

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Silvia Nerssessian, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Mandy Sim
Tyler Steffey
Sarah Troiano

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Ellen Vedora, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

1. Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
 - a. Opening Statement / Executive Session
 - i. 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, Mandy Sim, Tyler Steffey and Silvia Nerssessian all affirmed in the positive.
2. Public Comment
 - a. Michael King, Sudbury resident, spoke to the Committee regarding his concerns about the class size concerns for the upcoming Grade 5 students at Nixon School.
3. Special Matters
 - a. Betsy Grams, District Wellness Coordinator gave a presentation to the Committee on the impact the pandemic has had on students and learning. The presentation included the findings it has had on students emotionally and behaviorally as well. Ms. Grams shared the data from student and family surveys that were conducted to see how we can better understand the impacts on families to better prepare for student needs.
 - b. Questions from the Committee included what SEL (social emotional learning) programming is being done at the middle school? What are some examples of

how the district is addressing the impacts of students who aren't feeling connected? What is the timeline for putting programming in place? How has the approach to the increase in bullying evolved, specifically at Curtis and are any initiatives coming from the state levels to offer partnerships with our district on substance abuse concerns.

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report (Ellen Vedora)

1. Ms. Vedora shared with the Committee that the district will be holding an ELD (english language development) virtual event on Thursday, April 4th in regard to Raising Multilingual Children.
2. First graders at Noyes are wrapping up their non-fiction writing projects.
3. Author and Illustrator Scott Magoon visited with 4th Grade Students at Noyes to talk about his new book "Extinct".
4. MCAS testing started in the district this week.

ii. Director of Business and Finance Report

1. Director of Business and Finance, Don Sawyer, shared with the Committee that the district has received a medicaid reimbursement in the amount of \$38,200. Mr. Sawyer continues to research the possibility of establishing a school revolving account so that funds such as this go directly to that account. This is something that will need to be voted on at Town Meeting.
2. Questions from the Committee centered around who is willing to reach out to MASBO (Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials) to see how other towns receive funds like this and how they got their accounts established? Is there a way that the School Committee can get something documented from the town stating that these funds are allocated for us since it currently goes into free cash until we can get an account established?
3. Mr. Sawyer also gave an update to the Committee on the Food Service Contract RFP. The due date for responses is May 1st and he will report back to the Committee once those have been received.
4. Sudbury Public Schools has applied, qualified and received USDA Supply Chain Assistance funding in the amount of \$38,996.32. This is a one time funding source.
5. Very lastly, Mr. Sawyer shared that bus registration for the 2022 - 2023 school year opens tomorrow. Text messages / email notifications and website postings have been put in place to notify families. These notifications will continue until May 9 when registration closes.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Assistant Superintendent, Kim Swain, took the opportunity to thank Betsy Grams for her dedication and knowledge in leading our wellness program. She also thanked Ellen Vedora for sharing information on the ELD seminar. Ms. Swain confirmed that translation services are available for that presentation.
2. Ms. Swain shared that MCAS season has begun and reminds parents to help their students be well rested; hydrated and please arrive at school on time.
3. She also confirmed that SMILE pre-registration paperwork went out today.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent Crozier shared an update on the Art Club at Nixon School. Response to the program has been overwhelming with support, so much so, they have opened another section.
2. The district is beginning to plan for an ADA compliant outdoor structure at the middle school. The hope is that this will be built during the summer of 2024.
3. Superintendent Crozier shared that he has met with the developers of the Cold Brook Crossing Development to better predict the impacts on enrollment. He has scheduled a tour with the developer and manager to ensure the bus shelter location is in a safe place.
4. Lastly, he shared an update on the Facility Director position. He will be participating in initial screening interviews scheduled for Monday, April 11th.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. METCO Presentation Follow Up and Next Steps

- i. The Committee reviewed and discussed the recent presentation given by Milly Arbjae Thomas on the METCO Inc. program.
- ii. Discussion surrounded improvements that can be made to help make the program more desirable. Those improvements include an update to the website, implementing best practices in response to current survey data and METCO students' feelings of disconnection, and consideration into the 501 C(3) program that might be useful in raising funding for the METCO program.
- iii. The Committee then discussed the possibility of inviting a METCO parent representative to serve as a non-voting member of the Committee. The Committee shared concerns such as having a non-voting member on the Committee and other, similar, groups wanting to participate in the same role.

- b. Fairbanks Construction Update
 - i. Superintendent Crozier shared an update with the Committee on the Fairbanks project. A group of bidders will be on site this week to tour the facility. Subcontractor bids are due on April 20th and general contractor bids are due on May 4th. Once those are awarded, the work will likely begin at the end of May; beginning of June. The first phase of the project will be 2 new crosswalks and a set of lights to accommodate parking at Haskell Field.
 - c. Liaison Reports
 - i. Sarah Troiano shared that the Policy Subcommittee will be meeting tomorrow.
6. Adjournment
- a. Chair Silvia Nersesian called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m. Sarah Troiano seconded the motion.
 - i. Roll Call Vote
 - 1. Meredith Gerson - Aye
 - 2. Mandy Sim - Aye
 - 3. Tyler Steffey - 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 April 4, 2022 School Committee Meeting

4.4.22 School Committee

Fairbank SPS - Senior Center street view.tif

Fairbank SPS - Senior Center rear view.tif

Fairbank Park and Rec street view.tif

Fairbank Landscape and Site Plan.tif

2022 - 0203 SFCC Presentation Plan.pdf

SPS Package 3-16-22.pdf