

Sudbury School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 1, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

**Members Present:**

Silvia Nerssessian, Chair  
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair  
Sarah Troiano  
Tyler Steffey

**Members Absent:**

None

**Also Present:**

Brad Crozier, Superintendent  
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent  
Henry Hayes, Town Manager  
Jennifer Roberts, Chair, Sudbury Select Board  
Charles Russo, Vice-Chair, Sudbury Select Board  
Janie Dretler, Member, Sudbury Select Board  
Daniel Carty, Member, Sudbury Select Board  
William Schineller, Member, Sudbury Select Board

**Regular Session Meeting**

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Vote to Open Joint Meeting with Sudbury Select Board
  - 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. Silvia Nerssessian, Meredith Gerson, Sarah Troiano, and Tyler Steffey all affirmed in the positive.
  - a. Meredith Gerson motioned to open the Sudbury School Committee's Joint Meeting with the Sudbury Select Board at 7:00 PM, Sarah Troiano seconded.
    - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
      1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
      2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
      3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
      4. Tyler Steffey: Aye
    - a. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.

- b. William Schineller motioned to open the Select Board's Joint Meeting with the Sudbury School Committee, Charles Russo seconded.
    - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
      - 1. Daniel Carty: Aye
      - 2. Janie Dretler: Aye
      - 3. Charles Russo: Aye
      - 4. William Schineller: Aye
      - 5. Jennifer Roberts: Aye
      - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
2. Welcome and Interview Applicants
- a. Prior to the interviews, School Committee Chair Silvia Nerssessian noted that two candidates had withdrawn their applications, so only one candidate will be interviewed this evening. The remaining candidate is Mandy Sim.
  - b. Ms. Nerssessian then explained how the interviews will be conducted, with Select Board Chair Jennifer Roberts asking the initial interview question, the candidate being allowed a five minute response time, then all nine School Committee and Select Board members being given time for additional questioning afterward.
    - i. The first set of questions posed to Ms. Sim asked her to explain her interest in the role; what relevant experience she possesses and how that will help advance the work of the School Committee; how she views the role of the Committee; and what she hopes to accomplish as a Committee member.
      - 1. To these questions, Ms. Sim began her reply by recounting that she recently dedicated significant time and energy to running for a seat outright; that she has experience running a business that focuses on children; and that she has previously served the community in a variety of other roles. Ms. Sim also discussed her experiences as an early childhood educator and film producer, as well as her various volunteer titles.
      - 2. On the role of the School Committee, Ms. Sims explained that the Committee sets the district's goals and policies, and ensures that each is being followed; that Committee sets the district's budget; and that the Committee hires and evaluates the superintendent. Ms. Sim also mentioned that the Committee is responsible for communicating with the public and acts as the employer in collective bargaining negotiations.
      - 3. Regarding what she hopes to accomplish in the role, Ms. Sim stated her desire to work with the superintendent and other School Committee members to ensure that the needs of every single child in the district are being met.
    - ii. School Committee Chair Silvia Nerssessian asked Ms. Sim how Ms. Sim's experience in communications intersects with community feedback and Ms. Sim's decision-making as a School Committee member.

1. Ms. Sim replied that it is extremely important for Committee members to solicit and listen to any and all feedback, whether it concurs with the member's opinion or not. Ms. Sim then explained how she would model her communications strategy on that already employed by School Committee Member Sarah Troiano.
3. Discuss and Vote to Appoint New School Committee Member in Accordance with School Committee Policy BBBE and M.G.L. 41:11
  - a. Meredith Gerson motioned to appoint Mandy Sim to the Sudbury School Committee for a term ending upon the conclusion of the Town of Sudbury's 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Janie Dretler seconded.
    - i. In discussion following the motion, Ms. Gerson noted Ms. Sim's dedication to, and passion for this role, citing the community support for her candidacy for a School Committee seat. Such sentiments of support and gratitude were then echoed by Ms. Troiano, Ms. Dretler, Mr. Russo, Ms. Roberts, Mr. Schineller, Mr. Carty, and Ms. Nerssessian.
    - ii. ROLL CALL VOTE
      1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
      2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
      3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
      4. Tyler Steffey: Aye
      5. Daniel Carty: Aye
      6. Janie Dretler: Aye
      7. Charles Russo: Aye
      8. William Schineller: Aye
      9. Jennifer Roberts: Aye
      - a. **VOTE: 9-0.** Motion carries.
4. Vote to Close Joint Meeting with the Sudbury Select Board
  - a. Meredith Gerson motioned to close the Sudbury School Committee's Joint Meeting with the Sudbury Select Board, Sarah Troiano seconded.
    - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
      1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
      2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
      3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
      4. Tyler Steffey: Aye
      - a. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.
  - b. Adjournment
    - i. Jennifer Roberts motioned to adjourn the Select Board's Joint Meeting with the Sudbury School Committee, Janie Dretler seconded.
      1. ROLL CALL VOTE
        - a. Daniel Carty: Aye
        - b. Janie Dretler: Aye
        - c. Charles Russo: Aye
        - d. William Schineller: Aye

- e. Jennifer Roberts: Aye
  - i. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries
- ii. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn the Sudbury School Committee meeting at 7:45 PM, Sarah Troiano seconded.
  - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
    - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
    - b. Silvia Nersessian: Aye
    - c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
      - i. **VOTE: 3-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin Dulak

**Documents Reviewed During the July 1, 2021 School Committee Meeting**

1. Trehub Application for Appointment (No Stamp)
2. Trehub Application for Appointment (With Stamp)
3. Cavanaugh Application for Appointment
4. Sim Cover Letter
5. Sim Application for Appointment (No Stamp)
6. Sim Application for Appointment (With Stamp)
7. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 11: Appointment to FIII Vacancy in Town Office
8. School Committee Policy BBBC: School Committee Member Resignation
9. School Committee Policy BBBE: Unexpired Term Fulfillment