

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 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
Erin Kehew, SEA Representative
Bryant Amitrano, Haynes School Principal
Sara Harvey, Loring School Principal
Cindy Marchand, Noyes School Interim Principal
Jeff Mela, Curtis Middle School Principal
Susan Woods, Nixon School Principal

Absent:

Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources

Executive Session

Motion and vote to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purpose:

1. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Education Association and the Education Support Professionals Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

Regular Session

Chair Nicole Burnard opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. after having returned from Executive Session.

1. Budget Hearing
 - a. Superintendent's Recommended FY26 Budget
 - i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to open the Sudbury School Committee Budget Hearing on the Superintendent's recommended FY26 budget. Mandy Sim seconded the motion. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.
 - ii. Superintendent Crozier reviewed his recommended FY26 budget highlighting small changes made. He also shared new slides detailing grant allocations, a breakdown of the general fund operating budget, and other funding assumptions.
 - iii. Karyn Jones joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
 - iv. No questions or feedback was provided by the public.
 - v. Chair Nicole Burnard moved to close the budget hearing on the Superintendent's FY26 budget. Mandy Sim seconded the motion. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

2. Public Comment
 - a. Amanda Letts, Sudbury resident, advocated for a gender identity support policy.
3. Educational and Operational Matters
 - a. SEA Report (Erin Kehew)
 - i. Ms. Kehew reported that end-of-unit math and ELA benchmarking is currently in progress and provided an overview of how these assessments are utilized. Schoolwide celebrations include Food Pantry collections, Spirit Days, School Pride Day, Flannel Pride Day, the annual Toys for Tots Drive, and parents volunteering to assist with winter crafts.
 - ii. She expressed her gratitude to Superintendent Crozier, Assistant Superintendent Doyle, and Director of Student Services Stephanie Juriansz for facilitating the listening sessions, emphasizing their value as an opportunity to gather feedback to better address the needs of students and staff.
 - b. District Reports
 - i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report
 1. Mr. Sawyer was absent from the meeting.
 - ii. Assistant Superintendent Report
 1. Mrs. Doyle announced that the new ELA program has been selected with teachers emphasizing how it effectively engaged students. A detailed presentation on the selection process and next steps is scheduled for January 6th.
 2. She thanked Liz Kerrigan and Christopher Lourens for creating the self-paced online parent course related to executive functioning on how to help create routines at home similar to school.
 3. Questions from the Committee surrounded if Principals are going to report on the listening sessions and the concerns shared during them.
 - iii. Superintendent's Report
 1. Superintendent Crozier noted the annual SEA gathering held in December to honor staff who receive their 25 year service awards. He recognized it was especially meaningful as Betsy Joseph and Colby Caravaggio's families joined to receive their awards on their behalf.
 2. The documents have been submitted for the MSBA projects. Next steps include verifying maintenance and facilities conditions.
 3. All documents required for the electric bus grant have been submitted.
 4. The Committee asked questions about the MSBA project related to start up and cost of the design phase.
4. Business and Policy Matters
 - a. Superintendent's Recommended FY26 Budget Workshop
 - i. Bryant Amitrano, Principal, Haynes Elementary School
 - ii. Sara Harvey, Principal, Loring Elementary School
 - iii. Cindy Marchand, Interim Principal Noyes Elementary School

- iv. Susan Woods, Principal, Nixon Elementary School
- v. Jeff Mela, Principal, Curtis Middle School
 - 1. Each Principal addressed budgetary priorities for their respective schools, emphasizing their alignment with student needs. Topics discussed included the Disability Awareness Pilot Program, mental health support initiatives, interventions through instructional and behavioral positions, the implementation of wind block, and the need for an additional Assistant Principal.
 - 2. The Committee's questions focused on various topics, including the Disability Awareness budget, technology grant funding, feedback from listening sessions, the impact of class sizes, mental health resources, and support for academics and Kindergarten Teacher Assistants. Additional clarification was sought on professional development stipends, project-based learning, and the data dashboard.
 - 3. Regarding the Superintendent's FY26 recommended budget, the Committee's questions focused on equity initiatives, the increased cost of summer programming, and special education contracting. The Committee also engaged in further discussion on the importance of the Assistant Principal position and class sizes.

- b. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission
 - i. No further action required by the Committee.

- c. Future Agenda Items
 - i. Mary Stephens moves to include the Student Safety Goal on a future agenda. Karyn Jones seconded the motion. **All in favor.** 5-0. Motion carries.

- d. Minutes (11/25/24)
 - i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the open session meeting minutes from November 24, 2024 as amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
 - ii. Recommended edits were suggested and approved by the Committee.
 - iii. **All in favor.** 5-0. Motion carries.

- 5. Adjournment
 - a. Chair Nicole Burnard moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. Mary Stephens seconded the motion. **All in favor.** 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the December 16, 2024 School Committee Meeting

- 1. Budget Hearing Affidavit of Publication
- 2. FY26 Superintendent Recommended Budget
- 3. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 121624
- 4. 112524_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT