

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2023
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
Nadine Ekstrom, Interim Principal, Haynes Elementary School
Sara Harvey, Principal, Loring Elementary School
Susan Woods, Principal - Nixon Elementary School
Annette Doyle, Principal - Noyes Elementary School
Jeff Mela, Principal - Curtis Middle School
Anneke Bartelsman, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Opening Statement / Regular 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, Sarah Troiano and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.

2. Public Comment
 - a. None

3. Special Matters
 - a. Presentation of Accomplishments, Initiatives & Models (AIM) Reports
 - i. Presented by:
 1. Haynes Elementary School - Nadine Ekstrom, Interim Principal
 2. Loring Elementary School - Sara Harvey, Principal

3. Nixon Elementary School - Susan Woods, Principal
 4. Noyes Elementary School - Annette Doyle, Principal
 5. Curtis Middle School - Jeff Mela, Principal
- b. Superintendent Crozier welcomed the principals to the meeting and explained that the AIM reports highlight school improvements for the year.
 - c. Nadine Ekstrom reviewed the Haynes Elementary School goals which include an environment being welcoming for all, support with learning for all and having a safe and accessible learning environment for all. She shared work completed, work in progress and next steps. In addition she shared information on data tools being used and how they measure student growth in both academics as well as social and emotional competence.
 - i. Questions from the Committee surrounded the implementation of enrichment blocks, the goals and accomplishments of the Equity Leadership Team and clarification on changes made to the common planning time and the impact of that.
 - d. Sara Harvey reviewed the Loring School goals which include continued work on supporting the development of practices where celebrating diversity and cultural awareness is valued, promoting social, emotional and physical wellness of students and implementing multi-tiered supports to improve student outcomes. Work completed, work in progress and next steps were shared.
 - i. Support from the Committee included an acknowledgement of the “All Are Welcome” message.
 - e. Annette Doyle reviewed the goals set forth for the Noyes school and the successful implementation of Harmony SEL Curriculum to support the goal of being welcoming to all, using student data to help inform decision making practices in support of the learning for all goal and expanding the crisis team and ADA updates to support having a safe and accessible school for all.
 - f. Goals, successes and next steps of the Nixon School were presented by Susan Woods. Highlights included implementation of accessibility to all students, building based book groups, and staff engaging in professional learning about anti-racist education.
 - g. Principal Mela shared the goals of the Curtis Middle School with the Committee which have a focus on equity and anti-racism practices for students, strengthening courses for supporting challenging students and continuing social studies and civics projects. He then provided data on student diversity, literature introduced to both staff and students supporting anti-racism practices and presentations on microaggressions for staff and students.
 - i. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded the data shared by Dr. Benson and the progress that has been accomplished and the accessibility of the microaggression presentations to all students.
4. Educational and Operational Matters
 - a. District Reports
 - i. SEA Report (Anneke Bartelsman)

1. Ms. Bartelsman shared some end of the year activities with the Committee which included:
 - a. Sixth graders working as mentors to help first graders in their Bio Buddies field trip.
 - b. Fifth graders at Noyes recently held a math carnival.
 - c. Fifth graders from each elementary school have visited Curtis to help them in their transition for next year.
 - d. Eighth graders worked with fourth graders on their 4Energy projects.
 - e. Eighth graders have completed and presented their Civics Action Projects.
 - f. Teachers in the District participated in a book group reading Grading for Equity.

- ii. Director of Business and Human Resources Report
 1. Mr. Sawyer reported that transportation registrations have closed for the year. The total number of students registered was 1,452 with 894 at the elementary level and 558 at the middle school level.
 2. The Business Office is in the midst of closing out the FY23 fiscal year while preparing to open the FY24 fiscal year.

- iii. Assistant Superintendent Report
 1. Ms. Swain congratulated Kevin Donegan for his work with the jazz band. They recently participated in the Massachusetts Association for Jazz Education where they received a gold medal.
 2. She also congratulated Ms. Yeomans and Ms. Mason, Wellness Teachers at the middle school, for being awarded a SERF grant for AED trainers.
 3. Lastly, she provided an update on both the SMILE and EXPLORE summer programs which included the number of students registered as well as the number of staff hired to date.

- iv. Superintendent's Report
 1. In addition to the end-of-year student activities, Superintendent Crozier noted that there have been PTO events, Moving On ceremonies, and retirement celebrations.
 2. An update on the Fairbank building was given, noting that discussions are being held to help with planning the move and that tours have started. The first week of November should mark the beginning of the staff's transition to the new building.

5. Business and Policy Matters
 - a. Superintendent Annual Report

- i. Chair Nerssessionian thanked Superintendent Crozier for all his efforts, including all of the preparation for putting forth the override and in moving the district forward during the recovery of the last few years.
 - ii. Superintendent Crozier then reviewed each of the Student Learning, Professional Practice and District Improvement goals. He supported each of those with key activities and accomplishments.
 - iii. He then provided evidence supporting his accomplishments for the targets he had achieved in accordance with the DESE standards.
 - iv. The Committee's comments and recommendations were positive and included suggestions on linking experiential learning celebrations, praising the effort that has gone into academic benchmarking and questioning whether a summary of Dr. Bensons equity work can be provided. The Committee thanked Superintendent Crozier for his partnership.
- b. Reorganization of School Committee
- i. Chair Nerssessionian began by thanking the Committee for their dedication to the students of Sudbury Public Schools as well as their commitment to each other.
 - ii. Sarah Troiano asked for both Chair Nerssessionian and Vice Chair Gerson to continue in their current roles. The Committee were all in agreement.
 1. Sarah Troiano motioned to appoint Silvia Nerssessionian as Chair of the Sudbury School Committee. Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - iii. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - iv. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - v. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 1. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.
 2. Sarah Troiano motioned to appoint Meredith Gerson as Vice Chair of the Sudbury School Committee. Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - iii. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - iv. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - v. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 1. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.

c. Liaison and Subcommittee Assignments for 2023-2024

- i. The Committee reviewed and discussed the current liaison and subcommittee roles. They mutually agreed on all proposed changes.
 - 1. Chair Silvia Nerssessian moved to approve the Liaison and Subcommittee Assignments for 2023-2024 as edited. Mandy Sim seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - iii. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - iv. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - v. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - 1. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion passes.
- d. School Committee At-A-Glance Newsletter
 - i. The Committee discussed the proposed newsletter and suggested edits. Before publishing the newsletter and sending it to the school community, they will present this at a future meeting for approval.
- e. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission
 - i. No action required by the Committee.
- f. Future Agenda Items
 - i. None
6. Open Executive Session
- a. Vice Chair, Meredith Gerson moved to convene into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes:
 - i. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Education Association, the Education Support Professionals Association, Massachusetts Nurses Association, and the Custodians Union because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. The Committee will not return to open session.
 - ii. Purpose (7) to review and approve minutes from the following Sudbury School Committee executive session meeting of January 23, 2023. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - c. Mandy Sim: Aye
 - d. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - e. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

- b. Chair Silvia Nersessian confirmed the Committee will convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes:
 - i. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Education Association, the Education Support Professionals Association, Massachusetts Nurses Association, and the Custodians Union because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. The Committee will not return to open session.
 - ii. Purpose (7) to review and approve minutes from the following Sudbury School Committee executive session meeting of January 23, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the May 22, 2023 School Committee Meeting

1. Haynes State of the School SY23
2. Haynes AIM Report FY23
3. Loring State of the Schools Presentation - May 2023
4. Loring AIM Report FY23
5. Nixon AIM Report - Accessibility - FY23 - School Committee Presentation
6. Nixon - AIM Report FY23
7. Noyes AIM Reports_ELA FY23
8. Noyes AIM Report FY23
9. Curtis_Equity and Anti-Racism Practices - State of School Presentation May 22, 2023
10. Curtis AIM Report FY23
11. Superintendent Summative Report FY23
12. SSC Role and Liaison Assignments 2023-2024
13. Draft June 2023 At-A-Glance
14. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 051823