

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2024
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Absent: Sarah Troiano

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Gary Grasse, 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, and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.
2. Special Matters
 - a. Legislative Forum, Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Carmine Gentile
 - i. Introductions
 - ii. Updates on initiatives that have been implemented in this past year that specifically impact the students in Sudbury Public Schools
 - iii. Initiatives / budget items / Bills for upcoming year that specifically will impact the students in Sudbury Public Schools
 - iv. Q & A from Members
 1. Representative Gentile's updates included the Governor's budget which was released in January, the Student Opportunity Act, METCO funding, special education costs (including circuit breaker funds), funding for universal school meals, and information about an MCAS ballot initiative aimed at doing away with the MCAS graduation requirement. He then spoke about educational legislation currently under review focusing on literacy initiatives, student dress codes and educator diversity.
 2. Senator Eldridge spoke to the potential of an increase in minimum per students costs and also referenced the increase in special ed circuit breaker.
 3. Questions from the Committee surrounded the literacy launch, advocacy for the METCO program budget and clarity on the circuit breaker reimbursement percentage.

3. Public Comment

- a. None

4. Educational and Operational Matters

a. SEA Report (Gary Grassey)

- i. Mr. Grassey updated the Committee on the events and activities that middle school students have been involved in recently. These activities include a visit to the John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse, civic action projects are underway, participation by Model UN club members in the 27th Annual Conference, 30 students taking part in workshops under the playbook initiative, and a Peer Partnering program has been established to ensure all students can participate in unified physical education.

b. District Reports

i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report

1. Mr. Sawyer recently attended a Finance Committee Budget Hearing where he provided information requested by the Finance Committee and addressed any concerns they shared.
2. Christine Boyd, who oversees the school lunch program, applied for and received a grant for \$20,000.00 which will go towards a new dishwasher at Curtis Middle School.
3. Bus registration is scheduled to open on Monday, April 1 and will close mid-May.

ii. Assistant Superintendent Report

1. Ms. Swain shared that Keys to Literacy trainers will be visiting schools on March 7th and 8th.
2. SMILE and Explore registrations continue to come in. Currently there are 209 students enrolled in the SMILE summer program and 128 in the Explore summer program.
3. Questions from the Committee surrounded the remaining openings for the summer programs.

iii. Superintendent's Report

1. MSBA, Statement of Interest Update

- a. Superintendent Crozier reported that SPS had, by the deadline of March 1st, submitted Statements of Interest for the Haynes and Nixon roofs.
- b. The second semester at Curtis Middle School has ended and Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled during early release days in the month of March.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. Review and Vote on Naloxone Policy for Nurses (Carol Bradford, Lead Nurse)

- i. In collaboration with the Sudbury Board of Health and the Sudbury Police Department, Ms. Bradford, introduced the new policy for the administration of Naloxone.
- ii. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded the notification of families if treatment is provided and how often is training necessary.
- iii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Naloxone (Narcan) health policy procedure for its use in Sudbury Public Schools as amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Nicole Burnard: Aye
- c. Mandy Sim: Aye
- d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
- i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.

b. Review and Vote on Student Opportunity Act Submission

- i. Assistant Superintendent Swain reviewed the submission and the procedure for submission with the Committee. The focus of this entry is on Tier 1 evidence based curriculum.
- ii. Questions from the Committee surrounded steering committees and what types of responsibilities they will have.
- iii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Student Opportunity Act Submission as amended. Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Nicole Burnard: Aye
- c. Mandy Sim: Aye
- d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
- i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.

c. Boston Bridges Initiative Grant Award

- i. This grant is being provided to support the upcoming Harmony and Spice event.
- ii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to accept a \$5,000.00 grant from the Boston Bridges Initiative to fund the Harmony and Spice celebratory event with gratitude. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Nicole Burnard: Aye
- c. Mandy Sim: Aye
- d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
- i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.

d. Recommendation on Student Fees for FY25

- i. Director of Business and Human Resources, Don Sawyer, reviewed his recommendations on student fees for Bus Transportation, Facility Use, Instrumental Music Lessons, Athletic and Extracurricular Activities. He is not recommending an increase in any fees for FY25.
- ii. He did recommend that PK tuition fees be discussed in a future meeting.
- iii. Clarifying questions surrounded whether other districts are still seeing an upward trend when renewing their bus contracts and suggestions were made to consider a partial increase in bus fees before a larger increase comes with a bus contract renewal.
- iv. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the SPS FY25 Fee Recommendations as amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Nicole Burnard: Aye
- c. Mandy Sim: Aye

- d. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.

- e. Future Agenda Items

- i. Chair Nerssessionian will be contacting MASC regarding the School Committee's upcoming self evaluation.
- ii. The March 18th School Committee Meeting will be held in Boston.
- iii. The Committee is planning for the April 8th and April 29th meetings to be in person.
- iv. The School Committee meeting calendar for FY25 will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

- f. Liaison Reports

- i. None

- g. Minutes (01/08/24, 01/22/24 and 02/05/24)

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee open session meeting minutes from the January 8th, January 22nd and February 5th, 2024 meetings as amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Nicole Burnard: Aye
- c. Mandy Sim: Aye
- d. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.

6. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the March 4, 2024 School Committee Meeting

1. Administration of Naloxone Policy_Protocol Feb 15 2024.docx
2. SOA 2024 for SC
3. BBI Grant Award Letter 2024 Sudbury METCO.docx
4. Memo_SC_FY25 FeeRecommendation_240301
5. 010824_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT
6. 012224_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT
7. 020524_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT