

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 6:02 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, 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.

2. Return from Executive Session
 - a. Chair Silvia Nerssesian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:33 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.
 - b. Tyler Steffey had to leave the meeting prior to the return from Executive Session.
 - c. Sarah Troiano joined the meeting.
3. Public Comment
 - a. None
4. Business and Policy Matters
 - a. Superintendent's FY23 Budget Presentation
 - i. Haynes Principal Jeff LaBroad, Loring Principal Sara Harvey, Nixon Principal Susan Woods, Noyes Principal Annette Doyle, and Curtis Principal Jeff Mela joined the meeting to present on matters related to the development of the FY23 budget. Superintendent Brad Crozier noted that other members of the Sudbury Administrative Leadership Team were also present on the call, as well as members of the Student Services Department team.
 - ii. Superintendent Brad Crozier clarified that the 2.6 additional positions that were proposed in his previous presentation are not currently part of his FY23 budgeting. Mr. Crozier has applied for APRA funding from the Town to cover these positions. Should the APRA funds not be granted, Mr. Crozier will consider adding these positions to the Tier I budget. The Committee then proceeded to discuss what, if anything, else can be done to persuade the Town to award the District these ARPA funds.
 - iii. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain and Technology Director Michael O'Brien spoke to the Committee about the CIT Department. Ms. Swain noted that there is an increase in subscription costs related to student benchmarking. The CIT Department is also budgeting for a full-year subscription to the SafeShare software that enables educators to safely access and utilize videos from across the web. Other products, such as the Dibbles pilot, that were previously funded by one-year grants are now being absorbed into the general budget. Ms. Swain and Mr. O'Brien also reviewed how the technology repair cycle impacted the Department's FY23 budget. The new "self-insurance" model the Department is moving toward should save the District approximately \$50,000, in Mr. O'Brien's estimation. Ms. Swain noted that the district is moving assessments from paper and pen to online, which will increase efficiency and be essentially cost neutral.
 - iv. Jeff Mela, Principal at Curtis, spoke to the committee regarding new course offerings. The first course is focused on executive functioning, to help 6-8 grades learn strategies around this, which has been helpful for both students and staff. The second new course is Math Challenge and

Explorations, a seventh grade inquiry approach elective. The third course is a math support class for seventh grade, which provides additional, focused instruction for concept understanding. Principal Mela noted that the school needs an additional health teacher for next year, as there is currently only one health teacher, and they can thus not meet all student needs.

1. Committee questions centered on executive function class availability for students, and need for expanding math challenge course to other grades.
- v. Jeff LaBroad, Principal at Haynes, noted that each elementary school principal would focus on a different topic impacting all the schools on their level, with his focus being health and safety. He shared that the 3 additional district custodians were very impactful for student and educator safety and well-being. Principal LaBroad also noted that the additional nursing position has helped support all the additional COVID-related work. When discussing social emotional health, he noted that a new adjustment counselor and additional school counselor hours have worked to support all the district's needs. Also discussed were SEL pilots and starting the school day strong.
 - vi. Sara Harvey, Principal at Loring, shared details on the impactful work of building substitutes and the school support specialist. Principal Harvey noted that building subs help to make sure that learning doesn't skip a beat when teachers need to be out, as the building subs participate in teacher training and professional development. School support specialists are a new general education position supporting student needs to monitor student progress and interventions for those who fall below benchmarks.
 - vii. Susan Woods, Principal at Nixon, discussed the need for increased BCBA support (one FTE) to increase behavioral and therapeutic supports. She noted that the LAB program should be expanded for Noyes and piloted for Grade 5 at Loring to provide foundational approaches for learning. Principal Woods also requested an increase in special education teachers to create another echelon of learning.
 - viii. Annette Doyle, Principal at Noyes, discussed the early childhood program, particularly the addition of a new preschool classroom. 30 of 78 students are on IEPs and receive special services. Principal Doyle noted that the .5 kindergarten assistants worked FTE for the first few weeks, which was tremendously helpful in helping settle the new students. Principal Doyle noted that the .5 literacy tutor went to .8 this year, which was very beneficial for the students.
 - ix. Committee questions focused on tiered support and general budget placement, tiered support ARPA funding, funding source for the SMILE program, state opportunities for funding, and costs associated with tier one budget initiatives.
- b. CASE Collaborative Capital Reserve Account

- i. Superintendent Crozier described the process behind the capital request from this reserve account, noting that the goals are to get ahead of capital needs CASE Collaborative has, and also to decide what to do with the surplus of funds this year (either move funds to reserve account or give credits back to district). The recommendation is to both fund a reserve account and also give credits, with Sudbury receiving a portion of a \$1,000,000 refund credit. The plans for the reserve fund is to move the transportation office, fund a playground, and build out a multi-purpose room. The investment in the capital aspects of CASE will help bring in tuition paying students.
- ii. Committee questions centered on where the credit flows back to (i.e. special education transportation services).
- iii. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the establishment of a capital reserve account at the CASE Collaborative, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- iv. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the CASE Collaborative Capital Plan, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- v. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve Silvia Nerssessian, Chair of the Sudbury School Committee, to sign the required documentation related to the CASE Collaborative reserve account, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- c. Reschedule Upcoming Sudbury School Committee Meetings of January 10, 2022 and March 14, 2022
 - i. The Committee reviewed necessary reschedules of several upcoming meetings. The January 10th meeting will be moved to January 12th. The Committee will move both of its March meetings at a future meeting.
- d. Adjournment
 - i. Sarah Troiano motioned to adjourn at 8:53 PM, Mandy Sim seconded.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the December 9, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. Superintendent's FY23 Budget Presentation