

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
Lauren Egizio, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator
Betsy Grams, Wellness Curriculum Specialist
Karen Wolfson, Math Curriculum Coordinator

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Opening Statement / Regular 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, Nicole Burnard, Mandy Sim, Sarah Troiano and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.
2. Public Comment:
 - a. None
3. Special Matters
 - a. Fall Benchmarking Presentation - Assistant Superintendent, Kim Swain, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator, Lauren Egizio, Wellness Curriculum Specialist, Betsy Grams and Math Curriculum Coordinator, Karen Wolfson
 - i. Ms. Grams began by sharing an update on Wellness initiatives in the district. This update included an overview of assessment timelines, data collection and next steps. Highlights included information on SEL observations, tiered systems of support and a detailed report on the

- results of the most recent MetroWest Health Survey and how the results are used.
- ii. Questions from the Committee included whether the universal screening for depression and mental health includes substance abuse, what percentage of middle school students are participating in universal screening, are the results of the screening shared with families, when would changes to the health curriculum be implemented, where does SEL curriculum take place and how often.
 - iii. Additional questions included how our district compares with suicide trends both nationally, as well as with other participating districts, do we have historical data on the code red category of the DESSA mini, what are examples of changes made to the SEL curriculum, are we sharing the data results more wide and are there any additional tools that should be considered.
 - iv. Ms. Wolfson then provided an update to the Committee on math curriculum for both the elementary and middle schools. Highlights of her presentation included assessment timelines, what kind of information is collected during the assessments and how the data is viewed and used. Other topics covered support with classroom instruction, interventions with students showing need for additional support and MCAS growth.
 - v. Clarifying questions from the Committee included asking for an elaboration on aligning practices amongst the schools and more detail on the math recovery training the math coaches participated in. Questions also included clarification on how the interventions are being managed and how student interviews are held.
 - vi. Ms. Egizio then gave the Committee an overview on ELA benchmarks. Highlights from her presentation included what kind of assessment tools are used and when they are given.
 - vii. Questions from the Committee included how has the service delivery model changed, is there anything we are doing differently or have adjustments been made to support 5th graders going into middle school, is decodable text currently being used and have we been able to consistently provide the supports currently needed to our students.
 - viii. Ms. Swain wrapped the presentation up by sharing the budgetary and development priorities to support the curriculum in the wellness, math and ELA departments.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. Proposed Policy Review

- i. IMDA Accommodations for Religious and Cultural Observances
 1. Chair Silvia Nersessian clarified for the Committee that we are adding a new addendum to the school calendar in order to be as inclusive to all religions and observed holidays. Policy IMDA acknowledges excused time off from school for religious purposes.

2. Meredith Gerson moves to approve Policy IMDA Accommodations for Religious and Cultural Observances as amended. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion. Edits were discussed and agreed upon.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE

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

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

- b. 2023-2024 Updated School Calendar with Addendum

- i. Superintendent Crozier confirmed that the suggested edits from a previous meeting were made and an extensive list of recognized holidays has been provided as an addendum to the 2023-2024 school calendar.

1. Meredith Gerson moves to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar as amended. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE

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

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

- c. Review FY24 Budget Drivers and Overview

- i. Superintendent Crozier shared that curriculum presentations as well as the beginning line item budget help in building the budget for next year. He then reviewed in detail the process for how the budget is developed. Attention was brought to the base budget which is out of balance with the interim Town Manager's recommendation.
- ii. The Committee asked clarifying questions which included whether the 12 new positions that were initially not budgeted for are included in the base budget. Questions also included how other school districts are recruiting for SEL positions.
- iii. The Committee then discussed their concerns about the budget gap, the needs of students and unexpected budget increases. Their conversation included whether to ask for an increase in the town's budget guidance and whether they should bring forward a warrant article to town meeting to cover the ELA curriculum review.
- iv. Chair Nerssessian and Mr. Crozier agreed to work with the Select Board Liaison and interim Town Manager to schedule a meeting to discuss the possibility of getting more funding from the town's free cash.

- d. Liaison Reports
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian confirmed for the Committee that Liaison Reports will be added to all School Committee agendas through the budget and capital seasons in order to keep the Committee informed on anything related to both.
 - ii. She also shared that the Select Board opened the town's warrant at their last meeting and the warrant will close at 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2023.
- 5. Adjournment
 - a. Chair Silvia Nerssessian motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - 2. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - 3. Mandy Sim: 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 December 8, 2022 School Committee Meeting

1. SC Copy of Fall Benchmarking Snapshot
2. SC Policy IMDA
3. 2023-2024 School Calendar_DRAFT
4. SPS_InitialBudgetOverview_24