

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

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, 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 November 15 and 19, 2021; and to return to open session, Mandy Sim seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

3. Tyler Steffey: Aye

4. Mandy Sim: Aye

a. VOTE: 4-0. Motion carries.

c. Return from Executive Session

i. Chair Silvia Nerssesian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:05 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.

ii. Sarah Troiano joined the open meeting.

2. Special Matters

a. Student Services Presentation

i. Stephanie Juriansz (Director of Student Services), Anya Pedreschi (Curtis Special Education Administrator), and Maia Proujansky-Bell (SEPAC Co-Chair) provided the committee with an update on Student Services for FY22.

1. Stephanie Juriansz provided an overview of department responsibilities- supporting students, family and staff, providing professional resources/structures, and upholding legal mandates. She also discussed department services and resources, noting that all students are impacted by this department, both general and special services. 92.4% of staffing is directly supporting students. Ms. Juriansz reviewed the impact of Covid-19 for the department, discussing services provided and implications to the nursing team, the surveillance program, nurse allocations, increased mental health resources and referral data, and implications of Covid on students, educators and service providers. She reviewed departmental data, including special education demographics, disability categories, and student placement inclusion levels. Ms. Juriansz discussed department priorities, including the district dyslexia working group, medicaid reimbursement, the SMILE program, and playground updates.

2. Maia Proujansky-Bell, SEPAC Co-Chair, provided an update on SEPAC's focuses and offerings for the community. Ms. Proujansky-Bell discussed upcoming events focusing on connection and bringing parents together in a Covid-safe fashion. She noted that SEPAC has conversations with families, collects feedback, and assists with making referrals to families.

3. Committee questions centered on requirements for professional development opportunities, LAB program placement in schools, mental health referral increase rationale, state support for early

intervention in pre-k aged children, and data analysis for remote versus in person students..

3. Open Comment

- a. Kay Bell, a resident of Sudbury, spoke to the Committee about her experiences as a volunteer with the Sudbury Public Schools.

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

1. SEA Representative Kelly Giusti spoke to the Committee about the importance of support staff and educators. Ms. Giusti also informed the Committee about the progress of 8th educators and students on civic action projects.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

- a. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer updated the Committee on bus contract renewal process. The district received one bid and is now engaged in assessing and qualifying that bid. When this is done, the bid will be passed along to the Committee for its consideration. Upon questioning from the Committee, Mr. Sawyer confirmed that, while 6 companies expressed interest in the bidding process, only one submitted a bid. The Committee expressed frustration with the lack of competition and discussed how to work with legislators on the issue.
- b. Mr. Sawyer updated the Committee on the other RFP that is currently outstanding, for student afterschool structured program lease. Bids are due on the afternoon of Friday, December 17th. Questions from potential bidders were due this morning and responses will be going out over the next week.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain reported to the Committee on this year's SERF Student Grants. The District and SERF received nearly 80 student grant applications. After reviewing the applications with administrators, SERF approved grants focusing on supplying diversity books and classification labels to Curtis Middle School; a school garden at Loring Elementary School; hand-sewn dolls of multicultural women at Haynes Elementary School; multi-use physical education equipment at Nixon Elementary School; and bouncy ball seats and cushions for students at Noyes Elementary School.
2. Ms. Swain also informed the Committee about the upcoming ILAP Day on December 15th, which will focus on mathematical

modeling, DIBELS training, and/or a presentation from PFLAG, depending on an educator's school and grade level.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Crozier reported to the Committee that the District submitted 10 capital items to the Town Manager's office for consideration, worth a total of just over \$1,000,000. Superintendent Crozier is not certain yet which projects will be approved.
2. Superintendent Crozier spoke to Bill Murphy from the Board of Health to discuss future plans after January 15th regarding masking. He noted that they also discussed his state petition for another vaccination and booster clinic, likely to be hosted at Curtis. The proposal was to do the clinic on an ILAP Wednesday for first shots, and three weeks later have students get their second shots before the holiday break.
3. Superintendent Crozier noted that he and Don Sawyer will attend the Finance Committee FY 22 Budget Pressures Meeting. Some school committee members may attend as well.
4. Committee questions centered on future items and costs for outdoor space/playground capital improvements for Curtis and clarification on the capital planning ranking system meeting.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. FY23 School Committee Budget Priorities and Timeline

- i. Silvia Nersessian provided the committee with an overview of the budget process, noting that committee priorities are student focused, data centric and rely on town projections/guidance. She then opened the floor and committee members provided feedback and comments regarding their pain points, concerns, and focus areas for the upcoming budget. Superintendent Crozier responded and noted this feedback. Common themes included DEI work, continued tiered supports, the SMILE program, accessibility for all students, and continuing to offer differentiated education for all levels of students.
- ii. Superintendent Crozier discussed next steps and provided a brief overview on how the budget allocations work. He also covered timeline information and how contracts (particularly transportation) may impact the total budget amounts.

b. School Committee At-a-Glance Newsletter

- i. Tyler Steffey and Sarah Troiano provided an overview of the upcoming newsletter. They noted that the goals of this newsletter are as follows: offering a succinct communication of committee actions in the last six months, a spotlight on what's ahead, and a summary of what the committee is responsible for.
- ii. The committee provided feedback on newsletter content.

- iii. At the conclusion of this discussion, Sarah Troiano left the meeting.
- c. Liaison Reports
 - i. None
- d. Minutes
 - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the November 15, 2021 meeting.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the open session meeting minutes from the November 15, 2021 meeting as amended, Tyler Steffey seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - iv. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - 1. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
 - ii. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the November 19, 2021 meeting.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the open session meeting minutes from the November 19, 2021 meeting as amended, Tyler Steffey seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - iv. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - 1. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- e. Adjournment
 - i. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 9:29 PM, Mandy Sim seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - c. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - d. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the December 6, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. Student Services FY22 Update Presentation
2. School Committee At-a-Glance Newsletter, December 2021
3. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2021 Draft
4. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2021 Draft

