressures meeting will be on December 7th; the 3-year budget projections and budget reconciliation are due by December 30th; and the School Committee's Budget Hearing will be on February 15th. Ms. Nerssessian also informed the Committee that the MASC recognized Sudbury for its annual Budget Book.

d. Minutes

- i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the September 27, 2021 meeting.
 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the open session meeting minutes from the September 27, 2021 meeting as amended, Mandy Sim 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.

e. Adjournment

- i. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 9:57 PM, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Silvia Nerssessian: 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 October 4, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. Select Energy Town of Sudbury Solar Energy Presentation
2. Summer Program Presentation
3. Retirees' School Volunteer A.I. Check to Sudbury Public Schools
4. Email from Suzanne Lucey to Justin Dulak Re: Check
5. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes, September 27, 2021 DRAFT