

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Christine Hogan

Also Present:

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

Regular Session Meeting

Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian opened the meeting at 7:33 PM.

1. Public Comment
 - a. Kay Bell, of Old Lancaster Road, spoke to the committee regarding community engagement and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of everyone in this crisis.
 - b. Rebecca Chen, of Bulkley Road, spoke to the committee regarding outdoor education options and cohort grouping.
2. COVID-19 Update
 - a. Reopening Family Survey Results
 - i. Superintendent Crozier discussed survey results with the committee. 90% of parents responded, and student names were collected to help identify preferences for cohorting, special populations, staffing, etc.
 1. Key takeaways included that families first choice is an alternating by day model for in-person learning, a majority intending to utilize in-person learning, the importance of sanitation and adherence to 6 foot CDC social distancing guidance, a preference to keep families on the same schedule, a requirement for more information

before making transportation decisions, and that parents need childcare for remote days.

2. Comment themes included social distancing concerns, DESE vs CDC social distance minimums, consistency in days attended for work/daycare planning, social-emotional health, sibling attendance, mask requirements, and cohorting by ability.
3. Committee questions centered on what information will be sent to parents before they must make a decision on hybrid vs remote, who will instruct students in the remote model, target date for commitment from families, remote platforms, options of Sudbury utilizing their own platform, when the committee will decide on a plan, structure for potential for shift to remote later on, student learning in each different model, additional expenses of models, cohort information before decision making, considerations on ability grouping, and communication of hybrid models and deadlines.

b. Hybrid and Remote Learning Plans Update

- i. Superintendent Crozier noted that DESE updates regarding transportation have been issued, with 1 student per seat unless they are siblings. He also noted that additional DESE regulations regarding building preparations have been released.
- ii. Superintendent Crozier presented the hybrid model recommended by the working group. This would have Cohort A attending Monday and Thursday, remote Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and Cohort B in person Tuesday and Friday, and remote Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Wednesday remote learning would be synchronous with the entire class learning remotely. The buildings will be thoroughly cleaned daily, and this model is beneficial in that students are never away from in-person learning for more than two days at a time.
- iii. Committee questions centered on synchronous learning on remote days, communications around structure of each day, options of movement for families between structures of remote and in-person, requirements for in-person education, remote structure around holidays, potential for full time in-person for some populations, mask-wearing rules, cleaning of buses, remote learning studios, IEP and 504 planning, approach for special needs students, links for COVID information on the website, resource for Sudbury's plans that go beyond DESE guidance, and coordination with LS.

3. Business and Policy Matters

a. SEPAC Survey Results

- i. Betsy Field and Maia Proujansky-Bell shared the results of a survey of special education families, where 25% of families responded. Key takeaways included that 59% of respondents had synchronous learning

offered, synchronous learning was more productive than asynchronous learning and students were more engaged, 62% of families received a learning plan, but the majority of parents felt that they were not involved and the plans were not well structured, many parents felt they lack the time or skills to teach their students or their students were resistant or unable to participate in remote learning, 53% of families in a process received an extension request for IEPs with most finding a mutually agreeable time, families need frequent and regular communications.

- ii. Recommendations included connecting students and families with special and general educators, structured check-ins, increased district communication, revisiting IEPs and 504s to address remote learning needs, resuming evaluations during remote learning, prioritizing in-person instruction, providing parent education, and prioritizing synchronous, small group and 1:1 education.
- iii. Committee questions focused on opportunities to survey all families.
- b. Sudbury Foundation Grant Proposal Review
 - i. The Committee discussed their grant application to bring in a speaker on equity topics. They revised the proposal and discussed working with Superintendent Crozier and Assistant Superintendent Swain to add additional content to their proposal.
 - ii. Silvia Nerssessionian motioned to approve submission of the equity mini-grant to the Sudbury Foundation, giving the administration authority to amend and make edits, Meredith Gerson seconded.
 - 1. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - c. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - d. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
- c. Liaison Reports
 - i. Silvia Nerssessionian noted that the Select Board had mentioned a joint communication from the schools and select board regarding Covid-19.
 - ii. Maggie Helon discussed providing communications in whatever the most popular second language is in Sudbury.

4. Adjournment

- a. Maggie Helon motioned to adjourn at 10:03 PM., Meredith Gerson seconded.
 - i. ROLL CALL VOTE
 - 1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - 2. Maggie Helon: Aye
 - 3. Lisa Kouchakdjian: Aye
 - 4. Silvia Nerssessionian: Aye
 - a. **VOTE:4-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Dulak

Documents Reviewed During the July 23, 2020 School Committee Meeting

1. School Reopening Quantitative Results from Family Survey, July 23, 2020
2. Sudbury SEPAC Family Survey: Special Education Remote Learning Spring 2020
3. The Sudbury Foundation Racial Equity and Inclusion Mini Grant RFP
4. Sudbury Public Schools Grant Proposal Letter