

Sudbury School Committee  
Meeting Minute  
December 21, 2020  
Virtual Meeting

**Members Present:**

Silvia Nerssessian, Chair  
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair  
Maggie Helon  
Lisa Kouchakdjian  
Sarah Troiano

**Members Absent:**

None

**Also Present:**

Brad Crozier, Superintendent  
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Finance  
Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent  
Regine White, SEA Representative

**Regular Session Meeting**

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Opening Statement
  - 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. Silvia Nerssessian, Meredith Gerson, Sarah Troiano, Maggie Helon, and Lisa Kouchakdjian all affirmed in the positive.
2. Public Hearing
  - a. Meredith Gerson motioned to move to the School Committee public hearing of the Sudbury Public Schools FY22 budget; Maggie Helon seconded.
    - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
      1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
      2. Maggie Helon: Aye
      3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
      4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
      5. Sarah Troiano: Aye

**a. VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
  - b. Review Superintendent Recommended FY22 Budget

- i. Superintendent Brad Crozier presented his recommended FY22 budget. Notable discussion points included NESDEC enrollment projections and classroom size projections (along with COVID impacts on kindergarten size), a description of budget priorities by tier, budget drivers, that the proposed budget meets the town manager's proposal, and additional funding sources outside the budget.
    - ii. Committee questions/comments included budget sustainability for future years, and Student Opportunity Act funds and potential timing for release.
  - c. Meredith Gerson motioned to close the Sudbury Public School Committee Budget Hearing of the Sudbury Public Schools FY22 Budget; Sarah Troiano seconded.
    - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
      - 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
      - 2. Maggie Helon: Aye
      - 3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
      - 4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
      - 5. Sarah Troiano: Aye
    - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
- 3. Public Comment
  - a. None
- 4. Educational Matters
  - a. District Reports
    - i. SEA Report
      - 1. SEA President Melissa Morabito spoke to the committee regarding the work of the curriculum staff, describing their impacts on both students and teachers and staff.
    - ii. Business and Finance Director's Report
      - 1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer reported to the committee on the additional CARES Act funding specific to the school lunch program. He noted that this funding is around \$4,000.
      - 2. Mr. Sawyer noted that the Loring Playground design work has been completed, and the district will be able to take advantage of 2020 pricing, which will save about 10% of the total cost.
      - 3. Committee questions centered on when Loring Playground installation would begin.
    - iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report
      - 1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain updated the committee on the innovative strategies educators are using to make programs more robust. Ms. Swain noted that a SERF grant for the next PD After Dark offering has recently been issued.

2. Ms. Swain reported to the committee on the recent Virtual ESL night that was recently held in multiple languages, which was attended by approximately one-third of the ESL population.
- iv. Superintendent's Report
  1. Superintendent Brad Crozier updated the Committee on the retirement of Officer Al Hutchinson and described the school responses to his retirement.
  2. Superintendent Crozier noted that he delivered Covid testing kits to every school and the schools are now undergoing training.
  3. Superintendent Crozier reflected on his pride in the school community in how well they have handled the difficulties around Covid-19 thus far. He urged families to do their best to stay safe over the holidays to ensure students can return to in-person learning after the break.
5. Business and Policy Matters
  - a. Approval of Superintendent's Budget
    - i. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the Superintendent Recommended Fiscal Year 22 budget; Sarah Troiano seconded.
      1. ROLL CALL VOTE
        - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
        - b. Maggie Helon: Aye
        - c. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
        - d. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
        - e. Sarah Troiano: Aye
      - i. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
  - b. Review Draft School Committee Communication
    - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised their district-wide communication and discussed the rationale behind the choices made for included content.
    - ii. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the communication as amended; Meredith Gerson seconded.
    - iii. ROLL CALL VOTE
      1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
      2. Maggie Helon: Aye
      3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
      4. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
      5. Sarah Troiano: Aye
    - a. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
  - c. Discussion and Planning for Legislative Forum
    - i. The Committee discussed the upcoming Legislative Forum, noting that Lisa Kouchakdjian will act as a liaison.
  - d. Amendment to the Superintendent's Contract

1. ROLL CALL VOTE
  - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
  - b. Maggie Helon: Aye
  - c. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
  - d. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
  - e. Sarah Troiano: Aye
  - i. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

- i. Changing future meeting dates
- ii. School Committee Self-evaluations

- i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the December 7, 2020 meeting.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE
- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
  - ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
  - iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
  - iv. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
  - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

- ii. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the December 10, 2020 meeting.

- a. ROLL CALL VOTE
- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
  - ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
  - iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
  - iv. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
  - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

g. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 8:07 PM., Lisa Kouchakdjian seconded.

1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
2. Maggie Helon: Aye
3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
4. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
5. Sarah Troiano: Aye

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin Dulak

**Documents Reviewed During the December 21, 2020 School Committee Meeting**

1. 2021-2022 Superintendent Proposed Budget
2. Sudbury School Committee At-A-Glance Newsletter, December 2020
3. First Amendment to Employment Agreement By and Between The Sudbury School Committee and Brad Crozier, November 2020
4. School Committee Meeting Minutes, December 7, 2020 DRAFT
5. School Committee Meeting Minutes, December 10, 2020 DRAFT