

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 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
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent

Regular Session Meeting

1. Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
 - a. Opening Statement / Executive Session
 - i. 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 and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive. Sarah Troiano joined the meeting after roll call was taken.
2. Public Comment
 - a. None.
 - b. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain made an announcement that the meeting was having some technical difficulties and might not be live on Sudbury TV.
3. Special Matters
 - a. Milly Arbaje Thomas, Director of METCO, Inc. gave an update on the METCO program and the challenges the program faces with lower than normal enrollment.
 - i. Ms. Thomas shared that the METCO program is in its 55th year. Currently there are 3,200 students and 33 towns participating in the METCO program. Sudbury joined in partnership with METCO in 1968.
 - ii. The Committee asked questions centered around whether the growth of charter and exam schools have impacted our numbers for where we are

in welcoming Boston students. What are the characteristics of a great METCO district? What cultural experiences have been brought to other districts that have been successful? How many other districts are struggling with enrollment? What has worked well in other districts that we could emulate / copy?

b. Assessment Data Presentation (Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator Lauren Egizio, Math Curriculum Coordinator Karen Wolfson)

- i. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain began the presentation by explaining to the Committee that this is a mid-year look at formative data that measures student growth. This data will help initiate appropriate changes based on what we are seeing with students. Lauren Egizio gave an update on case studies in ELA and Karen Wolfson updated the Committee on group studies in Math.
- ii. The Committee thanked Ms. Swain, Ms. Egizio and Ms. Wolfson for their presentation and shared that they were appreciative of the information provided and were happy to learn about and understand the assessment tools and how they are being used.
- iii. Questions centered around what the starting point is in looking at the data? Is it pre-pandemic? Are we piloting math specifically across the district? What can we, as a district, do to help close the gap between student achievement and what can we do to help advance those that are exceeding educational achievement?

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

- i. SEA Report (Sarah Rivera)
 1. The Committee did not receive an update as there wasn't an SEA member present at the meeting.
- ii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
 1. Assistant Superintendent, Kim Swain, shared that the Tracey Benson Equity Meetings continue. The first submission by the district is due on Thursday. This first piece starts with submitting demographics, disciplines, assessments and achievements.
 2. She also shared that middle school performances are back. "Just So" was amazing and she congratulated the students, staff and families who were involved with the production.
- iii. Superintendent's Report
 1. Superintendent Crozier shared an update on enrollment. The district is working hard on boosting our kindergarten numbers by

placing yard signs in visible areas throughout town, placing newspaper ads as well as family outreach.

2. Superintendent Crozier also shared that the Nixon School has piloted an Art Club. If successful, the plan is to do this again in the Fall with possible integration to the other elementary schools. Art Club takes place after school, there is a small fee for participation and includes Grades 3 - 5.
3. The Committee provided comments centered around the excitement of the program and that social / emotional activities are being well supported.
4. Superintendent Crozier also gave an update to the Medicaid refund update. He shared that the refund we are receiving will be presented at Town Meeting and that the article needs to be approved and authorized for the town to deposit the money for the district to have access to. Superintendent Crozier also shared that more research is being done into whether we are able to have an account for the monies to be deposited directly into.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. SPS FY23 Fee Schedule

- i. Superintendent Crozier provided the Committee with an update on the SMILE program and the intent to have the Committee establish and vote on the initial fee for the program. The initial fee of \$600 (full day program) is for students who are not being recommended for the program but who might want to take advantage of the social / emotional learning program. The \$300 fee (half day program) that is being recommended is for students who are being recommended for the academic piece of the program but who would like to participate in the half day social / emotional learning program as well. Students who are being recommended are first tier considerations. Siblings would be second tier and then others would be considered if space is available.
- ii. The Committee asked questions centered around the accessibility for our Boston students and whether transportation can be provided for them? Does the program include incoming kindergarten students? Superintendent Crozier confirmed the program is available to all current PK - Grade 5 students.
 1. Meredith Gerson made a motion to establish a revolving fund in accordance with Mass General Law Chapter 71 Section 47 to accept and expend SMILE program fees. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.
 - 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.

- 2. Chair Silvia Nerssessian made a motion to establish the SMILE fee as \$300 for the half day program and \$600 for the full day program. Tyler Steffey seconded the motion.

- 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.

- iii. Superintendent Crozier provided an update to the Committee on previous conversations regarding transportation fees. He shared that 80% of families in the district hit the cap at 2 students. Director of Business and Finance, Don Sawyer, continues with his original recommendation of a 20% increase in fees as this will have a budget impact on the district if we don't.

- iv. The Committee asked questions centered around what would change in services be? Would there be an increase or decrease in routes? How will this affect families monetarily? How will we communicate effectively with families on why increases are happening and will we share our alignment with other districts as far as fees go?

- 1. Chair Silvia Nerssessian made a motion to approve the SPS FY 23 Fee Schedule to include the transportation bus fees with a 20% increase to both the individual ridership and the family cap. Tyler Steffey seconded the motion.

- 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. EDCO Update

- i. Superintendent Crozier shared an update on the closure of EDCO. He shared that Winchester has committed to meeting their financial obligations regarding the lease. The EDCO Board continues to meet with Lexington as they have not yet committed to meeting their financial obligation.

- ii. The Committee asked questions centered around what made Winchester change their mind?

- 1. Mandy Sim made a motion to authorize Chair Silvia Nerssessionian to sign a letter to the Lexington School Committee to meet their EDCO Obligations. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

- a. Roll Call Vote

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

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

- c. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission

- i. No action required by the Committee.

- d. Future Agenda Items

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian announced that the School Committee will have an additional meeting on May 4th. If Town Meeting happens to go over into a third night, that meeting will need to be rescheduled.
 - ii. Meredith Gerson shared with the Committee that there is a Policy Subcommittee Meeting coming up soon.

- e. Minutes (3/7/22)

- i. Sarah Troiano made a motion to approve the open session meeting minutes from March 7th as presented and amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.

- 1. Roll Call Vote

- a. Meredith Gerson - Aye
 - b. Mandy Sim - Aye
 - c. Tyler Steffey - Aye
 - d. Sarah Troiano - Aye
 - e. Silvia Nerssessionian - Aye

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

- 6. Chair Silvia Nerssesian called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

- a. Roll Call Vote

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the March 21, 2022 School Committee Meeting

Sudbury School Committee METCO update - March 2022

SC Assessment Presentation

Memo_SC_FY23 SMILES Program Fee_220317

Memo_SC_FY23 FeeRecommendation_Additional Bus Fee Info_220317

Memo_SC_FY23 Fee Recommendation_22034

EDCO Update

SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 032122

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