

Sudbury School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2023  
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  
Tracy Berry, SEA Representative

**Regular Session Meeting**

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:02 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. Educational and Operational Matters
  - a. District Reports
    - i. SEA Report (Tracy Berry)
      1. Ms. Berry took the opportunity to thank multiple groups within the schools and community for helping to provide support in each of the schools across the district. These groups include Parent Teacher Organizations, Crossing Guards, Math and Literacy Coaches, Building Subs, Mental Health Staff, members of the Technology Department, School Nurses and Custodial Staff.
    - ii. Director of Business and Human Resources Report

1. Mr. Sawyer reported that the Business Office continues their work in developing the budget. He reported that he will be attending the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee Meeting on February 13th to support Sandra Duran who will be presenting on SPS Capital Items. He will also be in attendance at the Finance Committee Public Hearing on February 15th.
  - iii. Assistant Superintendent Report
    1. Ms. Swain reported that the middle school has completed their student workshops on Microaggressions. She also shared that the last ILAP day focused on the elementary grade levels centering around SEL practices, computational thinking, 4 energy planning, mathematics and job-alike time for Specialists. The middle school focused their time on nonfiction reading strategies.
    2. The 8th grade civics team was awarded both an invite and grant money from DESE to attend the Massachusetts Civics Project Showcase where they will feature 4 projects and the Curtis MathCounts team placed 2nd in the MetroWest Chapter Competition. They now advance to the state competition.
  - iv. Superintendent's Report
    1. Superintendent Crozier reported that the annual Kickoff to Kindergarten had a well attended turnout from their online event and registrations continue to come in.
    2. A draft of the FY24 Budget Book has been shared with the Finance Committee.
    3. The Haynes Principal search continues. From a strong range of applicants, 3 finalists have been chosen.
    4. An update on the Loring playground included the vendor discovering an issue with the play surface. The surface will be fixed temporarily until the Spring when they can fix it permanently.
4. Business and Policy Matters
  - a. FY24 Budget Review
    - i. Reductions to meet Town Manager's budget guidance
      1. Superintendent Crozier shared the process of who the Administrative Team met with and what was reviewed in order to help identify areas of reduction. This included participating in Listening Sessions at each of the schools and meeting with the SALT team.
      2. Recommended reductions include busing guidelines and an increase in class size guidelines.
      3. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded whether the minimum requirement for busing includes removing the option for families who live less than 2 miles from school to be able to ride the bus as well as omitting 7th and 8th graders from busing at all.

They also asked for clarification on class leveling and how that would be affected.

4. The Committee engaged into discussion highlighting the impacts on the loss of FTEs as well as the busing impacts which are projected to affect 863 families. Additional questions surrounded whether we can increase fees to provide transportation and if payments for the upcoming school year can be delayed due to the vote outcome.
- ii. Update on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles
  1. Chair Nerssessionian provided the Committee with an update on the FY23 Medicaid Fund revolving account. The Town of Sudbury Finance Director spoke to legal counsel and it was confirmed that funds cannot go directly into an account like this.
  2. The recommendation would be to either increase the SPS appropriation with the source, funding and revenues being noted separately or to have funds go to free cash and then ask that those funds be allocated back to SPS at the next Town Meeting.
  3. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded the legality of the transfer of funds to the revolving account.
  4. Chair Nerssessionian asked for a vote to pull the article on the FY23 Medicaid Reimbursement Transfer. Mandy Sim 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 Nerssessionian: Aye
    1. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.
  5. The Committee then affirmed their agreement in allowing Chair Nerssessionian and Superintendent Crozier to communicate the vote above to the Town Finance Manager and the Town Manager while also requesting the importance of the notation of the funds in the budget.
- iii. Updates on Override Request
  1. Next steps regarding ballot vote options
    - a. Chair Nerssessionian reviewed with the Committee the items that had been included in the agenda packet as a way to educate them on all aspects of the Override considerations.
  2. Community Education
    - a. She then discussed the different ways in which Superintendent Crozier will work to educate the community regarding the reasons for asking for the Override. This

includes meetings with PTO groups, community forums and presentations that are available on the SPS website. He confirmed his confidence in the timing to educate the community in time to have the Override question on the March ballot.

3. Vote on request for timing of ballot question

a. The Committee then discussed recommended edits to the letter to the Select Board.

i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian asked for a motion to request that the Select Board place the Override on the election ballot of March 27, 2023 and to send the amended letter to the Select Board. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

a. Meredith Gerson: Aye

b. Nicole Burnard: Aye

c. Mandy Sim: Aye

d. Sarah Troiano: Aye

e. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.

b. FY24 Budget Book

i. During the FY24 Budget Review agenda item, recommended edits to the Budget Book were suggested.

c. Vote to establish Medicaid Revolving Account

i. This agenda item was discussed during the 3 a. iii. agenda item.

d. Superintendent Mid-Year Goal Review

i. To be discussed at a future meeting.

e. Liaison Reports

i. None

f. Minutes (01/09/23 and 01/23/23)

i. Meredith Gerson moved to approve the Sudbury School Committee meeting minutes from the January 9, 2023 and January 23, 2023 meetings as amended. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

a. Meredith Gerson: Aye

b. Nicole Burnard: Aye

c. Mandy Sim: Aye

d. Sarah Troiano: Aye

e. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

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

5. Adjournment

- a. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 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 Nerssessionian: Aye
- a. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Williams

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

**Documents Reviewed During the February 6, 2023 School Committee Meeting**

1. prop2\_0
2. Ballot-Question-Policy\_02.07.17
3. SSC Letter to Select Board 2.6.2023
4. FY24 Budget Book (DRAFT)
5. Memo\_SC\_Medicaid Revolving Acocunt\_230206
6. 010923\_Sudbury School Committee Minutes\_DRAFT
7. 012323\_Sudbury School Committee Minutes\_DRAFT