

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2024
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Silvia Nerssessian, 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
Stephanie Cohen Mongeon, SEA Representative

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. Public Comment
 - a. None
3. Educational and Operational Matters
 - a. SEA Report (Stephanie Cohen Mongeon)
 - i. Ms. Cohen Mongeon gave examples of how educators go above and beyond their regular duties to help enrich student learning including participation in developing curriculum and participating in various steering committees.
 - b. District Reports
 - i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report
 1. Mr. Sawyer shared that he has provided the Finance Committee with the necessary documents needed before their hearings.
 2. Capital Night is scheduled for February 12th. This is a joint meeting with the CIAC, Finance Committee and Select Board. They will be reviewing Capital Articles including classroom technology equipment retrofits and dehumidification modifications at Haynes School.
 3. The Finance Committee Budget Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th.
 4. Questions from the Committee surrounded submission of the Budget Book and forecast reports.

- ii. Assistant Superintendent Report
 - 1. Ms. Swain shared that SMILE invitations have been sent to families. There are currently 89 families who have accepted to date. Posting for SMILE staff will begin the week before February break.
 - 2. SPS was awarded a grant from the Boston Bridges Initiative for \$5,000 written by Leslie Smart.
 - 3. A future cultural gathering called Harmony and Spice is being planned to bring families together from Boston and Sudbury. There will be food and dancing honoring various cultural influences.
- iii. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. The Tri-County Superintendents Legislative Breakfast has been scheduled for March 28th at 9:00 a.m.
 - 2. Questions from the Committee included clarification on whether there are specific bills they are bringing forward or are there specific issues that will be discussed.

4. Business and Policy Matters

a. FY25 Budget Book

- i. The FY25 Budget Book was reviewed by the Committee. Once complete, this will be submitted to the Finance Committee.
- ii. Minor formatting and edits were suggested.
- iii. The Committee shared their support of the book and appreciated the transparency with financial data. Questions surrounded the distribution plan and how it can be shared more widely.

b. MSBA Statement of Interest Timeline and Requirements

- i. Superintendent Crozier shared the timeline and requirements to submit a Statement of Interest. The deadline to submit is March 1st. Permissions have been set up in order to have multiple staff be able to submit.
- ii. After discussion with Town Manager, Andy Sheehan, it was recommended that SPS submit a Statement of Interest for both the Haynes and Nixon roofs for consideration by the MSBA.
- iii. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded the schematic design funding.
- iv. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 1, 2024, for the Josiah Haynes (located at 169 Haynes Road) and General John Nixon Schools (located at 472 Concord Road) in Sudbury which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Category 5 - Replacement of school facility systems, specifically the roofs, due to poor condition and age; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the

Sudbury Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. 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.

c. ACCEPT Collaborative Q2 Report

- i. The ACCEPT Annual Report is coming soon. Highlights of the Q2 report was that they showed a net profit showing the Collaborative is positioned well and stable.
- ii. Questions from the Committee surrounded contracted services availability.

d. Haynes PTO Gift, School Supplies

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve a donation to the Haynes School in the amount of \$400 to purchase general school supplies with gratitude. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson
- b. Nicole Burnard
- c. Mandy Sim
- d. Sarah Troiano
- e. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

e. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission

- i. No further action required by the Committee.

f. Future Agenda Items

- i. Request for Afterschool Care Discussion
 - 1. The Committee received a request to discuss after school care. The Committee then engaged in discussion sharing their concerns that this topic does not generally fall under the School Committee's authority. The Committee recognized the legitimacy of the concerns but were in agreement that this is not the appropriate venue to proceed.

g. Tri-District Meeting Planning

- i. The Committee discussed what agenda items to consider for the Tri-District meeting including Professional Development opportunities, student achievement and experience. The Committee agreed to send additional topics to Julie Williams for consideration.

h. Liaison Reports

- i. The Legislative Forum is planned for the first meeting in March. Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Carmine Gentile will be in attendance.

- i. Minutes (12/11/23, 12/18/23 and 12/21/23)
 - i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the open session meeting minutes from the December 11, December 18 and December 21, 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. Executive Session
- Motion and vote to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes:
- a. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining or litigation with the Sudbury Education Association and the Nurses' Union, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and not to return to Open Session.
 - i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purpose. Purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining or litigation with the Sudbury Education Association and the Nurses' Union, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and not to return to Open Session. 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.
 - ii. Chair Silvia Nerssessian confirmed that the Committee will enter into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purpose. Purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining or litigation with the Sudbury Education Association and the Nurses' Union, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and not to return to Open Session.

6. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the February 5, 2024 School Committee Meeting

1. **FY25 Budget Book_2_5**
2. **Bod Quarter Two 23-24**
3. **Haynes Donation Jan 2024**
4. **SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 020524**
5. **121123_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT**
6. **121823_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT**
7. **122123_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT**