

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Work Session on Full-Day Kindergarten  
Wednesday, March 4, 2009**

**Present:** Susan Iuliano, Chairperson; Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson;  
Rich Robison, Jeff Beeler, Michele MacDonald

**Also Present:** Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent; Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent (until 9:40 p.m.); Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance (until 10:00 p.m.)

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Disclosures**

Susan Iuliano reported receiving a disclosure form from Town Clerk Rosemary Harvell. This newly issued form will be used when the Committee sets fees that will affect their own children, as well as for other disclosures.

Michele MacDonald and Susan Iuliano disclosed that they are members of First Parish of Sudbury, which has a contract with Sudbury Extended Day, Inc. (S.E.D.).

**Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK)**

**General**

A public forum was held on February 26. Director of Early Childhood Education Linda Karpeichik provided an update of data for the Committee's review. She reported that projected enrollment is down to 265 from an original projection of 289. The response rate to the survey of prospective incoming kindergarten students was 93%. The percentage of interested students from each school matches the projected enrollment for each school. There is some variability in the level of interest in FDK among the schools.

Superintendent Brackett enumerated the themes from the forum:

- Fee origin
- Accessibility
- Lottery details
- Differences between FDK and half-day
- Determining what's appropriate for a particular child
- Custodial issues/S.E.D.
- ILAP childcare

Haynes principal Kim Swain recorded all questions and comments from the public forum. A copy of this record was provided to the Committee.

Ms. Karpeichik summarized the following:

- FDK students cannot be accommodated by S.E.D. on ILAP Wednesdays for the gap between early dismissal time and regular dismissal time (at least 13 families affected).
  - The administration recognizes the need to accommodate affected students and is considering its options for doing so.
- There will likely be a need for both a.m. and p.m. half-day programs.

**Fees**

Mary Will presented an outline of sliding-scale tuitions for rates between \$3,500 and \$5,000. She presented cost and program analyses based on survey information. She also noted the following regarding fees:

- All FDK fees must be appropriated to costs associated with the FDK program. In some cases, there may be an offset of costs already represented in the school budget.
- The fee will be based on the actual number of enrollees.
- Space is a consideration.
- According to the Department of Education (DESE), funding the purchase of portable classrooms would require establishing a separate revolving fund; these costs cannot be attributed to tuition through the existing revolving fund.
- Currently, the tuition range is \$3,750-\$4,000.

Jeff Beeler encouraged keeping costs as low as possible. It was noted that lower fees would increase interest, which may necessitate lotteries on the level of the individual schools.

Class size variance across the schools and the differential in class size between FDK and half-day projected enrollments present some challenges. The Committee did not reach a consensus on having FDK enrollments that are somewhat over the 20-student guideline, while having half-day enrollments that are significantly less. A guideline

range for FDK of 20-22 students was recommended. The Committee also recommended equitable half-day programs across the schools. Mary Will offered to continue this analysis, pursuing FDK limits that are within the State grant eligibility requirements. Linda Karpeichik will be communicating with the DESE prior to the next Regular Session regarding grant funding opportunities.

### Members' Forum

Jeff Beeler disclosed that his wife Karen Darmer is heading the Support Sudbury Municipal Ballot Question Committee. He filed the disclosure with Town Clerk Rosemary Harvell.

Susan Iuliano noted scheduling conflicts for the next Regular Session and the L-S open house for parents of incoming freshmen. The Committee agreed by consensus to start the Regular Session at 8:00 p.m. on March 11. The Committee is considering discussing the budget first, followed by the vote on FDK.

Rich Robison asked for an update on the Superintendent's evaluation. Susan Iuliano will send a reminder. The Committee is targeting its March 25 meeting to finalize the evaluation; Ms. Iuliano encouraged all members to provide their input. Dr. Brackett will provide his self-evaluation within the next week.

Susan Iuliano proposed that the Committee provide a guest column to the *Town Crier* and/or its own newsletter to outline its stance on the Budget Review Task Force (BRTF) report. The goal is to publish something within the next two weeks.

Rich Robison reiterated his recommendation that information regarding bargaining remain confidential. He stated that the SEA-SPS Committee joint statement of confidentiality is available and will be posted shortly. He also stated that the mechanism of distribution of stimulus funds has not been determined.

Susan Iuliano and Jeff Beeler are preparing a response to an email from Brian Semple.

Jeff Beeler reported receiving information from BRTF member Bob Haarde on energy usage analyses performed by Atlantic Energy. Both the District and the Town are above the best in region for costs; Atlantic Energy made some recommendations for cost savings. Mr. Beeler noted that through his involvement with the preparation of the BRTF report, he was aware that 14-15% of non employee-related costs are for energy usage. At Mr. Haarde's request he is forwarding the information to the Selectmen.

### Adjourn

On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to adjourn the Work Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 10:15 p.m.

Yes	Susan Iuliano
Yes	Rich Robison
Yes	Jane Santinelli
Yes	Jeff Beeler
Yes	Michele MacDonald

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary