

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Silvia Nerssessian, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Tyler Steffey
Mandy Sim
Sarah Troiano (6:11 p.m.)

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Sarah Rivera, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 6:01 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 September 21 and November 1, 2021; and to return to open session, Tyler Steffey 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 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. Grade 8 Civics Action Project

- i. Humanities Coordinator Lauren Egizio joined the meeting to discuss the Grade 8 Civics Action Project. Highlights from Ms. Egizio's presentation include statistics on the diversity of voters in different age brackets, on voter participation, and on STEM funding versus civics funding; a review of the goal for the project, specifically how it is designed to independently engage in the various standards of practice; a review of the purpose of the project, namely to serve as a capstone project which will promote the ability to analyze complex issues and considering different points of view; examples of past projects; a discussion of the six stages of project development and execution.

1. Questions from the Committee focused on whether the projects were designed at the class or student level; the timeline of the projects; if site visits would happen during or after the school day; and how the project works from a student perspective.

3. Open Comment

a. None

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

1. SEA Representative Sarah Rivera reported to the Committee on the value of parent-teacher conferences, which are happening throughout the month; the fact that this Wednesday is National Educational Support Professional Day; and a review of SERF grants awarded to teachers across the district.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. After School Care and Transportation RFP Update

- a. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer updated the Committee on bids that are currently out. The bus transportation posting was submitted and published in accordance with law; bids are due by 11 AM on December

2nd. The bus partnership with Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School is continuing, so both the SPS and LS School Committees will have to review and approve the final proposed contract, which would be signed by both districts. By the December 6th meeting, Mr. Sawyer hopes to have a recommendation for the committee after reviewing the bids.

- b. Another bid is out for the facilities lease for after-school programming, which falls under the construction and disposition of surplus property category. This has been posted in the central register, newspaper ads, bulletin, and CommBuys publication. Bids are due by 11 AM on December 17, at which time bids must be qualified using a point-based system to rank for recommendations. A contract for the future recipient must be signed by the district.
- c. The final bid is the food service contract, which will be put out in January. There are no complications in the evaluation process- it is based on price and service. Most of the bid specs are developed through the nutrition office at the state level.
- d. Committee questions focused on length of the qualification process, timelines for recommendations, where the bid qualifiers come from (state or district), and number of transportation bids or requests for bid specs.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

- 1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain reported to the Committee on the student SERF grants that were recently awarded, particularly how they emphasize the connection between the teachers, students, and community.
- 2. Ms. Swain spoke to the Committee about how the district conducts and uses assessments, with the example of the DESSA social-emotional learning screener.

iv. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Budget Update
 - a. Superintendent Brad Crozier provided an update on the development of the FY23 budget. He is currently in the process of meeting with principals to assess their needs for the coming year.
- 2. Vaccination Clinic
 - a. Superintendent Crozier informed the Committee that the district will soon be hosting a mobile COVID vaccine unit. The district will have the capacity to accept up to 200

students for vaccination in each round. All slots have been claimed, and based on this demand, the district is petitioning the state for additional dates.

- i. Questions from the Committee centered on if the number of slots available could be increased if the district received enough volunteers to help run the clinic.

3. ARPA Memo

- a. SPS has submitted a request to the Town for ARPA funding. Superintendent Crozier applied for funding for the SMILE summer program, specifically \$310,000 per year for multiple years; for SEL supports, specifically 2.6 positions outside of the budget totaling \$210,000 through FY24; additional nursing services through FY24 costing \$90,000; and \$150,000 for the next three years for general tiered supports.
- b. Committee questions/comments centered around how long the SMILE program would be funded, concerns around extending the programs beyond ARPA funding, and opportunity for the Superintendent to speak to the Select Board about student needs.

5. Business and Policy Matters

- a. Tri-District and Legislator Forum
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian noted that she has met with the chairs of the Lincoln and LS school committees to discuss holding the legislator forum and tri-district meeting and has already reached out to Representative Gentile to find out availability. The committee consensus was that the dual purpose meeting was very helpful.
- b. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission
 - i. The payroll warrants are for FY22 and were previously submitted and approved by the school committee. No further action is needed.
- c. School Committee FY23 Budget Letter
 - i. The committee discussed the FY23 budget letter, which closely follows past letters sent out. No edits were made
 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the School Committee Fiscal Year 23 budget letter as presented, 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.

d. Future Agenda Items

- i. Budget hearings and meeting schedules
- ii. Newsletter 'at a glance'

e. Minutes

- i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the November 1, 2021 meeting.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the open session meeting minutes from the November 1, 2021 meeting as amended, 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.

f. Adjournment

- i. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 8:33 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 November 15, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. Grade 8 Civic Action Project, a Presentation by Lauren Egizio
2. FY22 Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Processed Report, November 15, 2021
3. School Committee FY23 Budget Letter
4. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, November 1, 2021