

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
Charles Russo, Chair, Sudbury Select Board
Daniel Carty, Member, Sudbury Select Board
Lisa Kouchakdijan, Member, Sudbury Select Board
Jennifer Roberts, Member, Sudbury Select Board

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, Sarah Troiano and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.
 - b. Meredith Gerson motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Education Association and Nurses' 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 meeting of July 18, 2022. Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Mandy Sim: Aye
 3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - a. **VOTE:** 4-0. Motion carries.

- c. Chair Silvia Nerssessian confirmed that the Committee will enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Education Association and Nurses' 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 meeting of July 18, 2022 and the Committee will reconvene in open session.
- d. Return from Executive Session
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:00 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. Meredith Gerson, Mandy Sim, Sarah Troiano and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.

2. Special Matters

- a. Vote to Open Joint Meeting with Sudbury Select Board
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian motioned to open the Sudbury School Committee's Joint Meeting with the Sudbury Select Board. Mandy Sim seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **VOTE:** 4-0. Motion carries.
 - ii. Select Board Chair Charlie Russo motioned to open the Select Board's Joint Meeting with the Sudbury School Committee. Jennifer Roberts seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Daniel Carty: Aye
 - b. Jennifer Roberts: Aye
 - c. Lisa Kouchakdijan: Aye
 - d. Charlie Russo: Aye
 - i. **VOTE:** 4-0. Motion carries.
- b. Welcome and Interview applicants for School Committee Vacancy
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian thanked the Select Board for being in attendance at the meeting and then reviewed the process for interviewing the School Committee Candidates.
 - ii. Chair Nerssessian welcomed applicant, Ravi Simon, to the meeting. Ravi took the opportunity to explain to the Committee why he applied for the

- position, gave examples of his background and how he believes he will be beneficial to the Committee.
- iii. The Committee then shared the applicant questions with Mr. Simon who shared his responses with the Committee.
 - iv. Chair Nerssessian welcomed applicant, Nicole Burnard, to the meeting. Ms. Burnard took the opportunity to share her background with the Committee and how she believes her experience will benefit her potential role on the Committee.
 - v. The Committee shared the applicant questions with Ms. Burnard who then shared her responses with the Committee.
- c. Discuss and Vote to Appoint New School Committee Member in Accordance with School Committee Policy BBBE and M.G.L 41:11
- i. Sarah Troiano made a motion to appoint Nicole Burnard to the Sudbury School Committee. Mandy Sim seconded.
 - ii. The School Committee and the Select Board began deliberations and shared their opinions on the candidates. Committee members also shared their opinions on the needs of the School Committee and the experience that would benefit the work of the Committee.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - e. Daniel Carty: Aye
 - f. Jennifer Roberts: Aye
 - g. Lisa Kouchakdjian: No
 - h. Charlie Russo: Aye
 - i. **VOTE:** 7-1. Motion carries.
- d. Vote to Close Joint Meeting with Sudbury Select Board
- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian motioned to close the Sudbury School Committee's Joint Meeting with the Sudbury Select Board. Sarah Troiano seconded.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **VOTE:** 4-0. Motion carries.
 - ii. Chair Charlie Russo motioned to adjourn the Select Board's Joint Meeting with the Sudbury School Committee. Jennifer Roberts seconded.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - a. Daniel Carty: Aye

- b. Jennifer Roberts: Aye
- c. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
- d. Charlie Russo: Aye
 - i. **VOTE:** 4-0. Motion carries.

- 3. Public Comment:
 - a. None

- 4. Educational Matters

- a. District Reports

- i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report

- 1. Director of Business and Human Resources, Don Sawyer, took the opportunity to praise both School Committee applicants for their commitment to contributing to the community.
 - 2. Mr. Sawyer confirmed that the universal free lunch program would continue this year for both breakfast and lunch. Parents have been notified of this as well.
 - 3. He also shared that the Business Office is finalizing bus schedules. Bus passes are scheduled to go out the week before school starts and First View tracking app will be available shortly after school begins.
 - 4. Questions from the Committee surrounded whether bus stop times might change due to construction and road closures.

- ii. Assistant Superintendent Report

- 1. Assistant Superintendent, Kim Swain, shared with the Committee that updates on both curriculum and the SMILE program will be forthcoming in future meetings.
 - 2. She also informed the Committee that class placement announcements are being shared this week with families and that New Teacher Orientation will be held next week.
 - 3. Ms. Swain gave an update to the Committee on the process of hiring a new METCO Director. The position has been posted and upcoming interviews will be held for well qualified candidates.

- iii. Superintendent's Report

- 1. School Return Update

- a. Superintendent Brad Crozier shared with the Committee that COVID guidance recommendations have recently been released. The school year will begin similarly to how it ended last year. Changes that we will see this year is that there will be no asymptomatic testing and DESE is not recommending distancing.

- b. Questions from the Committee surrounded testing requirements of symptomatic students while in school and what kind of reporting will be shared with families.
- c. Mr. Crozier also shared the excitement in the district with getting ready for the school year to begin. He continues to monitor enrollment and interviewing for open positions. In a future meeting, Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, will be giving an update on capital projects.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. FY22 End of Year Budget Review

- i. Director of Business and Human Resources, Don Sawyer, reviewed for the Committee the final FY22 year to date reallocation of the budget. He confirmed that settlement contract payments were paid out in May. He also shared with the Committee where surpluses are in the budget and where they were re-purposed.
- ii. Questions from the Committee included whether there was anything from this year's budget (FY22) that would impact next year (FY23). The Committee also took the opportunity to thank Mr. Sawyer for his detailed work with the budget.

b. Application for School Personnel to Administer Epipens

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian informed the Committee that the Committee needs to annually vote to approve the application which allows school personnel to administer epipens.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson moves to approve the annual application for epipen administration and authorize Chair Silvia Nerssessionian to sign on behalf of the Committee. Sarah Troiano seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Mandy Sim: Aye
- iii. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- iv. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye

1. **VOTE:** 4-0. Motion carries.

c. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission

- i. No action required by the Committee.

d. Liaison Reports

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian shared that the Finance Committee has reorganized. The new School Committee Liaisons are Susan Berry and Sonny Parente. The new Co-Chairs are Eric Poch and Mike Joachim.
- ii. Chair Nerssessionian also confirmed that the Curtis Outdoor Wellness Committee has been working over the summer to discuss ideas on the

plans for the structure. They will report back to the Committee in the fall with an update.

- e. Minutes (8/1/22)
 - i. Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee open session meeting minutes from August 1, 2022 as amended. Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.
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- 6. Adjournment
 - a. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - 2. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - 3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - 4. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - a. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the August 15, 2022 School Committee Meeting

1. Simon_SCApplication
2. Burnard_SCApplication
3. Memo_SC_FY22 Final Budget_220811
4. EpiPen Application
5. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 081122
6. 080122_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT