

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair
Silvia Nerssessian, Vice Chair
Meredith Gerson
Maggie Helon
Sarah Troiano (Member-Elect)

Members Absent:

Christine Hogan

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 3:02 PM.

1. Executive Session

- a. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with union personnel, as to do so in open session would be detrimental to the District; and to review and approve Executive Session Minutes; and to return, Silvia Nerssessian seconded.

- i. ROLL CALL VOTE

- 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - 2. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - 3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - 4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

- a. **VOTE: 4-0.** Motion carries.

2. Public Comment

- a. Barbara Gogan of Concord Road, a librarian at Noyes, spoke to the committee to share a colleague's story about returning to school in the pandemic.
- b. Sarah Murphy of Thunder Road, a second grade teacher at Noyes, spoke to the committee regarding the difficulties of hybrid learning from an educator's perspective and her belief that remote learning is safest.

- c. Abby Salon (not a Sudbury resident), a teacher at Curtis, read a colleague's statement regarding safety concerns of staff members.
 - d. Risa Felt (not a Sudbury resident), a first grade teacher at Noyes, spoke to the committee regarding the challenges of in-person learning for students and staff.
 - e. Melissa Morabito, a teacher at Nixon, read a colleague's personal statement regarding safety concerns for educators and their families.
 - f. Ellen Vedora of 25 McClain Drive, a literacy specialist at Haynes, read a colleague's statement regarding the pressures on educators to change best teaching practices and the concerns for in-person learning.
 - g. Tracy Berry, ABA Tutor at Nixon, spoke to the committee to ask the community to stop placing blame on educators and administration for how this pandemic is impacting education and student learning.
 - h. Betsy Allen of Arlington, a second grade teacher at Noyes, spoke to the committee regarding concerns for safety by reopening in the hybrid model.
 - i. Kate McCullough, a sixth grade special education teacher at Curtis, spoke to the committee to share how well virtual Extended School Year education went over the summer, and her belief that such great results could be reflected during the regular school year.
 - j. Monica Rogan of Goodnow Road spoke to the committee regarding communication and communication of the differences between remote learning and in-person learning.
 - k. Leslie Dooley of Holliston, a music teacher at Nixon, spoke to the committee regarding concerns of teacher quarantine and coverage for absences.
 - l. Debbie Moynihan of Raymond Road spoke to the committee regarding the difficulties of keeping young learners distanced and wearing masks.
 - m. Chris McClure of Pennymeadow Road spoke to the committee regarding concerns about students spending so much time in front of computers each day.
3. District Reopening Plan
- a. Superintendent Crozier updated the committee on reopening plans, indicating that a document went out regarding the plans for reopening. This document contained a form that allowed families to indicate if they were interested in hybrid or full remote, and if they needed transportation.
 - i. At present, one third of the families of Sudbury had already responded, and 88% had chosen the hybrid models.
 - ii. 40% of those who have completed the form have indicated that they will utilize the bus system.
 - b. Superintendent Crozier will receive an HVAC report with initial guidance soon.
 - c. The school website has been updated with new FAQs and parents have options to submit questions.
 - d. Committee questions on reopening centered on mock schedules for remote academy, merging of remote academy and hybrid group if the district must go full remote, breakdown of required minutes of learning, logistics of dismissal, entry, etc. 'movement plan', remote academy connection to which brick and mortar

school, education by subject specific teachers for remote academy, plans for educating quarantined students, notification of contact with COVID cases (cohort versus entire school), percentages or caseloads for school closure, education platform curriculums, breakdown of expectations and schedules for each grade level, amount of direct instruction on hybrid versus remote days, privacy concerns, comparing direct instruction hours between models, parent feedback and partnership, and parent involvement in planning for special needs populations.

- e. Meredith Gerson left the meeting prior to the conclusion of discussion on this item.

4. Adjournment

- a. Sylvia Nerssessionian motioned to adjourn at 5:40 PM., Maggie Helon seconded.

- i. ROLL CALL VOTE

- 1. Maggie Helon: Aye
- 2. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
- 3. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye

a. **VOTE:3-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the August 7, 2020 School Committee Meeting

- 1. SPS Preliminary Reopening Plan: Transitioning Safely Back to School, August 6, 2020