

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Silvia Nerssessian, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Mandy Sim
Tyler Steffey
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 6:30 p.m.

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. Meredith Gerson, Mandy Sim, Tyler Steffey, Sarah Troiano and Silvia Nerssessian 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 following Sudbury School Committee Executive Session Meetings on December 6, December 13 and December 20, 2021; and to return to open session, Mandy Sim seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Mandy Sim: Aye
 3. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 4. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 5. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

c. Return from Executive Session

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. 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, Mandy Sim, Tyler Steffey and Sarah Troiano all affirmed in the positive.

2. Special Matters

a. METCO Annual Report

- i. METCO Director, Sandra Walters, gave a yearly update on the METCO program where she covered the history of the program, the enrollment process as well as student and staff accomplishments.
- ii. Questions from the committee included student capacity and enrollment, the mentor program and Boston families' unfamiliarity with suburban communities.
- iii. Director Walters also spoke about METCO, Inc. and their commitment to branching out to educate families on the program as enrollment is slightly down due to many alternative choices such as parochial and exam schools where they were not as available in the past.

3. Public Comment

- a. None

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

1. Anneke Bartelsman gave an update on student success within the schools:
 - a. Loring students will be working on Valentine's Day cards; 5th graders from Loring will be participating in a stock market program.
 - b. Students from Haynes began their Safety Patrol assignments.
 - c. Nixon students are focusing on their Core Values and what they mean to them. Those sentiments are being displayed on a bulletin board for all to see.
 - d. 4th Graders at Noyes have started a newspaper. Officers Crisafulli and Haldiman are underway co-teaching the STARRS program within all elementary schools; and,

- e. Curtis students are actively participating in sports clubs and extracurricular programs; 8th Graders are participating in a Civics Action program and are eagerly awaiting their DC trip this Spring.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. Director of Business and Finance, Don Sawyer, gave an update on the medicaid reimbursement payment which has been received by the town. SPS will collaborate with the Sudbury Finance Director regarding next steps.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Assistant Superintendent, Kim Swain, thanked both Sandra Walters and Betsy Grams for their robust updates on the METCO program.
2. She also shared that 95% of 8th graders have signed up to participate in the upcoming DC trip and planning has begun on the 4E (4 Energy) Program after a two year COVID hiatus.
3. She updated the Committee regarding the January 26th Professional Development Day. Among the programs being offered are: a Chris Woodin Math workshop, the Neuroscience of Anxiety and a workshop provided by Cindy Weeks Bradley regarding Culturally Responsive Teaching, Medicaid Reimbursement, English Language Development, Science through Literature, elementary music, and Signs of Suicide training.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Crozier gave an update on COVID in the district. The number of positive students is trending downwards. The District sent communications emails to both staff and families regarding at home tests. Committee questions centered around timely and equitable distribution of tests to families.
2. Superintendent Crozier discussed changes to the COVID dashboard and clarified the differences on how SPS reports their data vs. how DESE reports.
3. Another vaccination clinic will be offered in the District.
4. Superintendent Crozier shared his appreciation to the Select Board for approving 2 years of funding for the SMILE program. The Committee discussed that SPS will be running their own social program this year.

5. Business and Policy Matters

Chair Silvia Nerssessian offered her appreciation and thanks to all who were involved in the negotiations of the FY22 and FY23 to FY25 ESPA Unit contracts.

a. Review ESPA Unit Memorandum of Agreement for FY22

i. Silvia Nerssessian asked for a motion.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Sudbury School Committee and the Sudbury Education Association ESPA Unit effective July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. Sarah Troiano seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Mandy Sim: Aye
- iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- iv. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- v. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

1. **VOTE:** 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Review ESPA Unit Memorandum of Agreement for FY23 to FY25

- i. Meredith Gerson motioned to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Sudbury School Committee and the Sudbury Education Association ESPA Unit effective July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025. Sarah Troiano seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Mandy Sim: Aye
- iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- iv. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- v. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

1. **VOTE:** 5-0. Motion carries.

c. ESSER III Acceptance

- i. Director of Business and Finance, Don Sawyer, shared that previous grants that were approved by the School Committee did not include the ESSER Grant. He confirmed that the intent is to spend these funds in FY23 / FY24. Fifteen percent of the funds have been received to date.

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to accept and expend the ESSER III Grant in the amount of \$503,034.00. Sarah Troiano seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Mandy Sim: Aye
- iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- iv. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- v. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

1. **VOTE:** 5-0. Motion carries.

- d. Acceptance of Grant
 - i. STARS Residency Gift from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (Haynes Elementary School)
 - 1. The Committee received a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to the Haynes Elementary School.
 - a. Meredith Gerson motioned to accept the STARS Residency Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council on behalf of the Haynes Elementary School with gratitude. Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - 2. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - 3. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - 4. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - 5. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - a. **VOTE:** 5-0. Motion carries.
- e. Review Transportation Options
 - i. Director of Business and Finance, Don Sawyer, shared with the Committee that the current contract ends on June 30th. He confirmed only one bid was qualified and received. LSRHS shares the bus contract with SPS.
 - ii. Questions centered around understanding how the breakdown of responsibility for each district lies and why qualified bids are scarce. Questions were also asked about the bid amount.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson moves to accept the bid from First Student and authorize Silvia Nerssessionian to execute the contract for 3 years plus 2(two) 1(one) year options beginning July 1, 2022 contingent upon acceptance and execution by the LSSC. Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - iii. Tyler Steffey: Aye
 - iv. Sara Troiano: Aye
 - v. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - 1. **VOTE:** 5-0. Motion carries.
- f. Review FY23 Annual Town Meeting Articles
 - Chair Silvia Nerssessionian provided an update on why SPS will be withdrawing the 2 articles.
 - i. Meredith Gerson moves to withdraw the SMILE Summer Program from the Town Warrant. Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Mandy Sim: Aye
- c. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- d. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- e. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **VOTE:** 5-0. Motion carries.

g. Review SPS Town Annual Report

- i. Superintendent Crozier provided an overview of the Town Annual Report. He clarified that this report spans the 2020-2022 school years, as the Town requires the report submitted for the months of January 2021 - December 2021.
- ii. Meredith Gerson moves to authorize the submission of the town report as edited. Sarah Troiano seconded.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Mandy Sim: Aye
- c. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- d. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- e. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **VOTE:** 5-0. Motion carries.

h. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission

- i. No action required by the Committee.

i. Future Agenda Items

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian shared that she will be meeting with the Chairs of the Lincoln Public School Committee and the Lincoln Sudbury School Committee on 2/11 to discuss the Tri District Meeting.
- ii. She also confirmed that the Capital Meeting with the Town of Sudbury is scheduled for 2/15.

6. Adjournment

- a. Chair Silvia Nerssessian motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Sarah Troiano seconded.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE

- 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- 2. Mandy Sim: Aye
- 3. Tyler Steffey: Aye
- 4. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- 5. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - a. **VOTE:** 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the January 12, 2022 School Committee Meeting

1. METCO School Committee Annual Report 2021-2022
2. ESPA FINAL 1-YEAR MOA 5 JAN 2022 SIGNED
3. ESPA 3-YEAR MOA FINAL 5 JAN 2022 SIGNED
4. Mass Cultural Council Stars Grant Gift Acceptance Request
5. Memo_SC_Transportation Contract_220121
6. SUMMER SMILE PROGRAM
7. SPSTownReport_2022
8. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 012022