

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2024

Members Present:

Nicole Burnard, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Karyn Jones
Mandy Sim
Mary Stephens

Also Present:

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

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Nicole Burnard opened the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

1. Superintendent and Director of Business and Human Resources to attend Finance Committee Meeting for FY26 Budget Pressures
2. Opening Statement / Regular Session
Chair Nicole Burnard 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, Mandy Sim, Karyn Jones, Mary Stephens and Nicole Burnard all affirmed in the positive.
3. Public Comment
 - a. Sarah Clark, Sudbury resident, shared her concerns about the ways agendas are written and the decision to cut classes from Peter Noyes School without understanding the reasons for the changes and potential impacts.
4. Business and Policy Matters
 - a. FY26 Budget Workshop and Review
 - i. Because member Mandy Sim was not present at the last meeting, she took the opportunity to share her feedback on budget priorities. This includes holding off on bringing the Kindergarten TA's into the budget and sharing her support for the proposed budget Superintendent Crozier presented. She suggests considering the use of free cash to go towards technology expenses and to support the ELA curriculum.
 - ii. The Committee engaged in discussion around Kindergarten Teacher Assistants, curriculum funding, the addition of an Assistant Principal as a Tier 1 initiative and class sizes.
 - iii. The discussion related to Kindergarten Teacher Assistants surrounded their schedules, the curriculum covered during their shifts and their level of involvement

in supporting it. This will be treated as a tiered initiative with further data and information to determine its priority after the operating budget is approved.

- iv. The Committee then focused their discussion around curriculum funding. They agreed to support the ELA curriculum and technology equipment through a town warrant article. Questions were raised about middle school math plans and future priorities, as well as the rollout timeline for ELA. Concerns were also noted about the potential impact if funding through a town warrant does not pass.
- v. Adding an additional Assistant Principal as a Tier 1 initiative was advocated for by the administrative team. The Committee requested data to justify the need for this position in terms of staff and student impact. Assistant Superintendent Doyle highlighted challenges with part-time Assistant Principals, including delays in investigations and difficulties building connections with staff and students. Questions were raised about whether there have been capacity issues in completing teacher evaluations.
- vi. The Committee also reviewed concerns about class sizes. Superintendent Crozier explained the criteria for adding staff when class sizes exceed guidelines. Questions were raised about the impacted grade levels, the extent of classes over guidance, whether the current overages are primarily at the elementary level or concentrated in specific schools and whether class size guidelines should be reviewed. Additionally, data was suggested to examine trends, such as MCAS scores, in relation to classes that exceed the guidelines.
- vii. The Committee agreed that class sizes should be treated as a tiered initiative rather than being added directly to the operational budget, with a request for additional data. A discussion followed on how best to prioritize items for the budget.

b. METCO REI Grant Approval

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the METCO REI Implementation Grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 with gratitude. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
- ii. Superintendent Crozier shared his thanks to Leslie Smart for writing the grant and confirmed that the funds will support ongoing efforts towards equity and DEI initiatives.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Mandy Sim: Aye
- c. Karyn Jones: Aye
- d. Mary Stephens: Aye
- e. Nicole Burnard: Aye
- i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.

c. MSBA Acknowledgement Form

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to authorize Nicole Burnard, Chair of the Sudbury Public School Committee to sign the MSBA acknowledgement form. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye

- b. Mandy Sim: Aye
- c. Karyn Jones: Aye
- d. Mary Stephens: Aye
- e. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.

d. EPA Grant Acknowledgement Form

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to authorize Nicole Burnard, Chair of the Sudbury Public School Committee to sign the EPA Grant Acknowledgement Forms. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
- ii. Superintendent Crozier shared that this is a non-binding acknowledgement letter which allows SPS to take the next step in the grant process.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Mandy Sim: Aye
- c. Karyn Jones: Aye
- d. Mary Stephens: Aye
- e. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.

e. Minutes (11/4/24)

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee open session meeting minutes from November 4, 2024 as amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
- ii. Recommended edits were suggested and approved by the Committee.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Mandy Sim: Aye
- c. Karyn Jones: Aye
- d. Mary Stephens: Aye
- e. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.

5. Adjournment

- a. Chair Nicole Burnard moves to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m. Meredith Gerson seconded the motion.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE

- 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- 2. Mandy Sim: Aye
- 3. Karyn Jones: Aye
- 4. Mary Stephens: Aye
- 5. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - a. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the December 9, 2024 School Committee Meeting

1. **SPS_InitialBudgetOverview_26**
2. **METCO REI Grant Award Letter_Sudbury**
3. **MSBA Acknowledgement Form**
4. **CSB 2024 Rebate Board Awareness_Sudbury MA**
5. **CSB 2024 Rebate Third Party Approval_Sudbury MA**
6. **110424_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT**