

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Silvia Nerssessian, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Maggie Helon
Lisa Kouchakdjian
Sarah Troiano

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Erin Kehew, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

1. Executive 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. Silvia Nerssessian, Meredith Gerson, Sarah Troiano, and Maggie Helon all affirmed in the positive.
- b. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, specifically the Superintendent, as to do so in open session would be detrimental to the District; and to review and approve Executive Session Minutes; and to return to Open Session, Meredith Gerson seconded.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE

1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
2. Maggie Helon: Aye
3. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
4. Sarah Troiano: Aye

a. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.

2. Special Matters

a. Return from Executive Session

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssesian noted that the Committee returned from Executive Session at 7:00 PM. 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. All members present affirmed in the positive.

2. Public Comment

- a. Tom Rogan of 80 Goodnow Road spoke to the Committee regarding his concerns around remote learning plans.
- b. Suzie Kornblum, Director of Sudbury Extended Day, spoke to the Committee regarding Sudbury Extended Day and their successes within the hybrid learning model.

3. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

1. SEA Representative Erin Kehew informed the Committee of collaborations occurring within the district, as well as the positive impact on the change in start time.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the committee on forecasts for end of year, which is up to date through October 31st and assumes a hybrid model through the end of June.
2. Mr. Sawyer reported to the committee that changes were made to Grant 102 to ensure compliance with grant auditing.
3. Mr. Sawyer informed the committee that bus tracking software will be launched the Monday after Thanksgiving.
4. Committee questions centered on forecasting for full remote or full in-person transitions, cost reduction expectations in a full remote scenario, and bus tracking software launch timeline.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain updated the committee on the upcoming METCO meeting, proposing moving the meeting to January (it is generally held in November). This meeting will focus on funding, enrollment, and student experience.
2. Ms. Swain informed the committee that they are working on updating their website, particularly in an ADA compliant format. There will also be additional chronological organization and efficiency added.

3. Ms. Swain noted that staff technology equipment has come in and will be distributed to all teachers and teaching assistants. Document cameras will be distributed to teachers shortly.
- iv. Superintendent's Report
 1. Staff Survey Results
 - a. Superintendent Brad Crozier informed the Committee of the results of the staff survey. Key takeaways include that most teachers find using the remote learning tools easy, the current learning model is difficult on teachers social-emotional wellbeing, teachers feel that ILAP days, technology access, collaboration and small group learning are going well, challenges include assisting with remote technology, balancing in person and remote students, and remote student engagement, and there are concerns about student relationships.
 2. Parent Conferences and Report Cards Pilot
 - a. Superintendent Crozier noted that currently there is a fall parent/teacher conference and 3 report cards, but he wishes to have two conference periods and two report cards for elementary level this school year. He also provided the committee with an overview of how these conferences would be scheduled.
 3. Superintendent Crozier discussed the logistics of the Covid Testing Pilot Program.
 4. Superintendent Crozier expressed concern regarding travel and holiday gatherings and implored the public to practice safety so that the hybrid model can continue for as long as possible.
 5. Committee questions included start and end dates of the Covid testing program, protocols around negative tests, test accuracy rates, contact tracing, conference guidelines and protocols for teachers, how staff are working with students who aren't engaged, technology tools teachers may need, and feedback from the administration.
4. Business and Policy Matters
 - a. Discuss and Prioritize Budget Initiatives from the Strategic Plan
 - i. Superintendent Crozier discussed budget initiatives in the categories of level service, priority items, and development and sought input from the committee on these priorities.
 - ii. Committee questions and discussion points included Covid impacts on planning, support for a world language program, student assessment tools, engineering programs, literacy intervention and facilities maintenance.
 - b. Future Agenda Items

- i. FY22 budget
- c. Minutes
 - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the October 19, 2020 meeting.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from October 19, 2020, as presented, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - 1. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Adjournment

- d. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 9:06 PM., Maggie Helon seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - 2. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - 3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - 4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - 5. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the November 16, 2020 School Committee Meeting

1. Sudbury Public Schools Year-to-Date Budget, October 31, 2020
2. School Reopening Grant Amendment Detail and Revised FY21 Budget Forecast
3. Staff Feedback 10_2020: A Summary Presentation for the School Committee DRAFT
4. Sudbury District Plan Overview 2018-2021, July 2019
5. School Committee Meeting MInutes Draft, October 19, 2020