

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 5, 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
Betsy Grams, Wellness & SEL Coordinator
Stephanie Juriansz, Director of Student Services
Terry Miller, Guidance Counselor
Michelle Savage, Grade 3 Teacher
Ellen Vedora, 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 and and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.
2. Public Comment
 - a. Jackie Harder, 201 Union Avenue; Pamela Meneses, 18 Greenhill Road; Lauren Papa, 33 Kay Street; Ken Papa, 17 Wright Road and Kirstin Garabedian, 28 Brooks Road, all Loring parents and community members spoke to their concerns about class sizes for the rising 4th grade students at Loring Elementary School.

Sarah Troiano joined the meeting.

3. Special Matters

- a. SEL Update (Betsy Grams, Stephanie Juriansz, Terry Miller, Michelle Savage)
 - i. An end of the year update was given to the Committee on the progress made with SEL initiatives in the District. Highlights included the January teacher professional day, which was facilitated by Safe Schools and centered on SEL training.
 - ii. Additionally, Connectedness Surveys at the elementary and middle schools were reviewed, Threat Assessment Protocol Guidelines were reviewed, an update was given on depression and suicide screening at the middle school and mental health resources were shared.
 - iii. Comments from the Committee were complimentary. They asked clarifying questions surrounding what the district expectation is to ensure that all students benefit from SEL daily practices; are there SEL mentor teachers at all levels and whether there is a chance for families to share potential concerns related to the connectedness survey. The transition plan for students entering sixth grade and the plan for students still in need of instruction despite growth in competencies were also clarified.

- b. Equity Audit Update (Brad Crozier, Kim Swain)
 - i. Superintendent Crozier and Ms. Swain shared a presentation with the Committee on what changes in practice have been made in response to the equity audit recommendations. The presentation outlined the suggested recommendations and action steps SPS has taken.
 - ii. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded how the decision was made not to include multilingual services at the middle school and are there outside programs that we can refer families to?
 - iii. The Committee shared their appreciation to Superintendent Crozier and Ms. Swain for providing specific examples of the work SPS has done in response to the audit recommendations and are pleased to see the continued progress made by the work being done.

4. Educational and Operational Matters

- a. District Reports
 - i. SEA Report (Ellen Vedora)
 - 1. Ms. Vedora acknowledged and congratulated the following staff members on their retirements: Robin Generoso, Suzanne Foley, Audrey Swennes, Dawn Mosby, Rebecca Howard, Christine Flagg and Betsy Allen.
 - 2. She then provided an update on student activities, including fifth graders' visits to Curtis Middle School and LSRHS seniors' yearly visits to the elementary schools for Alumni Day and Senior Service Days. Chick Fests were celebrated by kindergarteners. Students in the sixth and seventh grades went to Canobie Lake Park, and eighth graders participated in an end-of-year social as well as their

moving on ceremonies. Other recent events included the Noyes School Wide Art Show, Field Days, Fun Runs, and volleyball competitions.

ii. Director of Business and Human Resources Report

1. Mr. Sawyer informed the Committee that he will be prepared to share an update on closing the FY23 budget and opening the FY24 budget at the next School Committee meeting.

iii. Assistant Superintendent Report

1. Ms. Swain reported that the 4 Energy Expos at each school have concluded and thanked the fourth and eighth grade teachers as well as Holly Estes and Danny Garrigan-Byerly for all their work in putting the program together.
2. BioBuddies begins soon where first graders travel to the middle school to work with sixth graders on ecosystems and habitats.
3. She congratulated eighth grade students who were selected to showcase their Civic Action Projects at Clark University and in closing shared that she is excited about the upcoming visit to METCO, Inc. for a tour of their exhibition space and a METCO end of year family picnic.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Crozier shared a brief update acknowledging celebratory end of year events as well as planning for the next school year including an update on interviews for new staff, capital planning projects as well as enrollment.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. Superintendent Goals 2023 - 2024

- i. Superintendent Crozier shared that in planning for his goals, he works in collaboration with his administrative teams and feedback from listening sessions he has with each school. He then presented to the Committee his ideas for proposed goals in Professional Practice, District Goal and Student Achievement. He also shared his proposed goals for selected DESE Standards.
- ii. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded whether there are more capital programs to come in FY24 and additional clarification on the professional practice goal.

b. School Committee Goals 2023 - 2024

- i. Chair Nersessian reviewed the current School Committee and Superintendent goals. The Committee then engaged in discussion around potential goals including policy, capital and student achievement.

The Committee was in agreement that next steps are to draft more specific goals.

Meredith Gerson left the meeting.

- c. School Committee At-A-Glance Newsletter
 - i. Sarah Troiano moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee At-A-Glance Newsletter for June 2023 as amended. Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.
 - ii. The Committee reviewed the newsletter and discussed when the newsletter will be sent to families.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - b. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.
- d. Tri-District Legislative Forum Planning
 - i. Chair Nerssessionian confirmed that the Tri-District meeting is confirmed for June 14th. The Committee discussed what the agenda will include with suggestions on a discussion surrounding the topics covered at the legislative breakfast and what legislative priorities are that might impact the district. An update on transportation and the universal lunch program were also suggested.
- e. Liaison Reports
 - i. Chair Nerssessionian shared that FinCom is meeting tonight and she will share an update once she has one. The Curtis Outdoor Wellness Structure is moving along and a more detailed update is forthcoming.
- f. Minutes (5/8/23)
 - i. Sarah Troiano moved to approve the open session meeting minutes from the May 8, 2023 meeting as presented / amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - b. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.

6. Adjournment

- a. Chair Nerssessionian moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m. Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.

- i. ROLL CALL VOTE

1. Nicole Burnard: 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 June 5, 2023 School Committee Meeting

1. SEL Update_6.5.23 School Committee
2. SC Equity Report June 2023
3. SC and Superintendent Goals 2022 2023
4. Final June 2023 At-A-Glance
5. 050823_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT