

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2023
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director
Stephanie Juriansz, Director of Student Services
Erin Kehew, SEA Representative
Jeff Lappin, Assistant Director of Student Services
Annya Pedreschi, Special Education Administrator

Regular Session Meeting

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

1. Opening Statement / Regular Session
 - a. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian 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 Silvia Nerssessionian all affirmed in the positive.

2. Public Comment
 - a. None

Sarah Troiano joined the meeting.

3. Special Matters
 - a. Student Services Presentation (Stephanie Juriansz, Jeff Lappin and Annya Pedreschi)
 - i. The yearly update on Student Services was given to the School Committee by Stephanie Juriansz, Jeff Lappin and Annya Pedreschi. Their presentation covered the responsibilities of the Student Services Department as well as services and resources provided by the department.
 - ii. Updates were given on enrollment trends, student needs, program adjustments, staffing and transportation challenges. A status report on the new IEP overview and timetable, as well as the extended school year program, was also given.
 - iii. Clarifying questions from the committee surrounded mental health trends and supports, universal screening, staffing shortages, additional access to

Pre-K programming, out of district placements and clarity on communication with staff and families.

- b. 2023 MCAS Report (Kim Swain)
 - i. Assistant Superintendent, Kim Swain, provided the Committee with the MCAS results from the Spring of 2023.
 - ii. Questions from the Committee included clarification on growth in data with interventions and supports that have been added, plans to address challenge areas identified, ELA development in the lower grades, a better understanding of fractions, student growth range, math curriculum supports and trends in regular assessments.

- 4. Educational and Operational Matters
 - a. SEA Report (Erin Kehew)
 - i. With National Educational Support Professionals Day being held on November 15th, Ms. Kehew took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of the support professionals throughout the district. She celebrated their different roles and the impacts they have on both staff and students.

 - b. District Reports
 - i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report
 - 1. Mr. Sawyer shared that the federal government is again providing free COVID tests.
 - 2. On December 5th, Mr. Sawyer and Superintendent Crozier will be attending the Finance Committee Budget Meeting to address budget pressures as they begin to prepare for the FY25 budget.
 - 3. The MSBA Board of Directors met and voted to have an accelerated repair program. They will begin accepting statements of interest on January 1, 2024.
 - 4. Questions from the Committee included clarification on the timeline and specifics of the MSBA program.

 - ii. Assistant Superintendent Report
 - 1. Assistant Superintendent Swain shared that Kristin Moffat and the mental health team from Peter Noyes School received a grant from the SEA Resource Fund for three-dimensional figurines to help identify different expressions and Amy Stout from the Loring School received a grant for decodable readers.
 - 2. She also shared that she and Leslie Smart attended a recent METCO showcase to meet prospective METCO families.
 - 3. She then thanked Sarah Harvey and David Gaita from the Loring School for their participation in the Loring Intervention Night and shared that the Nixon Cultural Night was recently celebrated showcasing traditions, food and artifacts from different countries.

 - iii. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. Superintendent Crozier shared that the Sudbury Food Pantries last collection was the second-highest in the last four years.
 - 2. Mr. Cozier and Mandy Sim recently attended an MASC Conference. They participated in workshops on Chapter 70,

overcoming staff shortages, and special education law. Darnisa Amante-Jackson and Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler were among the keynote speakers.

3. He also recently attended the Massachusetts Partnership for Youth Safety in Schools Conference which focused on safety in schools including squatting and threat incidents.
 - a. 2024-2025 School Calendar Updates
 - i. The FY25 School Calendar is now updated with the changes previously discussed. In addition, ILAP and open house dates have been added.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. FY25 Budget Discussions

i. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

1. Mr. Crozier presented to the School Committee the annual NESDEC enrollment projections which include school by school numbers.
2. Questions from the Committee surrounded the reliability of the individual data and trends including new housing in the community.

ii. School Committee FY25 Budget Priorities

1. As the budget planning process for the FY25 school year gets underway, Chair Nerssessionian announced that this is the chance to offer input on the budget priorities of the School Committee.
2. School Committee members then discussed their priorities which include experience-based learning, Pre-K expansion, summer programming, staffing assistance for ESL and mental health, a science curriculum review and recovery response supports.

b. Capital Projects Updates and Planning

- i. Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, provided an update to the Committee on prior year capital requests.
- ii. Questions from the Committee surrounded the timeline for the HVAC project completion and clarification on the delay in bid documents for the FY23 AV projects.
- iii. Ms. Duran then reviewed FY25 capital projects including carpet replacement, interior door replacements and paging clocks and bells. She also reviewed and provided an explanation on projects that are currently deferred pending completion of the Town Facilities Assessment Study. Clarity regarding interior cameras was also discussed.
- iv. Questions from the Committee surrounded concerns with the Haynes dehumidification control project and clarification on small capital projects including carpets replacement and switchgear wiring replacements.

c. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission

- i. No further action required by the Committee.

d. Future Agenda Items

- i. None

6. Adjournment
 - a. Chair Silvia Nersessian moves to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 p.m. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 4. Mandy Sim: Aye
 5. Silvia Nersessian: Aye
 - a. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the November 20, 2023 School Committee Meeting

1. FY24 Fall update SC 11_20_23
2. FINAL of MCAS 2023
3. FINAL 2023 MCAS Overview and Trends
4. 2024-2025 School Calendar_FINAL
5. 23SudburyMA
6. 23SudburyMA SBS
7. FY25 Capital Requests
8. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 111523