

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

Present: Susan Iuliano, Chairperson; Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson (at 8:25 p.m.);
Rich Robison, Jeff Beeler, Michele MacDonald

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent; Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance; Jessica Polizzotti, SEA

Open Session

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. FY10 Budget Update

Superintendent Brackett reported that there may be further adjustments or cuts to the FY09 budget. Principals have been notified of a re-freeze on spending. Additionally, Town receipts are lower than anticipated. Dr. Brackett presented a proposed budget balancing plan, modified only slightly from that previously presented. The net cost savings of \$709K remains the same.

2. Federal Stimulus Update

Business and Finance Director Mary Will and Superintendent Brackett will attend a workshop on the stimulus funds on Monday, March 30. Dr. Brackett referred to the memo received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding the stimulus funds. The State advises that 50% of the funds go toward improving student achievement through school improvement and reform. The overriding message is to use funds in a manner that does not result in unsustainable commitments when the funding expires. All funds will come as grants, some of which will be competitive. The Committee expressed some concern about the apparent lack of federal provisions to prevent state or local governing bodies from supplanting the funds. Susan Iuliano noted that Town Manager Maureen Valente stated that the funds were going directly to the schools and that she hasn't heard anything on the Town's application for funds.

Dr. Brackett reported that a meeting of teachers and administrators will be held to brainstorm uses for the funds, with an emphasis on expenditures that are cutting edge, result in cost savings, or those that have a long-term impact. The District expects to receive approximately \$139K from the State Stabilization Fund and \$364K from IDEA.

3. School Committee Report

Preparation for Town Meeting

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to support a Town Meeting motion to suspend the budget article until May, given revenue uncertainties. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

In the event that such a motion fails, Dr. Brackett will make a presentation describing the impact of a non-override budget. Susan Iuliano will follow up with Moderator Myron Fox regarding procedural matters, particularly as it relates to the FinCom budget presentation.

Susan Iuliano reported that the Budget Review Task Force (BRTF) will present their preliminary recommendations at Town Meeting. There is a possibility that these recommendations will not be finalized and that the BRTF will be dissolved when Members' appointments expire. The SPS Committee will meet on March 28 to craft a response to the BRTF report. Jane Santinelli recommended making a joint presentation with the BRTF at Town Meeting and/or preparing a handout to be distributed there.

4. Open Forum

None.

5. Superintendent's Report

(a) School and Family Social Worker Grant

The Committee was provided a copy of a grant request for support for this position. Funds would be used to extend or reduce those received from the Sudbury Foundation.

(b) Donations

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the proposed donations, as outlined, from the Nixon and Noyes PTO's. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Committee is interested in reinvestigating inventory control. Additionally, the Committee will explore the possibility of using one-time stimulus funds for technology purchases that may address equity issues.

(c) Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

(d) Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

(e) Recognitions

Dr. Brackett presented the following recognitions:

- Sudbury residents Sophia and Oscar Harrell, who have mentored the 4th- and 5th-grade METCO students over the past year
- The Curtis Science Olympiad team, which place second in the State competition
- Two Destination Imagination teams—one 8th-grade team and one elementary-grade team—which qualified for the State competition
- Several Curtis staff members who arranged for a 6th-grade parent social for Sudbury and Boston METCO families, to coincide with the 6th-grade Spring Fling dance, which the students attended
- Curtis teacher Mary Mahoney, who was selected to participate in the University of Oxford *Age of Lincoln* program
- Loring teacher Sara Fisher, whose students created a multi-media presentation of the Aztec, Inca, and Mayan civilizations
- Math Curriculum Specialist Joy Cooke and Loring teacher Joe Dinmore, who led a workshop entitled *Math Through Your Child's Eyes*
- The cast and crew of the Curtis play, *The Music Man*
- Curtis guidance counselor Ann-Noelle McCowan, who facilitated the creation of the Diversity Group at the middle school. The group will focus on optimizing the academic, social, and emotional experience of the Boston students
- The Curtis math team, which place 2nd in the region in the last meet, with two participants attaining perfect test scores

6. **Minutes**

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2009 Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2009 Work Session on Full-Day Kindergarten. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

7. **Communications**

As presented in the Communications Packet. The Committee agreed by consensus to send a letter to Governor Patrick encouraging him to reinstate METCO funds to the FY10 budget.

8. **Members' Forum**

Rich Robison indicated his willingness and interest in hosting a School Committee meeting or social gathering at his office in Boston for the benefit of Boston students and their families. He also addressed a question that came up at the League of Women Voters Candidates' Night concerning televising School Committee meetings. He stated that meetings were routinely televised in the past, but the volunteer camera operator could not be replaced when the position was vacated. The Committee agreed to provide its input to the Superintendent's evaluation by April 15.

Mary Will reported that bus transportation letters are being prepared for mailing. Fees are the same as this year; a \$50.00 late fee will be required for requests made after June 30.

Michele MacDonald asked about the number of FDK applicants. Mary Will reported that 140 applications have been received to date; March 26 is the deadline. She also commented on the recent L-S student-hosted candidates' forum, which will be televised. Finally, she reported that the foreign exchange students will go unrecognized at this year's Town Meeting.

Jeff Beeler gave high praise to a March 23 District presentation on cyber bullying, reporting that it was both well-attended and received.

Assistant Superintendent Bob Milley distributed copies of two articles, one on student achievement as a function of class size and one on a bullying prevention program.

Jessica Polizzotti announced that the softball bonanza will be held on May 29, with a rain date of June 3.

9. Executive Session

None.

1 Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to adjourn the Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 10:00 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary