

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2025

Members Present:

Nicole Burnard, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Karyn Jones

Absent:

Mandy Sim

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Annette Doyle, Assistant Superintendent
Senator Jamie Eldridge
Representative Carmine Gentile
Erin Kehew, SEA Representative and Special Educator
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources

1. Opening Statement / Regular Session

Chair Nicole Burnard opened the regular session meeting at 7:00 p.m. She 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. Karyn Jones, Meredith Gerson and Nicole Burnard affirmed in the positive.

2. Special Matters

- a. Legislative Forum, Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Carmine Gentile
 - i. Introductions
 - ii. Updates on initiatives that have been implemented in this past year that specifically impact the students in Sudbury Public Schools
 - iii. Initiatives/budget items/Bills for upcoming year that specifically will impact the students in Sudbury Public Schools
 - iv. Q & A from Members
 1. Senator Eldridge provided updates on the governor's budget proposal and the Chapter 70 funding proposal does not include a significant increase. Also discussed was the Special Education Circuit Breaker Reimbursement. He offered his help to advocate for any applicable grants.
 2. Representative Gentile reported on the Chapter 70 increase, minimum aid per student and confirmed legislature is fully funding the Student Opportunity Act.
 3. Updates on initiatives include continuing Universal School meals, elimination of MCAS graduation requirement, Chapter 70 inflation adjustment, METCO funding and federal uncertainty.

4. In addition, Representative Gentile has refiled a bill to study student start times and schedules and has submitted an Act establishing an LGBTQIA+ Parent Advisory Council.
5. Questions from the Committee were related to DEI initiatives and the state guidance vs. federal impact, the recent statement from MASCO, MASS and MASBO and Circuit Breaker specialized transportation.

3. Public Comment

- a. Kathleen Parente, Sudbury resident, thanked Superintendent Crozier for the recent communication regarding the new Noyes Principal. She also asked for transparency on projected classroom reductions.
- b. Mary Stephens, Sudbury resident and former School Committee Member, made a statement related to her work on the Policy Subcommittee and urged the Committee to focus on student needs and ensure her vacant seat is filled through a fair process.
- c. Cassidy Dallas, Groton resident, shared their support for a Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Policy to support a feeling of belonging for LGBTQ+ students.
- d. Colleen Gleason-Epple, Sudbury resident, asked the School Committee to move forward with the Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Policy.
- e. Rich Thalmann, Sudbury resident, shared his support for members Burnard, Gerson and Sim for their work on the Committee.

4. Educational and Operational Matters

- a. SEA Report (Erin Kehew)
 - i. Ms. Kehew shared an update including the second round of parent teacher conferences starting this week. Math, ELA and SEL meetings continue to help track student growth. Recent enrichment activities at Haynes included the second annual Community Week, featuring visits from Ball in the House, the Discovery Museum, Whale Day and a presentation by a local dentist.
 - ii. Educators in the district will participate in a day of action to show their support of public schools tomorrow.
- b. District Reports
 - i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report
 1. March 5th is the date for the rescheduled Budget Hearing with the Finance Committee.
 2. MSBA is conducting their 2025 state wide school survey with planned visits in Sudbury on March 12 and March 13. This survey is separate from the roof projects.
 3. Pre-approvals for the roof projects have been completed. Next steps include having a project manager assigned.
 4. Superintendent Crozier shared his thanks to Mr. Sawyer, Facilities and Maintenance Departments for all their work in getting ready for the MSBA visit.
 5. Questions from the Committee surrounded the amount of lead time given to prepare for the MSBA visits.
 - ii. Assistant Superintendent Report

1. Congratulations to Abigail P, 8th grade student, who will be moving on to the regional Spelling Bee Competition.
2. Parent / Teacher conferences are underway.
3. Mrs. Doyle recently observed Disability Awareness lessons.
4. The Committee shared their Congratulations to Abigail P.

iii. Superintendent's Report

1. The Curtis Middle School musical, SpongeBob, starts this week.
2. The Central Office Art Gallery Opening is scheduled for March 12th and March 19th. Noyes, Loring and Haynes Schools will be celebrated on March 12th and the Nixon and Curtis Schools will be celebrated on March 19th.
3. Recently announced is the appointment of the Noyes new Principal, Amy Mulkerin.
4. The annual School Committee Meeting to be held in Boston is now on March 31st at the KROC Center starting at 6:00 p.m.

5. Business and Policy Matters

a. School Committee Meeting Schedule for FY26

- i. The Committee reviewed the proposed schedule for FY26.
- ii. Due to upcoming guidance expected about remote meetings and new members being appointed, the Committee decided to vote on the dates proposed but to decide on meeting locations at a future meeting.
- iii. One minor change was recommended and agreed upon.
 1. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the School Committee meeting schedule for FY26 as amended. Karyn Jones seconded the motion.

a. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
- ii. Karyn Jones: Aye
- iii. Nicole Burnard: Aye

1. **Vote:** 3-0. Motion carries.

b. School Committee Goal Student Safety

i. Say Something Follow Up

1. Assistant Superintendent Doyle provided an update on the Say Something Program.
2. She reviewed the process for when tips are received, what kind of reports are received and how tips are coming in.
3. Questions from the School Committee surrounded curriculum implementation, the process for non-life threatening calls, tracking for follow up, percentages reporting anonymously, follow up with students and how the School Committee can help support the program.

c. School Committee Vacancy

- i. Chair Nicole Burnard informed the Committee that the Select Board has voted to begin the School Committee member appointment process.

- ii. The Committee engaged in discussion sharing their thoughts and concerns with the process.
- iii. Chair Burnard will follow up with the Select Board to identify potential meeting dates and will update the Committee.
 - 1. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to authorize Nicole Burnard to write a communication to be sent to the Select Board regarding the vacancy process. Chair Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - iii. Karyn Jones: No
 - 1. **Vote:** 2-1. Motion carries.
- d. PBC Appointment Process
 - i. Chair Nicole Burnard shared that the School Committee appoints a member to the PBC for a term of three years. Anhu Shah, the current PBC appointee, ends his term on May 30, 2025.
 - ii. She then reviewed the process for appointing this position.
- e. Open Meeting Law Violation Complaints
 - i. Chair Nicole Burnard explained that the purpose of this agenda item is to vote on allowing counsel to respond to both complaints within the required timeframe. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson will serve as the contact person for the Open Meeting Law violation case against the School Committee.
 - ii. Questions from the Committee surrounded whether legal counsel will reach out to Member Jones.
 - iii. Member Karyn Jones shared a statement in response to the complaint.
 - iv. OM Complaint - Sudbury School Committee
 - 1. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to authorize legal counsel to draft a response and authorize the Vice Chair to work with legal counsel to provide the necessary information to draft a response. Chair Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Karyn Jones: Abstain
 - iii. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - 1. **Vote:** 2-1. Motion carries.
 - v. OML Complaint - R. Thompson
 - 1. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to authorize legal counsel to draft a response and authorize the Chair to work with legal counsel to provide the necessary information to draft a response. Chair Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.
 - a. ROLL CALL VOTE:
 - i. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - ii. Karyn Jones: Abstain
 - iii. Nicole Burnard: Aye
 - 1. **Vote:** 2-1. Motion carries.

f. Future Agenda Items

- i. Karyn Jones moved to bring the April 12, 2024 and December 12, 2024 Policy Subcommittee minutes to the full Committee to vote for approval. Chair Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - c. Nicole Burnard: Aye

- i. **Vote:** 3-0. Motion carries.

- ii. Karyn Jones moved to discuss, review and possibly amend policies BDFA - School Councils and BDFAE - School Improvement Plans as our current practice does not match what is outlined in the policy. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson seconded the motion.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - c. Nicole Burnard: Aye

- i. **Vote:** 3-0. Motion carries.

- iii. Karyn Jones motions for the School Committee to ask administration to come to the School Committee to talk about enrichment programs that can be created and the cost to implement such programs. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson seconded the motion.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - c. Nicole Burnard: Aye

- i. **Vote:** 3-0. Motion carries.

g. Minutes (01/27/25 and 02/10/25)

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the open session meeting minutes from the January 27, 2025 meeting as amended. Chair Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - b. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - c. Nicole Burnard: Aye

- i. **Vote:** 3-0. Motion carries.

- ii. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the open session meeting minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting as amended. Chair Nicole Burnard seconded the motion.

- iii. A minor change was recommended and approved.

- 1. ROLL CALL VOTE:

- a. Karyn Jones: Aye
 - b. Meredith Gerson: Aye
 - c. Nicole Burnard: Aye

i. **Vote:** 3-0. Motion carries.

6. Adjournment

a. Chair Nicole Burnard moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. Meredith Gerson seconded the motion.

i. ROLL CALL VOTE:

1. Meredith Gerson: Aye
2. Karyn Jones : Aye
3. Nicole Burnard: Aye

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Williams

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the March 3, 2025 School Committee Meeting

1. School Committee Meeting Schedule FY26
2. Say Something SC Update 3_3_25
3. OMLComplainFeb14
4. PacEmail
5. Sudbury Policy Discussion_Karen & Jason-21
6. Policy BDF
7. KarynsResponse - OML Complaint Form
8. KarynAgendaItem
9. Policy BGB
10. 021025_School Committee Agenda.docx(1)
11. Policy KCB
12. Policy KDB
13. (JBB, JB-B, JBD) Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Student - history
14. OML Complaint_2.10.25
15. OML Complaint Form
16. 012725_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT
17. 021025_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT