

Sudbury School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

Members Present:

Nicole Burnard, Chair
Meredith Gerson, Vice Chair
Karyn Jones
Jessica McCready
Mandy Sim

Also Present:

Brad Crozier, Superintendent
Annette Doyle, Assistant Superintendent
Don Sawyer, Director of Business and Human Resources
Lauren Egizio, Humanities Curriculum Coordinator
Betsy Grams, Wellness Curriculum Specialist
Gary Grasse, SEA Representative and Literacy Specialist (remote)
Karen Wolfson, Math Curriculum Coordinator

1. Executive Session

Chair Nicole Burnard opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes. Purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Nurses' Association, the Sudbury Education Association, and the Education Support Professionals Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and the Committee will return to open session. seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Meredith Gerson: Aye
Jessica McCready: Aye
Nicole Burnard: Aye
Mandy Sim: Aye

Vote: 4-0. Motion carries.

Chair Burnard confirmed the motion has passed and the Committee will enter into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes. Purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Sudbury Nurses' Association, the Sudbury Education Association, and the Education Support Professionals Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and return to open session.

2. Opening Statement / Regular Session

Chair Nicole Burnard re-opened the regular session meeting at 7:04 p.m.

3. Public Comment
 - a. Aaron Thompson, 51 Dakin Road, advocated for classroom sizes at Haynes.
 - b. Nicole Burnard, Sudbury resident and Chair of the Sudbury School Committee announced that tonight is Vice Chair Meredith Gerson's last official School Committee Meeting. She expressed her heartfelt thanks for all her years of service and dedication to the Sudbury School Committee. Superintendent Crozier also expressed his appreciation for her student centered approach and presented a small token of gratitude on behalf of the District.

4. Special Matters
 - a. Academic Benchmarking
 - i. Betsy Grams, Karen Wolfson and Lauren Egizio presented the Committee with a report highlighting SEL, Math and ELA Benchmarking Data.
 - ii. Questions related to SEL included topics such as support for gender-diverse students and efforts to improve school climate, is any screening done with K-2 students, insight into the decline in certain student subgroups, and why middle school students may feel less welcome compared to those in elementary school. Additional questions surrounded follow up with LSRHS, the use of depression screeners, and the impact of students' sense of connection related to their test scores.
 - iii. ELA questions related to whether children who are unable to take the DIBELS assessment are represented in the data, the EL Pilot focus group and if there are any indicators used to identify the needs of PK students.
 - iv. Math related questions focused on grade levels approaching the next benchmarking targets, the curriculum for developing math fluency, differentiation for fast learners, uninterrupted learning time and school to school variabilities.

Mandy Sim excused herself from the meeting.

- b. Grade 7 Math Proposal
 - i. Karen Wolfson presented a proposal on updating and improving math course progression at the middle school.
 - ii. Questions from the Committee surrounded the percentage of students anticipated to enroll in the newly proposed course, how long the current system has been used, any advocacy from DESE to change existing standards, inquiries about other districts using similar curriculum, student to teacher ratios, asynchronous learning options and LS placement history review.
 - iii. The Committee shared positive feedback about the proposal and shared concerns about self-study and double enrollment.
 - iv. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Grade 7 Math Proposal as presented to be implemented in FY26. Karyn Jones seconded the motion. **All in favor: 4-0.** Motion carries.
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5. Educational and Operational Matters
 - a. SEA Report (Gary Grassey)

- i. Updates on activities in the middle school include 100 students traveling to the Moakley Courthouse as part of a recent civics-related field trip. Civics Action Projects will be showcased in late May. Projects include lowering voting age; passage of the study act; food insecurity and access to vocational schools. Mr. Grasseley noted that former Curtis students are still actively working on the projects they began in 8th grade.
- ii. Additionally, 20 Model UN students are participating in a conference at LS, and students have taken part in three workshops on how to work with bias and discrimination through The Playbook Initiative.
- iii. He also noted unified opportunities in place to support inclusive student participation.
- iv. The Committee posed questions about the Unified Games and how Curtis helps foster relationships among students.

b. District Reports

- i. Director of Business and Human Resources Report
 - 1. Bus registration opened last week and ends on May 19th. Registrations received from May 20th - June 13th will be charged a late fee.
- ii. Assistant Superintendent Report
 - 1. 100 Curtis students will be performing in the Annual Town Tour to all elementary schools.
 - 2. DC Family Info Night is on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
 - 3. ELA Family Info Webinar is on April 29th from 6:30-7:30 to learn about EL Implementation.
- iii. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. Bus Driver and Crossing Guard Appreciation Breakfast was held last week. Superintendent Crozier thanked SPS students for the cards they made and the PTO for collecting donations and food.
 - 2. The 8th grade "Make your Mark Tile Project" tiles are on display. Currently there are over 8,000 individual tiles hung at the middle school.
 - 3. A chromebook software implementation feature "sleep hours" will be in place as of April 28th. This feature prevents use during 11:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m.
 - 4. Many school districts recently received a request for certification from the US Department of Education. Interim Commission Tutwiler responded on behalf of DESE and confirmed the Department does comply with Title 6. This is required for federal funding. The Department has advised local agencies not to answer as the state has done so on our behalf.
 - 5. In addition, we recently received medicaid reimbursement. The Committee questioned where the reimbursement comes from.

6. Business and Policy Matters

a. Combined Facilities MOA

- i. Chair Burnard noted this agenda item will be moved to another meeting to allow for work in conjunction with the Select Board.

- ii. Questions related to when this meeting will be asked.
- b. Noyes Gift Acceptance
 - i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to accept a gift of a DJI Mini 4 Pro drone for the Peter Noyes Elementary School in the amount of \$810.00 with gratitude. Karyn Jones seconded the motion. **All in favor: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- c. CASE Q3 Report
 - i. As a member district, we are required to receive reports on the Collaboratives. Highlights were shared including strong student enrollment and a new consulting team initiative.
- d. Accept Q3 Report
 - i. Jacqueline LeSage is now the acting Executive Director. Still watching student enrollment as it's below budget projections but they continue to work with a positive cash flow.
 - ii. Questions related to whether MCAS scores from Accept students are shared.
- e. School Committee Self-Assessment
 - i. The self-assessment was reviewed by all Committee members. Questions related to the shift in how the assessment was worded were asked and whether the questions differ from years past.
 - ii. The Committee engaged in discussion about how motions are made.
 - iii. MASC has recommended a workshop to review and update current policies and operating protocols on an annual basis. Additionally, they suggested a workshop focused on roles and responsibilities and a review of the legal responsibilities of the Committee vs. the administration.
- f. Monthly Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants Submission
 - i. No action required by the Committee.
- g. Future Agenda Items
 - i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves for the Committee to include a policy on authorized use of the SPS logo on a future agenda. Nicole Burnard seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-1.** Motion carries.
 - ii. Karyn Jones moves to reorganize the Negotiations Subcommittee due to a member rolling off. Jessica McCready seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-2.** Motion does not pass.
 - iii. Jessica McCready moves to add a discussion for the School Committee to take part in Pride Day per the invitation from the Sudbury Pride Committee which is happening on June 8, 2025. Karyn Jones seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.
 - iv. Karyn Jones moves to discuss members participating remotely in both regular and executive session meetings. Jessica McCready seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.
- h. Minutes (03/17/25)

- i. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson moves to approve the Sudbury School Committee open session meeting minutes from the March 17, 2025 meeting as presented / amended. Karyn Jones seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.
7. Adjournment
 - a. Chair Nicole Burnard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. Vice Chair Meredith Gerson seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0.** Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Documents Reviewed During the April 14, 2025 School Committee Meeting

1. DRAFT - Spring 2025 Benchmark Presentation
2. Progression of Middle School Mathematics_A Proposal
3. Drone Request Letter 04-08-2025
4. DJI MINI 4 PRO
5. CASE General Update 4_11_2025
6. ACCEPT - Q3 Report - Monthly Memo March 2025
7. SCEval2025
8. SC Meeting Warrant Summary - 041025
9. 031725_Sudbury School Committee Minutes_DRAFT