

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2023
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Kim Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources

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. Special Matters
 - a. Introduction of Bryant Amitrano, Principal, Josiah Haynes School
 - i. After Superintendent Crozier welcomed Bryant to the Committee, he gave an overview of his background and what he has been working on since he started on July 1st. This included an update on hiring and community engagement with the Haymes families.
 - ii. The Committee together welcomed Bryant to the District.

3. Public Comment
 - a. None

4. Educational and Operational Matters
 - a. District Reports
 - i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report
 1. Bus routes are primarily completed and will be published soon.
Bus passes are also completed and being sent out to families.

2. Human Resources has on boarded 69 staff members to date with a few left that are in progress.
3. The FY24 budget is being rebalanced to reflect all new hires and student enrollment updates.
4. Questions from the Committee included bus driver shortages and whether that is affecting our district.

ii. Assistant Superintendent Report

1. In preparation for staff to return, continuing work on Professional Development is being refined. At the middle school, grading practices and helping students set learning goals is a priority and the elementary schools are focusing on Keys to Literacy reading practices as well as de-escalation training.
2. A new IEP process is being rolled out by DESE.
3. An overview of what is covered at new hire orientation was provided and a thanks to both Liz Kerrigan and Rebecca Amaral was shared for all their work in managing and supporting the teacher mentor program.

iii. Superintendent's Report

1. Staffing for 2023-2024

- a. All classroom positions have been filled. There are still four certified positions in the student services department that are open with interviewing ongoing. Several para-professional and building sub positions are still open and being actively recruited for. In order to help fill the voids left by the vacant positions until they are filled, administration is considering the possibility of bringing retired teachers in.
- b. The Committee shared their appreciation for the efforts to ensure students are supported by how the administration is trying to fill the positions still available.
- c. An update was provided on the schedule for opening day for staff.
- d. Jeff Mela was congratulated for receiving a grant from DESE for securing funds to purchase pocket charts to hold cell phones during class time in order to be less distracting to students.
- e. Clarifying questions from the committee surrounded whether the purchase of pocket charts relates to the DESE suggested guidance.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. FY23 End of Year Budget Review

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian made a motion to approve the recommended transfers for the close of FY23 as presented. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.
 - ii. Clarifying comments from the Committee included a line item missing from the budget which is the \$80,000 approved at Town Meeting that is specific to schools and the desire for that to be discussed at an upcoming meeting.
 - 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.
- b. Fall Town Meeting Planning and Warrants
- i. Chair Nerssessian shared that the Select Board voted to close the warrant during the August 29th meeting. October 23rd is the tentative date for the Fall Town Meeting.
 - ii. Superintendent Crozier confirmed that after speaking with Town Manager, Andy Sheehan, any capital items should run through the typical process. A potential item for SPS consideration includes HVAC work slated for FY25 as well as design for roof replacement which, if approved, will help position SPS to apply for the accelerated MSBA program. Another article for consideration is the increase in Chapter 70 funds as well as pothole monies and how SPS can receive those funds.
 - iii. The School Committee expressed support for the warrant ideas and the reasons why these articles would be beneficial financially. In addition, it was agreed mutually that the School Committee would not want to proceed with calling a special town meeting just for the schools.
 - iv. A proposed meeting date of August 25 has been suggested to vote on the warrant articles to be submitted.
- c. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission
- i. No further action required by the Committee.
- d. Liaison Reports
- i. Chair Nerssessian shared that documents have gone out for the Curtis Outdoor Wellness Structure and the plan is to award a contracting bid for site work on September 5, 2023.
 - ii. Chair Nerssessian will be participating in a Peer District Roundtable on September 15th.
 - iii. The Finance Committee is suggesting a potential meeting with the School Committee. Goals and objectives for the meeting are being established.

- e. Minutes (June 26, 2023 and July 17, 2023)
 - i. Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee open session meeting minutes from the June 26, 2023 and July 17, 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 Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

6. Adjournment

- a. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 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 August 21, 2023 School Committee Meeting

- 1. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 081623
- 2. 062623_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT
- 3. 071723_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT