

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 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 6:00 PM.

1. Opening Statement

- 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, Sarah Troiano 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, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 3. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 4. Mandy Sim: Aye

5. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
2. Return from Executive Session
 - a. Chair Silvia Nerssesian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:00 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.
3. Public Comment
 - a. None
4. Educational Matters
 - a. SEA Report
 - i. SEA Representative Beth Eddy spoke to the Committee about the challenges imposed on social-emotional learning by the pandemic, and how SPS educators have been helping students overcome these obstacles.
 - b. Business and Finance Report
 - i. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer updated the Committee on the RFP for the structured after-school program facilities lease. The District received nine RFP information requests that it fulfilled, though Mr. Sawyer noted the information could have also been found elsewhere. The 17th was the closing date for all due dates. An evaluation team will now review the RFPs. A recommendation will not be ready for the Committee's January 10th meeting, but will be presented as soon as it is ready.
 - c. Assistant Superintendent's Report
 - i. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain congratulated Math Curriculum Coordinator Karen Wolfson, who has been appointed to DESE Bias and Sensitivity Committee. This is a two-year commitment that begins on January 1, 2022.
 - ii. Ms. Swain congratulated the ECMS Select Musical Groups, who performed in the LS Auditorium on December 14th.
 - iii. Ms. Swain reported on the continuation of the administrators' classroom visits, with a focus this time on ELA classrooms at Haynes and Curtis, and social studies at Loring and Noyes.
 - d. Superintendent's Report
 - i. Superintendent Brad Crozier informed the Committee that he will be speaking to the Select Board regarding ARPA funding on December 21, 2021.
 - ii. Superintendent Crozier informed the Committee that Ms. Swain is in discussions with her counterpart at LS regarding the 2022-2023 calendar. The districts will continue to coordinate important dates and a draft calendar will be presented to the Committee for its approval at a future meeting.

- iii. Superintendent Crozier updated the Committee on discussions he has had with other area superintendents regarding the rise in COVID cases. Superintendent Crozier reported that Sudbury is experiencing a slower increase than other neighboring communities. The District will continue to emphasize mitigation efforts to prevent a sharper spike in cases.
 - 1. The District is also making entreaties to the State to hold another vaccine clinic. The Committee also discussed the possibility of doing as another district has done, and partner with a pharmacy to hold a clinic.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. SPS Capital Plan

- i. Superintendent Brad Crozier reported to the Committee on the work of the Superintendent's Task Force on Capital Planning. The Task Force was charged with reviewing and revising the Capital Plan for the next few years as well as the capital projects that have been undertaken in recent years. The latter portion of these efforts resulted in SPS returning to the town an amount of unspent funds that Superintendent Crozier described as "sizable." Superintendent Crozier also made mention of the several capital projects that he has submitted for inclusion in the Town Manager's budget.
- ii. Chair Silvia Nersessian, who also served on the Task Force, informed the Committee that another result of the Task Force's work is the creation of a more transparent project tracking process. Facilities Director Bill Barletta added that he will update the tracking daily, and report to Superintendent Crozier on a monthly basis. This information will then be shared with the Committee and the public.
- iii. Superintendent Crozier, Mr. Barletta, and the Committee also discussed how items from the Town's ADA self-assessment will be addressed by the capital plan. Building-based working groups will report to the District on which projects have been completed and which are yet to be done.
- iv. Other questions and comments from the Committee centered on the state of the Noyes roof replacement RFP; whether cost estimates for the Noyes roof are based on a number of sections or the whole rooftop; if Mr. Barletta is comfortable committing to a roof-per-year timeline for the next four years; if the Haynes roof can wait until FY24; and what information should and should not be included in the capital plan.

b. Review FY23 Superintendent Recommended Budget

- i. Superintendent Crozier led the Committee in a discussion about the Recommended Budget for FY23. There were no changes in the proposed budget from the Budget Hearing. This recommendation includes all the salaries, programs, and items from the base budget, but does not include items that were part of the proposal for ARPA funding nor the Tier I and above budgets. Superintendent Crozier noted that any savings found at a later date may allow for Tier I items to be added into the budget. Mr.

Sawyer informed the Committee that the Committee will receive budget updates as part of the Budget Book later in the winter, then again over the summer as FY22 closes and FY23 opens.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the Superintendent's Recommend FY23 Budget as presented, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - iv. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.
 2. Meredith Gerson motioned to authorize the Sudbury Public Schools to apply for and accept the grants, and execute the expenditures as presented, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - iv. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.
- c. Review School Committee At-a-Glance Newsletter
 - i. The Committee reviewed and revised its December 2021 At-a-Glance Newsletter.
 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the School Committee At-a-Glance Newsletter for December 2021 as edited, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - iv. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.
- 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. Reschedule March 2022 Meeting Dates
 - i. The Committee discussed moving its meetings in March 2022. Both dates are moving up one week, to March 7 and 21. These changes will be

reflected on the School Committee's page on the SPS website in the near future.

- f. Future Agenda Items
 - i. 2022-2023 Calendar
- g. Minutes
 - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the December 6, 2021 meeting.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the open session meeting minutes from the December 6 and 9, 2021 meetings as amended, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - iv. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - 1. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
- h. Adjournment
 - i. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 8:31 PM, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - e. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the December 20, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. SPS Capital Plan December 2021
2. SPS Capital Projects December 2021
3. SPS FY23 Superintendent's Budget Recommendation
4. Sudbury School Committee At-a-Glance Newsletter December 2021
5. FY22 Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Processed Report, December 15, 2021
6. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Schedule FY22
7. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, December 6, 2021
8. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, December 9, 2021