

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2009**

Present: Susan Iuliano, Chairperson; Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson;
Rich Robison (by conference call), Jeffrey Beeler, Michele MacDonald

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

Open Session

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

1. FY10 Budget Update & Approval to Balance a Non-override Budget

The Committee discussed the status of the state budget and the potential strategies the lawmakers may use for both FY09 and FY10 to cover the ever-increasing shortfall. Susan reported on the Budget Working Group discussions. The non-override budget seems acceptable based on the recent House numbers. There is the possibility of postponing the budget articles at the Town Meeting on May 11th to June 15th due to the sustained lack of clear numbers and information, but conducting business on all other articles. No decision has yet been made.

There has been information on the Senate budget that is expected to come out on May 14–15. It is expected they will cut Chapter 70 monies. The possibility of sending out an e-blast regarding the possibility that the budget review and vote might be postponed once again was reviewed. There was a concern that too many community members might not show up for the meeting at all. The Board of Selectmen might be issuing a statement on this matter.

2 Preparation for Town Meeting on May 11

The Committee considered the presentation for Town Meeting should there be a vote on the budget. Ways by which the budget could be increased by motions from the floor were discussed. Health insurance reserve line items and the mechanisms for handling these were discussed.

Dr. Brackett indicated that the Town Meeting PowerPoint presentation reviewed at the last School Committee meeting would remain largely unchanged except for a minor tweaking of the numbers. Included are:

- Budget Summary Scenarios
- FY10 Non-Override Budget Summary
- Tentative Budget Balancing Plan
- Summary Impact Non-Override Budget
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- A.R.R.A. Stimulus Funding (new slide)

In regard to the Budget Balancing Plan, the new, more accurate numbers are tied to specific staff affected by the cuts. The latest total that would need to be cut is \$709,000. One reduction that has been reinstated is one middle school teacher because of an extreme class size issue at the middle school. The team configurations that would result from middle school cuts were reviewed to affirm this decision.

Elementary cuts are expected to be fully covered by attrition.

Dr. Brackett reviewed latest enrollments in full-day and half-day Kindergarten and the staffing implications.

3 Approval of School Committee's Public Comment on BRTF Preliminary Reports

Minor wording and formatting changes were reviewed and approved. Edits incorporated suggestions from the previous meeting. The Committee commended Susan for her excellent work on this report.

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to accept the School Committee's Public Comments on the BRTF Report. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

3. School Committee Report

Public Communication Planning

The Committee discussed options for taping some or all of its meetings and will consider this and other aspects of communication at a future meeting.

4. Open Forum

Tammie Dufault, Silver Hill Road, asked about which seventh-grade classes would be affected by the restoration of

the middle-school teacher. It was explained that the impact on classes would be different for the various subjects.

5. Superintendent's Report

(a) Recognitions

Superintendent Brackett recognized, as part of Teacher Recognition Week, our SPS teachers for their dedication and passion that often goes under-appreciated. May 6th was School Nurse Recognition Day and Dr. Brackett recognized their commitment and caring that help our students remain healthy, successful, and safe.

(b) Donations

None.

(c) Bill Schedule

None.

(d) Personnel Actions

None.

6. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2009 Regular Session, as amended. The vote was 4–0 in favor. Jeff Beeler abstained.

7. Communications

The BOS requested comments on their goals for next year. Jeff Beeler suggested that the matter of sewers be included among their goals. He also suggested that the Selectmen look into pursuing alternative energy sources.

There was a recommendation that the work of the Budget Working Group be better defined as part of next year's process.

8. Members' Forum

Susan Iuliano requested that the Committee meet at 6:30 p.m. at L-S on May 11. Mary Will asked that donations and the bill schedule be placed on the agenda. The Committee agreed by consensus. The Committee also agreed to cancel its May 13 meeting.

9. Executive Session

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining strategy, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 8:35 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary