

Sudbury School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2024  
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  
Stefanie Burrell, SEA Representative

**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, Sarah Troiano and Silvia Nerssessionian all affirmed in the positive.
2. Public Comment
  - a. Jaime Budzienski, resident of Sudbury, shared her concerns over classroom traditions being removed from school events.
  - b. Ashley Makridakis, resident of Sudbury, shared her concerns with classroom celebration alterations.
  - c. Jess Noble, resident of Sudbury, shared her concerns with where the line is drawn with equity within the classroom and the current condition of the Loring playground not being functional.
  - d. Lara Urso, resident of Sudbury, also shared her concerns about classroom celebration changes.
  - e. Rich Thalmann, resident of Sudbury, shared his concerns over how DEI can have dramatic impacts on students.
3. Educational and Operational Matters
  - a. SEA Report (Stefanie Burrell)
    - i. Ms. Burrell shared new ways on how literacy instruction is provided and how teachers are working collaboratively to target instruction based on meeting student needs. She gave examples of different programs by grade level.
  - b. District Reports
    - i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report

1. Mr. Sawyer shared that the Transportation Department is working with the Sudbury Police and Department of Public Works on flooded roads and road closures that impact buses. All three departments are working collaboratively to find safe alternatives to those families affected by the road closures.
  - ii. Assistant Superintendent Report
    1. Ms. Swain shared an update on the upcoming Professional Development day. This will include elementary staff working on Keys to Literacy. Special Ed will learn more about the new IEP process. The Sudbury Department of Health will be training nurses on how to administer Narcan. Teachers at the middle school will provide examples of effective teaching techniques and lastly, outside experts will provide training sessions on mental health.
    2. Teacher recommendations for the SMILE summer programs are being reviewed and will be announced soon.
    3. Dr. Elizabeth Clark and Melinda O'Neil from the Peter Noyes School were awarded a SERF Grant for the Making Good Choices book series.
    4. The Committee sought clarification on where the book series will be housed.
  - iii. Superintendent's Report
    1. Superintendent Crozier shared that the annual Bus Driver and Crossing Guard Appreciation Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th. Students at each school will make cards and volunteers will bring in food for the celebration.
    2. He recently attended an online workshop from MSBA to learn about the process for submitting a statement of interest for roof replacement over the next few years. A future vote by the School Committee will be necessary to allow Superintendent Crozier to file the statement of interest. In addition, he recently met with Town Manager, Andy Sheehan, to discuss the possibility of applying for two roof projects.
    3. The Committee discussed the possibility of adding an additional meeting in February if needed for the MSBA Statement of Interest submission.
    4. He then shared that unified games at Curtis will be moving forward with the creation of a unified basketball team.
4. Business and Policy Matters
- a. Superintendent Mid-Year Goal Report
    - i. Superintendent Crozier reviewed his goals and summarized the progression to date so far.
    - ii. The Committee asked clarifying questions pertaining to SEL self regulation and shared that they appreciated the emphasis on advancing curriculum in ELA and literacy.
  - b. Town Meeting Warrant Articles

- i. The Committee reviewed the warrant articles now that town counsel has reviewed them and minor article language changes have been made.
  - ii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the FY25 Warrant Article for the Haynes Elementary School Dehumidification HVAC 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.
  - iii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the FY25 Warrant Article for School Classroom Instructional Equipment Replacement. 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.
  - iv. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the FY25 Warrant Article Sudbury Public Schools Instrumental Music Revolving Fund 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.
- c. FY24 Q2 Budget Report
    - i. Mr. Sawyer summarized the year to date budget through December, 2023 as well as the forecasted recommended budget transfers.
    - ii. Questions on line item transfers and how they compare to the past as well as Professional Development allocations were asked by the Committee.
    - iii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Q2 FY24 budget transfers as presented. 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.
  - d. Review SPS Town Annual Report
    - i. SPS submits an Annual Town Report which reflects prior years accomplishments.

- ii. Questions from the Committee included how to make this report more visible to the community.
- iii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the SPS Town Annual Report as amended. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
    - b. Mandy Sim: Aye
    - c. Nicole Burnard: Aye
    - d. Sarah Troiano: Aye
    - 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. The Tri-District meeting is being planned and Chair Nerssessian shared that there would be further discussion during the next meeting.

- g. Liaison Reports

- i. The Budget Hearing with the Finance Committee and Capital Night with CIAC, Select Board and Finance Committee are both upcoming.

- h. Minutes (12/4/23 and 12/7/23)

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee open session meeting minutes from the December 4, 2023 and December 7, 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. Adjournment

- a. Chair Silvia Nerssessian moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 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 Nerssessian: Aye
    - a. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie Williams  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

**Documents Reviewed During the January 22, 2024 School Committee Meeting**

1. BC\_Mid-YearEval\_012224
2. FY25 Warrant Article\_Haynes Dehumidification\_Town Counsel Rec
3. FY25 Warrant Article\_Classroom Instructional Equipment Replacement\_Town Counsel Rec
4. FY25 SPS Instrumental Music rev fund Warrant Article\_240103
5. FY25 SPS Bus Rev. Fund Warrant Article\_240103
6. Memo\_SC\_FY24 Q2 Budget Forecast\_240119
7. SPS Town Report 2023
8. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 011724
9. 120423\_Sudbury School Committee Minutes\_DRAFT
10. 120723\_Sudbury School Committee Minutes\_DRAFT