

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Lauren Egizio, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator
Melissa Morabito, SEA President
Chief Scott Nix, Sudbury Police Department

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:00 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, Sarah Troiano and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.
 - b. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes. Purpose 4 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and purpose 7 to review and approve minutes from the Sudbury School Committee executive session meeting of August 27, 2023. Mandy Sim seconded the motion.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 2. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 3. Mandy Sim: Aye
 4. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 5. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - a. **Vote:** 5-0. 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) for the following purposes. Purpose 4 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and purpose 7 to review and approve minutes from the following Sudbury School Committee executive session meeting of August 27, 2023 and the Committee will return to open session.
 - d. Return from Executive Session

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Chair 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.

A moment of silence was taken to honor those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

2. Public Comment

- a. None

3. Special Matters

a. School Safety Update, Chief Scott Nix

- i. Chief Nix's updates included confirmation that this year's resource officers assigned to the schools are Officers Walsh, Haldiman and Latini (in addition to Rico, a facility support dog). The third annual Public Safety Day is scheduled in September and the summer's Citizens Youth Academy was a great success.
- ii. Chair Nerssessian thanked Chief Nix and the Sudbury Police Department for their collaboration and partnership with the schools.

b. 2023 - 2024 8th Grade Washington DC Trip Proposal, Lauren Egizio, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator

- i. Lauren Egizio provided an overview of the proposed 3rd Annual Washington DC trip to the Committee.
- ii. She discussed some of the advantages and disadvantages of the previous year's trip. She also suggested adjustments to the itinerary and activities to continue doing.
- iii. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded the payment plans and timing of when payments are due.
- iv. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to authorize a trip for all 8th grade students to Washington, DC from May 14-17, 2024. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson
- b. Nicole Burnard
- c. Mandy Sim
- d. Sarah Troiano
- e. Silvia Nerssessian
- i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

4. Educational and Operational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report (Melissa Morabito)

1. Ms. Morabito shared an update including how educators are experimenting with various innovative methods to welcome and engage students such as morning meet-ups, creating all about me bags and sharing photographs. In addition they are having

students write newsletters and are implementing new literacy initiatives across all grade levels. At the middle school there is a focus on vocabulary and eighth graders are collaborating with the Sudbury League of Women Voters to engage in community focused action projects, aiming to address community needs.

- ii. Director of Business and Human Resources Report
 - 1. The \$75 million supplemental state budget, if approved, will be folded into the FY24 budget. This includes special education out of district tuition.
 - 2. The first payroll of the year has been processed and all staff were successfully integrated into the new system.
- iii. Assistant Superintendent Report
 - 1. Ms. Swain thanked the teachers for embracing the new curriculum and for creating new opportunities for student learning. Keys to Literacy at the elementary school and Grading for Equity at the middle school will be the focus of an upcoming ILAP Day. In addition, Special Educators and Paraprofessional staff will participate in Safety Care Training and Leslie Smart will facilitate a training for ESP's on anti-racist and culturally responsive practices.
- iv. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. Curtis Outdoor Health and Wellness Space Update
 - a. Superintendent Crozier shared his gratitude for a successful start to the school year. Staffing continues with hiring of paraprofessionals and building subs and transportation adjustments are being implemented.
 - b. Curtis Outdoor Health and Wellness updates included that the bid previously sought for installation did not qualify as the bid was significantly over the expected cost. For now, the project will be broken into smaller segments. Currently there are four contractors interested in site prep. Equipment delivery is on schedule and the equipment installers are ready. Landscaping, sidewalks and paving are other elements that are needed to complete the project.
 - c. Clarifying questions from the Committee surrounded the timeline of the installation, stages of when students can start using the space after installation and who will be overseeing the multiple contractors. In addition, the Committee hopes to receive regular updates from now through the next meeting in October.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. Fall Town Meeting Updates

- i. Review and discuss Select Board Member Questions on SPS Article
- ii. Fall Town Meeting preparations
 - 1. The Select Board is meeting tomorrow to decide on a final date. October 23rd is being proposed. Questions from a Select Board

member and the School Committee and Superintendent Crozier's role in answering them were the main topics of discussion. In addition, concerns were shared regarding the way these questions were being asked versus following the typical process where professional staff are available to answer them. The Committee agreed to directly send feedback to Superintendent Crozier by Friday.

b. FY24 Revised Budget Approval

- i. Mr. Sawyer reviewed changes that require revision in the budget including retirement and new student needs. He provided the Committee with a revised and updated budget including account details and shared the budget is balanced.
- ii. The Committee thanked Mr. Sawyer for the additional notes and the level of detail provided as it was helpful in understanding the revisions.
- iii. Clarifying questions surrounded a shared staff line item and the concerns about budget adjustments not within their control as well as clarification on unanticipated FTE additions.
- iv. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the FY24 revised budget as presented. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- b. Nicole Burnard: Aye
- c. Sarah Troiano: Aye
- d. Mandy Sim: Aye
- e. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

c. Sudbury School Committee MOD Letters of Support

- i. The Committee is supporting Sandra Duran with letters of support as she writes grants to help supplement current and ongoing projects.
- ii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee MOD letters of support as amended and to authorize Silvia Nerssessionian to sign them on the School Committee's behalf. 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 Nerssessionian: Aye
 - i. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

d. Future Agenda Items

- i. LS has a new School Committee Chair. Chair Nerssessionian will be reaching out to both LS and Lincoln Public Schools to arrange a Tri-District Meeting.
- ii. Mandy Sim is interested in attending the MASC Joint Conference in November and would like to discuss potential sessions that will be beneficial to the Committee.
- iii. Policy Updates will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

6. Adjournment

a. Chair Silvia Nerssessionian moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE

1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
2. Nicole Burnard: Aye
3. Mandy Sim: Aye
4. Sarah Troiano: Aye
5. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye

a. **Vote:** 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the September 11, 2023 School Committee Meeting

1. **Egizio DC Trip Proposal Letter**
2. **DC SC Presentation 09.11.23**
3. **Memo_SC_FY24 Revised GF Budget_230908**
4. **SSC Letters of Support 9.11.23**