

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 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
Lauren Egizio, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator
Erin Kehew, 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, Mandy Sim, Sarah Troiano and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.

2. Special Matters
 - a. 2023 - 2024 School Choice Public Hearing
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian motioned to open the School Choice Public Hearing for the 2023 - 2024 year. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.
 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. Superintendent Crozier reviewed the background on the School Choice program and provided the rationale for why Sudbury Public Schools does not participate in the program.
- iii. Chair Nerssessian opened the meeting to the public as an opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. There were no comments or questions from the public.
- iv. Chair Silvia Nerssessian motioned to close the School Choice Public Hearing for the 2023 - 2024 School Year. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

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.

b. 2023 - 2024 School Choice Vote

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moved to decline participation in the School Choice Program for the 2023 - 2024 School Year and affirm School Committee Policy JFBB-1. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

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.

c. Review and Discuss the FY24 Washington, DC Overnight Trip, Lauren Egizio, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator

- i. Ms. Egizio gave an overview of the upcoming DC trip including day to day activities.

3. Public Comment:

- a. None

4. Educational and Operational Matters

a. District Reports

- i. SEA Report (Erin Kehew)
 - 1. Ms. Kehew shared updates on grade level student activities within the district which include Kindergarten students beginning their hatching unit; fourth graders continuing their 4E project work; second graders had a visit by author Giles LaRoche and eighth grade students learned about microaggressions.
- ii. Director of Business and Human Resources Report

1. An update from Mr. Sawyer included information on the Universal Free Lunch program and the support it has by legislators who are looking to make this program permanent.
2. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded how the reimbursements will be dispersed to Sudbury Public Schools or will they be funneled through the town.
3. Bus registration for the 2023 - 2024 school year is underway. Families have been notified that registration closes on May 12th.
4. The Committee questioned whether fees are being collected in advance of Town Meeting and whether families have been informed of potential changes as a result of the vote at Town Meeting.
5. The last update provided was regarding the changes the GIC has made in regards to staff health insurance and the need for staff to choose a new plan if affected.
6. Questions from the Committee included whether this change is affecting all districts across the state. Mr. Sawyer was also asked to provide an update on the state funding from the pothole grant.

Note was made that School Committee Member, Nicole Burnard, has joined the meeting.

iii. Assistant Superintendent Report

1. Ms. Swain congratulated SERF Recipients Susan Woods for cafeteria seating nooks and Linda Dube and Lauren Egizio for classroom sets of books on native american topics.
2. EXPLORE invitations are being sent to the community tomorrow. This is the fee based summer program with both scholarships and transportation available.
3. Updates on SMILE enrollment to date and confirmation that the program's EXPLORE component serves as its enrichment and social component were among the questions posed by the Committee.
4. The English Language Development Team was awarded funding through a grant received by Title 3 Consortium to bring Jennifer DeLeon to present a talk on race and belonging. This is held in conjunction with the Lincoln and Concord Carlisle communities who also belong to the consortium.
5. Questions from the Committee included where the event will be held.
6. Ms. Swain shared that she will be attending the Washington, DC trip and offered her thanks to Ms. Egizio and the Curtis Staff who are chaperoning the trip.

- iv. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. Mr. Crozier thanked the community for their support with the passing of the override.
 - 2. Mr. Crozier gave an update on the Governor's supplemental budget which includes monies earmarked to go back to school districts for relief with the unexpected out of district percentage increase.
 - 3. The Committee's questions and concerns included how the cash would be distributed to Sudbury Public Schools following Town Meeting, particularly in the absence of a direct distribution method.
 - 4. He shared that fourth graders are headed to Boundless Adventures as part of their 4E program and their displayed work will be available at the end of May. Tiles that eighth graders have created are being installed at Curtis Middle School.
 - 5. Lastly, Mr. Crozier proposed a School Committee Workshop to be held in Boston at METCO Headquarters to learn more about the METCO history as well as an opportunity to interact with Boston families. The Committee was in agreement to look at dates and times in May.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. Acceptance of Gifts

i. Loring PTO Gift of Active Board

- 1. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to accept a gift of 3 Active Boards from the Loring PTO, valued at \$13,899.00 with gratitude. 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 Nerssessionian: Aye

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

ii. Nixon PTO Gift of Art Mural

- 1. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to accept a gift of art mosaics on 2 building panels from the Nixon PTO, valued at \$14,400.00 with gratitude. 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 Nerssessionian: Aye

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

iii. Noyes PTO Gift of Clever Touches

1. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to accept a gift of 7 Touchview Interactive displays from the Noyes PTO, valued at \$32,431.00 with gratitude.

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.

b. Finance Committee Discussion and Request

i. Warrant Article - Bus Revolving Fund

ii. Finance Committee Report and Deliberation on SPS Articles

1. Chair Nerssessionian provided the Committee with an update on the rationale for why the Finance Committee is asking SPS to consider increasing the spending limit on the bus revolving fund and shared their question on how the Committee plans to spend down the balance on that account.

2. Mr. Sawyer explained to the Committee how the balance was created which includes non-use of buses during the pandemic as well as Collaboratives that refunded districts as they weren't able to provide out of district transportation.

3. The Committee asked clarifying questions confirming that although we received refunds from out of district busing, we are now sourcing out some of those services at a higher rate.

4. Mr. Sawyer shared the proposed plans for spending down the account which include unknown and unexpected expenses as the pandemic concludes.

5. Questions from the Committee included whether we have been provided guidance from the town on carrying this money over.

6. After much discussion and reflection, the Committee decided not to move forward with increasing the Bus Revolving Warrant Article.

c. Liaison Reports

i. Chair Nerssessionian is working with both Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School to schedule a joint meeting with legislators.

d. Minutes (3/6/23)

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee open session meeting minutes from the March 6, 2023 meeting 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 Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

- 6. Adjournment

- a. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 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 April 10, 2023 School Committee Meeting

- 1. SchoolChoice_ProofofPublication
- 2. SchoolChoice_JFBB-1
- 3. S. C. Meeting 4_10_2023
- 4. Loring PTO - Active Board Gift Donation
- 5. Nixon School - Art Mural, Plan A, Plan B, Plan C
- 6. Noyes Interactive Display Request
- 7. SPS Bus Revolving Warrant_Signed
- 8. Berry_BusRevolvingFundEmail
- 9. Finance Committee Warrant Report
- 10. 030623_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT