

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2021
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
Ben DeMott, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

1. Opening Statement/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, Maggie Helon, and Lisa Kouchakdjian all affirmed in the positive.
 - b. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for EDCO's potential litigation, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee; and to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, specifically administrative staff, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee; and to review and approve minutes from the School Committee executive session meetings of January 25 and February 1, 2021; and to return to Open Session, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye

2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 4. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 5. Maggie Helon: Aye
- a. VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

2. Special Matters

a. Return from Executive Session

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian noted that the Committee returned from the 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 affirmed in the positive.

3. Public Comment

a. None

4. Special Matters

a. School Safety Update and New Youth Officer Introduction

- i. Sudbury Police Department Chief of Police Scott Nix joined the meeting to provide an update on school safety measures and to introduce new Youth Officer Billy Cristafulli. Chief Nix expressed a desire to add another full-time school resource officer to his force sometime in the future, in addition to Officer Cristafulli. Both Officer Cristafulli and Chief Nix spoke to Officer Cristafulli's professional background and their priorities for the role.
- ii. Chief Nix explained that SPS has been set-up with long-range radios and repeaters that allow for rapid communication between the schools and the Police and Fire Departments.
- iii. Chief Nix also explained the priority his Department places on developing relationships with students and families in the community, and invited anyone with questions to reach out to himself or any of the Department's officers.
- iv. Questions from the Committee for Chief Nix centered on how the Department is utilizing/monitoring social media.

5. Educational Matters

a. Review Options to Withdraw/Dissolve EDCO Cooperative

- i. Superintendent Brad Crozier led the Committee in a review of the faltering financial situation of the EDCO Cooperative, of which SPS is a member. Based upon these facts and the availability of alternate programming of a similar caliber, Superintendent Crozier recommended that the Committee either vote to withdraw from the Cooperative or allow him to vote for its dissolution.

1. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to authorize Superintendent Crozier, as the Sudbury Public Schools representative on the EDCO Board

of Trustees to vote to dissolve EDCO and/or withdraw from EDCO at a future Board meeting, Lisa Kouchakdjian 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.

b. District Reports

i. SEA Report

- 1. SEA Representative Ben DeMott told the Committee about how Curtis Middle School is in the process of restarting its extracurricular activities and the ways these programs improve the student experience.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

- 1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer updated the Committee on the state of funding the District is receiving from the federal CARES Act. Mr. Sawyer will have more information on how these funds may be utilized in the near future. The District has until September 30, 2023 to request the funds.
- 2. Mr. Sawyer also informed the Committee that the Massachusetts State Legislature has also appropriated funds to schools for Coronavirus mitigation efforts. SPS stands to receive \$80,100 from this fund, and must be spent by the end of this fiscal year.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report 1:20:30

- 1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain recognized Loring Elementary School Librarian Amy Strout for being awarded a SERF grant to purchase DIY kits in support of multicultural education and Eileen Hanson, one of the district's ESL teachers, for being awarded a SERF grant to purchase Imagine Learning subscriptions for ESL students.
- 2. Ms. Swain also recognized the Equity and Professional Development Committees for executing a flawless professional development day.
- 3. Ms. Swain also reported to the Committee on the recent Family Math Night, which was held online. The feedback for this event was very strong and the district is looking into how it can apply the lessons learned that evening to future Math Nights.

iv. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Superintendent Brad Crozier began his report by informing the Committee that the attendance and discussion at the last Parent Information Exchange were robust. The main topics covered

included pooled COVID-19 testing and how/when snow days are called.

2. Superintendent Crozier also updated the Committee on the District's rollout of pooled COVID-19 testing. The administration is working with nurses to determine how and when students and staff can be tested each week. A "soft launch" of testing has already begun at Central Office and Nixon Elementary School, with other schools due to launch after February Break. Superintendent Crozier also explained how the tests are conducted, why they are reliable, what will go into the district's decision to continue or discontinue the testing after the initial pilot period, and the district's partnership with Regis College to bring senior nursing students to assist with testing.

6. Business and Policy Matters

a. FY22 Budget Book

- i. The Committee reviewed the FY22 Budget Book. Hard copies were recently mailed to Committee members and other pertinent members of the community. It will also soon be posted to the SPS website.
 1. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the FY22 Budget Book as presented, Meredith Gerson 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.

b. Equity Statement

- i. The Committee reviewed the proposed Sudbury Public Schools Equity Statement. This was developed by the district's thirty member Equity Committee in service of one of the School Committee goals set earlier in the school year. The Equity Committee set itself to creating a statement that was succinct and aligned with the district's established mission and vision. The Statement presented at this meeting was unanimously approved by the Equity Committee.

1. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the Sudbury Public Schools Equity statement as presented, Maggie Helon seconded.

- a. In discussion after the motion, the Committee discussed where on the SPS website the Equity Statement will be placed.

b. 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.

c. Liaison Reports

- i. Lisa Kouchakdjian reported that there will be a Policy Subcommittee meeting on February 22, 2021, at 10:00 AM.
- ii. Sarah Troiano reported to the Committee on the last SEPAC Business Meeting. The SEPAC is planning several workshops and trying to grow its membership. The next SEPAC Cafe will be on February 18th, while the next Business Meeting will be on February 24th.
- iii. Silvia Nerssessian reported to the Committee about the return of clubs and extracurriculars at Curtis Middle School. Ms. Nerssessian also reported that the Curtis PTO will be meeting on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM. Ms. Nerssessian also reminded the Committee that the Committee's Budget Hearing with the Finance Committee will be Wednesday night at 7:00 PM.

d. Minutes

- i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting.
 - 1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2021 and February 1, 2021, as amended, Lisa Kouchakdjian 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

- e. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn at 8:24 PM, Meredith Gerson 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 February 8, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. FY22 Budget Book Draft
2. Sudbury Public Schools Equity Statement
3. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, January 25, 2021
4. School Committee Meeting Minutes Draft, February 8, 2021