

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Silvia Nerssessian, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Nicole Burnard
Mandy Sim

Members Absent:

Sarah Troiano

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
David Gaita, Assistant Principal, Loring School
Erin Kehew, SEA Representative
Jeff Lappin, Assistant Director of Student Services
Anderson Manuel, Grade 2 Teacher, Nixon School
Scott Nix, Sudbury Police Chief
Annya Pedreschi, Special Education Team Chair
Leslie Smart, METCO Director

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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. Meredith Gerson, Nicole Burnard, Mandy Sim and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.
 - b. Meredith Gerson moves to convene into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and to review and approve minutes from the following Sudbury School Committee Executive Session meetings of August 15, 2022 and August 24, 2022. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye

2. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 3. Mandy Sim: Aye
 4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - a. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.
 - c. Chair Silvia Nerssessian confirmed that the Committee will enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and to review and approve minutes from the following Sudbury School Committee executive session meetings of August 15, 2022 and August 24, 2022.
 - d. Return from Executive Session
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. 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. Meredith Gerson, Nicole Burnard, Mandy Sim and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.
2. Public Comment:
- a. Kay Bell, resident and member of the Commission on Disability spoke to the Committee and shared a few respectful ways that are helpful when communicating or speaking with someone who is disabled. She also took the opportunity to welcome our new METCO Director, Leslie Smart, to Sudbury.
3. Special Matters
- a. School Safety, Sudbury Police Chief, Scott Nix
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian welcomed Sudbury Police Chief, Scott Nix, to the meeting.
 - ii. Chief Nix took the opportunity to thank the Committee and Sudbury School Administration for the continued collaboration in working together with not only him but the Safety Resource Officers as well. He shared that safety training in all areas continues and he is open to feedback on hearing if there are suggestions on different training that should be considered.
 - iii. Questions from the Committee included whether the Sudbury Police Department coordinates with the SPS METCO Director to ensure all students feel safe in our schools and will there be a Citizens Youth Academy program offered?
 - b. SMILE Program Recap - David Gaita, Jeff Lappin, Anderson Manuel, Annya Pedreschi and Kim Swain

- i. Superintendent Crozier welcomed David Gaita, Jeff Lappin, Anderson Manuel and Annya Pedreschi to the meeting.
- ii. The group then took turns reviewing the SMILE, SMILE + and ESY summer learning programs. They reviewed changes that had been made to the program including adding an afternoon activity program, new and improved progress reports, and the implementation of sending home weekly newsletters. They also provided an update on enrollment numbers and impacts on student growth.
- iii. They concluded the presentation with recommended changes to the upcoming summer program.
- iv. Questions from the Committee included how do we help the students that didn't make progress academically even after attending the program? Do we have data on the number of students who declined participation in the program and why they didn't accept the offer? Are the "Ready for Kindergarten" students just from the SPS Pre-K program or other programs in town? Are they looking to expand enrollment numbers and will the process be the same on how students are being invited to the program?

c. Introduction of Leslie Smart, METCO Director

- i. Superintendent Crozier introduced Leslie Smart to the Committee. He shared his excitement about her joining the district and confirmed that she is a part of the Cabinet team.
- ii. Mrs. Smart took the opportunity to share her background with the Committee, her reasoning for why she wanted to be a part of Sudbury Public Schools and shared a few goals she hopes to accomplish.
- iii. The Committee all welcomed Leslie to the district and expressed their excitement about having her on board.

4. Educational and Operational Matters

a. District Reports

- i. SEA Report (Erin Kehew)
 - 1. Ms. Kehew shared some highlights of what's going on in the district. Those include:
 - a. 4th Graders invited Jeffrey Klinger, a member of the School Advisory Council and local Sudbury resident to school to talk about Veteran's Day. They then wrote thank you letters to local veterans.
 - b. The Food Pantry collected 207 boxes during its recent drive.
 - c. Safety patrol assignments have been handed out to 5th grade students across the district.
 - d. Kindergarten students have been working on their literacy skills while spending time with therapy dogs.

- e. During library time, students are writing and publishing their own books. Once completed, they will be displayed in the library.
- f. Lastly, Special Ed teams continue their work with Melissa Orkin.

ii. Director of Business and Human Resources Report

- 1. Director of Business and Human Resources, Don Sawyer, provided an update on the new payroll system. The Business Office has now had three training sessions. One of which included submitting an actual payroll using the new system.
- 2. He then informed the Committee that the actual amount from the balances on the playground accounts is \$25,278.73.
- 3. Questions from the Committee included when staff will be able to have access to and use the new payroll system.

iii. Assistant Superintendent Report

- 1. Assistant Superintendent, Kim Swain, provided an update on what educators have been working on during ILAP. Those updates include harmony curriculum work, tech team integration, 4E planning and middle school equity work.
- 2. She then took the opportunity to congratulate both Mala Gillin and Jordan Ciampa for receiving SERF grants. Mala's grant was for adaptive music instruments and Jordan's was for SEL materials.
- 3. Lastly, she thanked the staff who presented the SMILE program recap and welcomed Leslie Smart to the district.

iv. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Superintendent, Brad Crozier, informed the Committee that DESE announced that COVID tests will be available for pick up and distribution before the Thanksgiving holiday.
- 2. The CPC Committee hearings will be held on November 16 and December 7.
- 3. Mr. Crozier is attending a meeting on November 1 with the Town Manager and Bella Wong in which budget planning will be the topic.
- 4. Lastly, the First View app is up and running and available for families to monitor the buses their students ride.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. CASE and Accept Quarter 1 Reports

- i. Superintendent Crozier informed the Committee that School Committee's in our member districts will now begin to receive periodic updates on collaboratives.

- b. School Committee Budget Communication
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian reminded the Committee that in a previous meeting the budget communication was discussed.
 - ii. Meredith Gerson moves to approve the School Committee Budget Communication as amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - c. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.
 - c. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission
 - i. No action required by the Committee.
 - d. Liaison Reports
 - i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian informed the Committee that the Finance Committee is working on questions and items needed from cost centers for budget planning. Letters will be forthcoming with that information.
 - e. Minutes (9/27/22)
 - i. Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Open Session meeting minutes from the September 27, 2022 School Committee meeting as amended. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - c. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.
6. Adjournment
- a. Chair Silvia Nerssessian moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - 2. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - 3. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - 4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - a. **Vote:** 4-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the October 24, 2022 School Committee Meeting

1. Summer Learning Programs 2022
2. CASE and Accept Quarter 1 Reports
3. SSC Budget Letter Oct 2022
4. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 102122
5. 092722_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT