

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2021
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
Angela Spirito, SEA Representative

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Silvia Nerssessian opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

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. Silvia Nerssessian, Meredith Gerson, Sarah Troiano, Maggie Helon, and Lisa Kouchakdjian all affirmed in the positive.
 - b. Silvia Nerssessian motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, specifically administrative staff, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee; and to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Education Association, because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee; and to review and approve minutes from the School Committee executive session meeting of February 8, 2021; and to return to Open Session, Meredith Gerson seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye

2. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 3. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 4. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 5. Maggie Helon: Aye
- a. VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

2. Special Matters

a. Return from Executive Session

- i. Chair Silvia Nerssessian noted that the Committee returned from the Executive Session at 7:01 PM. 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. All members affirmed in the positive.

3. Public Comment

a. None

4. Educational Matters

a. District Reports

i. SEA Report

1. SEA Representative Angela Spirito informed the Committee about a survey the SEA conducted of staff members in January, and shared some of its results. Topics from the survey mentioned by Ms. Spirito included teacher workloads, health and safety concerns, and perceived positives/"silver linings" from the year.

ii. Business and Finance Director's Report

1. Business and Finance Director Don Sawyer informed the Committee that the year-to-date budget, through January 31, 2021, is included in this meeting's agenda packet. Mr. Sawyer also included a revised budget forecast.
2. Mr. Sawyer also informed the Committee that he, Superintendent Crozier, and School Committee Chair Silvia Nerssessian attended the Finance Committee's Budget Hearing on February 10, 2021. Mr. Sawyer is currently working through follow-up questions the Finance Committee submitted to him after that meeting.

iii. Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Assistant Superintendent Kim Swain informed the Committee that ACCESS testing will begin in March. The State is requiring that all students be tested in person.
2. Ms. Swain recognized the Curtis Middle School English Language Arts Department, for their equity and inclusion professional development work with Kimberly Parker.
3. Ms. Swain provided an update on METCO enrollment, including covering changes in the enrollment process. Ms. Swain also discussed the METCO mentoring program.

iv. Superintendent's Report

1. COVID-19 Update

- a. Superintendent Brad Crozier began his report by updating the Committee on the soft launch of the pooled testing program. The first batch of tests submitted yielded no positive pools. The program will soon expand to all schools, Central Office, and the First Student bus yard. The District has received consent forms for roughly 1,300 students.
- b. Superintendent Crozier also informed the Committee that the administration is finalizing an online COVID-19 data dashboard. Once finished, this dashboard will be added to the SPS website.
- c. Superintendent Crozier explained that Dave Kartunen, a parent in the district, has produced videos to help students and parents better understand the pooled testing process.
- d. Questions from the Committee focused on what, if any, plans Superintendent Crozier has for increasing student participation in the pooled testing.

2. In-Person Learning

- a. Superintendent Crozier discussed the district's plan for increasing in-person instruction for students. Given the low transmission rates in schools and revisions to state and federal guidelines, the administration is beginning to consider what it would like to bring more students for more time in the classroom.
 - i. As part of this process, the District released a survey to parents at 5:00 and over 500 responses had already been submitted.
 - ii. Working groups will be established at each school building to analyze its unique needs in terms of staffing, layout, and other factors.
 - iii. In order to bring back more students, social distancing may need to be decreased from the longheld standard of 6 feet. Part of the aforementioned survey is dedicated to learning what families' minimum comfort levels are.
- b. Questions from the Committee focused on: if there is a deadline for completing the survey; information about how the building-based working groups will operate and report to the general administrative leadership team; how the needs of the Central Office staff are being assessed; how feedback will be solicited from the community; the timing of

the plan development process; if a document can be released relaying the data supporting the decisions made; and if the full remote learning model will continue to be offered;

- i. During this exchange, Superintendent Crozier explained differences between how these working groups are being established and tasked when compared to those used during the Summer 2020 reopening discussions.
- ii. The Committee also discussed how standardized tests such as the MCAS will be administered.

3. Town Report

- a. Superintendent Crozier shared the District's portion of the Annual Town Report with the Committee. Final copies of the document will be sent to the Committee and posted on the SPS website before being submitted to the Office of the Select Board.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. Vote to Terminate EDCO Collaborative

- i. The EDCO Board of Directors has voted to terminate the Collaborative. In accordance with EDCO's membership agreement, the next step in the termination process is for each constituent School Committee to pass, by simple majority, its own motion to terminate the Collaborative.

1. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to terminate the EDCO Collaborative as of June 30, 2022, Meredith Gerson seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
- iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
- iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
- v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

b. Review and Approve FY22 District Fees

- i. To assist the the Committee with setting the FY22 fee schedules for Facility Use, Bus Transportation, and Instrumental Music Lessons, Mr. Sawyer prepared the several suggested schedules. These schedules were unchanged from their FY21 levels.

1. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the FY22 District Fee Schedules as presented, Meredith Gerson seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
- iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye

iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

c. School Committee Meeting Dates For FY22

i. The Committee reviewed and revised a list of proposed meeting dates for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and concluding June 30, 2022. The Committee agreed to move its planned meeting on January 10, 2022 to January 11, 2022

1. Meredith Gerson motioned to approve the School Committee Meeting Dates for FY22 as amended, Maggie Helon seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

i. Meredith Gerson: Aye

ii. Maggie Helon: Aye

iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye

iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

d. Constituting Negotiating Teams

i. The Committee discussed the formation of, and members' assignment to, negotiating teams for the upcoming contract discussions with the different employee bargaining units recognized by SPS.

1. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to appoint Silvia Nerssessian and Meredith Gerson as the Negotiating Team for the SEA and ESPAS, Maggie Helon seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

i. Meredith Gerson: Aye

ii. Maggie Helon: Aye

iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye

iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

2. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to appoint Silvia Nerssessian and Sarah Troiano as the Negotiating Team for the Custodians' and Nurses' contracts, Maggie Helon seconded.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE

i. Meredith Gerson: Aye

ii. Maggie Helon: Aye

iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye

iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye

v. Sarah Troiano: Aye

1. VOTE: 5-0. Motion carries.

e. Future Agenda Items

- i. School Committee Self-Evaluation, Legislative Forum, summer workshop details
- f. Minutes
 - i. The School Committee reviewed and revised minutes from the February 8, 2021 meeting.
 - 1. Lisa Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the February 8, 2021 meeting, as amended, Sarah Troiano seconded.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - iii. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - iv. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - v. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - 1. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.
- g. Adjournment
 - i. Meredith Gerson motioned to adjourn at 8:12 PM, Maggie Helon seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - c. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessian: Aye
 - e. Sarah Troiano: Aye
 - i. **VOTE: 5-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the February 22, 2021 School Committee Meeting

1. Sudbury Public Schools Year-to-Date Budget, January 31, 2021
2. Town Report 2021: Sudbury Public Schools
3. FY22 Fees Recommendation Memo
4. School Committee Meeting Schedule FY22 DRAFT
5. Sudbury School Committee Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2021 DRAFT