

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 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
Barbara Gogan, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:00 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.
2. Special Matters
 - a. MCAS Results Overview
 - i. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator Lauren Egizio, and Math Curriculum Coordinator Karen Wolfson joined the meeting to lead the Committee in a discussion about the results of the spring 2021 MCAS testing. Highlights from the presentation included: how the 2021 testing was different from previous years, notably when the testing was conducted and how it was conducted; what the test looked like for students who took it remotely; how the parent report was redesigned; a review of Sudbury's average ELA and Math scores, with

comparison to state averages, as well as a look into average scaled scores across years and grade levels; how Sudbury's percent of students scoring "meeting" or "exceeding" expectations in math compared to other districts; areas of strength and growth for grades 3 and 6 in math; what "Just in Time" learning is and it's being used in conjunction with the MCAS assessment data to chart student learning needs in math; how Sudbury's percent of students scoring "meeting" or "exceeding" expectations in math compared to other districts; areas of strength and growth for grades 3 and 6 in ELA; the level of change between the 2019 and 2021 MCAS ELA tests for Sudbury and other comparable communities; examples of areas of strength and growth for grades 4 and 7 in ELA; how the district is using "Track My Progress" software to look at student data across a single year as well as over the course of multiple years; and how the "Just in Time" learning model is being utilized to enhance student learning in ELA.

1. Questions from the Committee centered on how student cohorts are determined for some MCAS data analysis; if grade-level specific MCAS data is available; if more information can be provided not just on specific populations, but on the student body as a whole; should parents be expecting reports on other assessments in conjunction with MCAS scores; requesting more information on the performance of high-needs students; and if there is any part of the Track My Progress software that can be made accessible to parents.

b. Review Solar Power Proposals and Letters of Intent

- i. Facilities Director Bill Barletta and Rami Alwan, the Chair of the Energy and Sustainability Committee, joined the meeting to continue a discussion with the School Committee about the solar arrays proposed for the school buildings. The School Committee received copies of the letters of the agreement for each project, which were addressed to, and will be signed by, the Town Manager. The Committee discussed what, if any, ability it has to express disapproval of a project given that the Town is the signatory to these proposals and why the Town will fill this role instead of the Committee. Other topics of discussion included what planning has been done around how the proposed canopies will impact parking spaces and how buses maneuver in the school lots; the concerns the Committee has regarding pursuing rooftop solar arrays while several of the schools' roofs already need replacing; what the timeline would be for completing a formal assessment of the buildings' roofs if the Town decides not to pursue the rooftop solar arrays; whether the letters of intent that were presented to the Committee were properly written; whether Mr. Barletta has investigated partnering with a company other than Solect for the installation of the solar arrays; and how the School Committee has the exclusive right to approve alterations to school buildings and the utility

agreements the district will enter into. The discussion ended with the assignment of deliverables for the next phase of this conversation.

3. Public Comment

- a. None

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

- 1. SEA Representative Barbara Gogan spoke to the Committee about the importance of maintaining the social-emotional health of students, teachers, and other staff members. Ms. Gogan detailed ways students are being taught to mind their wellness, as well as ways teachers are caring for their own SEL health.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

- 1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer updated the Committee on how the nationwide supply chain issues are impacting the district's lunch program offerings. Mr. Sawyer will follow-up this update with a communication directly to families later in the week.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

- 1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain reminded families that the upcoming Wednesday will be an ILAP day. This ILAP will focus on the local assessments mentioned earlier in the evening as well as disseminating the summer curriculum work.
- 2. Ms. Swain also informed the Committee that a formal communication will soon be going out to families regarding the upcoming beginning of parent-teacher conference availability and the release of this year's first progress reports and report cards.
- 3. Ms. Swain invited everyone attending the meeting to attend that week's webinar on cultural proficiency.

iv. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Superintendent Brad Crozier reported to the Committee on the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). Chair Silvia Nersessian communicated with the Town Manager and the Select Board, which resulted in Town Manager Hayes agreeing to put forward educational proposals to the Select Board at its November 16th meeting.
- 2. The first meeting of the Superintendent's Capital Planning Task Force happened the previous Tuesday, and the second meeting will be the following day. The Task Force is focused on revamping the capital plan with the district's current needs. Both a five year plan and a longer term plan are being developed, with priorities noted. Projects identified by the Task Force may be funded through town meeting warrants and/or the Town Manager's small

capital budget. At the end of each project, a financial report will be generated to increase transparency for the public.

3. Routine COVID testing continues across the district. The testing that was happening on Thursdays will now happen on Tuesdays, pending the CIC's ability to process the tests. Testing supplies recently ran low due to supply chain issues, but the district received new stock in time not to disrupt the testing process.
 - a. The Committee discussed the possibility of finding funding to purchase additional testing supplies to prevent disruptions to testing.

b. District Equity Committee Update

- i. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain informed the Committee that the Equity Committee identified three strategic objectives during its first meeting of the school year:

1. Develop a DEI website
2. Create a DEI newsletter
3. Recruit, hire, and retain educators of color

The Equity Committee is also in the process of auditing building-based DEI initiatives, working with Cindy Weeks Bradley to plan workshops, and vetting providers for an equity audit.

- ii. Questions from the Committee centered on what is the guidance that is underlying the equity audit; what, if any, categories are being given to the schools for reporting their equity initiatives; what would the timeline look like for the equity audit; if current staff can be used to conduct the equity audit; if the external auditor would suggest an action plan as part of their report, or if that will be an internal process; what information will be hosted on the DEI website and who will be charged with maintaining it; if there could be an internal DEI website for educators and an external website for parents and other visitors; what level of engagement Ms. Swain expects from staff members; and what a successful year would look like for building-based equity teams. The Committee also discussed how it can pursue DEI professional development opportunities for itself.

c. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

- i. The Committee agreed to move this report to the November 1st School Committee meeting.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. Appoint Members to Negotiations Subcommittee

- i. For scheduling and other personal reasons, Sarah Troiano is withdrawing from her position on one of the School Committee's two Negotiations teams. Instead of appointing a new member to that team, the Committee will vote to allow Chair Silvia Nerssessian to proceed with negotiations as the sole representative of the Committee.

1. Sarah Troiano motioned to authorize Silvia Nerssessian as the School Committee's representative to negotiate with the Custodians' and Nurses' Unions, 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.

b. FY22 Quarter 1 Financial Report

- i. The Committee reviewed a financial report on quarter one of fiscal year 2022, provided by Director of Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer. The next quarter will end on December 31st, so the Committee can expect to take action on budget transfers and the like in January. Those actions will be recorded in a subsequent report generated by Mr. Sawyer.

c. After School Care and Transportation Contracts Update

- i. Superintendent Crozier and Mr. Sawyer met with their counterparts at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School to discuss what the best plan would be going forward. The agreement reached between them was to work on a combined RFP for transportation. Mr. Sawyer will continue working with the Finance Director at LS to ensure that the RFP goes out on time. The Committee discussed rumors that some districts going out to bid recently saw rate increases approaching the range of 25-30%.
- ii. Mr. Sawyer reported the RFP for after school care is currently about a week ahead of the schedule he previously provided to the Committee.

d. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission

- i. The Committee reviewed the Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission. All were previously reviewed and approved by the Committee members individually.

e. Future Agenda Items

- i. NESDEC Reports, Grant Funding Approval

f. Minutes

- i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the October 4, 2021 meeting.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the open session meeting minutes from the October 4, 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.

g. Adjournment

- i. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 10:53 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 18, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. MCAS Update: A Presentation to the SPS School Committee, October 18, 2021
2. Letter of Intent for Solar Power Purchase Agreement, Town of Sudbury-Solect Energy Development-PowerOptions PPA: Ephraim Curtis Middle School (Rooftop)
3. Letter of Intent for Solar Power Purchase Agreement, Town of Sudbury-Solect Energy Development-PowerOptions PPA: Ephraim Curtis Middle School (Solar Canopy)
4. Letter of Intent for Solar Power Purchase Agreement, Town of Sudbury-Solect Energy Development-PowerOptions PPA: Josiah Haynes Elementary School (Rooftop)
5. Letter of Intent for Solar Power Purchase Agreement, Town of Sudbury-Solect Energy Development-PowerOptions PPA: Nixon School (Canopy)
6. Letter of Intent for Solar Power Purchase Agreement, Town of Sudbury-Solect Energy Development-PowerOptions PPA: Peter Noyes Elementary School (Rooftop)
7. NESDEC Sudbury Public Schools 2021-2022 Enrollment Projection Report
8. Sudbury Public Schools FY22 Budget Forecast by DOE Function Category
9. FY22 Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants Processed Report, October 15, 2021
10. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes, October 4, 2021 DRAFT