

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

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

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent; Bob Milley, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Bob Mealey, SEA; Deborah Dixon, Special Education Administrator; Kim Swain, Haynes Principal; Joni Jay, Nixon Principal; Annette Doyle, Noyes Principal, Jeffery Dees, Loring Principal

Open Session

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. at the Haynes School. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

1. Josiah Haynes PTO Welcome (Sophia Kambanis)

PTO Co-chair Sophia Kambanis summarized successes from the 2008-2009 school year. She noted that the PTO budget contributes significantly to enrichment programs as well as to the technology budget. Major fundraising endeavors this year include an auction and a direct appeal. Parent participation is high.

2. The State of Haynes School (Principal Kim Swain)

Principal Swain introduced lead teachers Emily Dolan and Josh Baumer, who participated in the presentation. Principal Swain described some of the constructs utilized in framing the Haynes School experience, including a “gradual release of responsibility” model that transfers learning ownership from teacher to student through a process of guided, then independent practice. Haynes also utilizes the “response to intervention” (RTI) initiative. The administration additionally operates under the SOTEL lens, which encompasses Safety, Objectives, Teaching, Engagement, and Learning. Highlights of SOTEL include positive reinforcement of behavioral expectations, use of SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-bound) goals to meet curriculum objectives, differentiated instruction, engagement and community-building, and combinations of point-in-time and interim assessments of learning.

Principal Swain cited challenges arising from time constraints on assistants and specialists, particularly for scheduling differentiated instruction. Teacher collaboration time is also limited. Full-day kindergarten is running smoothly, with a highly qualified, expanded staff and collaborators from Tufts University.

The Committee noted the high level of cross-district communication and collaboration, as well as the overall positive message of the Haynes report.

3. Sudbury Special Education Advisory Council (SSEAC)

Sudbury parents Sara Houle and Lucie St. George have worked together for nearly a year to resuscitate the SSEAC, a state-mandated advisory committee. Their primary focus was to design a brochure and web page and to survey the community for its needs and interests. Working with a small group of similarly invested parents, the two organized their first presentation, held last week and attended by 15 individuals. District technology coordinator Michael O’Brien worked with the group to link their website to those of the individual schools.

4. Special Education Update & Report

Special Education Administrator Deborah Dixon presented an overview of the special education program, with an emphasis on describing placement patterns and strategies. In addition to placement considerations, she outlined services offered, eligibility criteria, staffing patterns, expenses, and the population of students at each school. Along with Nixon principal Joni Jay, and Curtis principal Stephen Lambert, she emphasized that placement is driven in large part by identifying learning partners for each student. This does lead to clustering and apparent discrepancies in the numbers of special education students in particular classrooms or on particular teams; however, the numbers do not reflect the specific needs of the students in terms of the level of services they receive and whether those services are provided within the classroom or not. Ms. Dixon concluded by highlighting some of the improvements to the program, including full engagement with the Instructional Support Team (IST) model, increased TEAM chair and psychologist support at each school, and increased collaboration with the general education staff. Ms. Dixon also noted positive feedback from parents regarding the transition of students to the middle school.

The Committee particularly appreciated the overview of placement drivers; this is a common inquiry from parents. Ms. Dixon expressed appreciation for the level of support the District offers to the special education program.

5. School Committee Report

Energy Grant Report & Progress

Jeff Beeler reported that the Energy Committee, following a state agency energy audit that identified the Noyes school for improvements related to energy use, has been working to secure a number of energy-related grants that may result in energy-related improvements to the Noyes school. In accord with the recommendation of the Energy Committee, the Board of Selectmen has voted to approve the submission of one grant request for approximately \$22,500 to fund the installation of a small solar array at Noyes. Efforts are also underway to apply for a grant that can be between \$500K and \$5 Million to fund energy efficient improvements to the Noyes infrastructure (e.g., windows, roofing, boiler, insulation, additional solar). All such proposals will likely need to be run through the Board of Selectmen/Town Manager. Funding sources and submission procedures differ for the two grants.

6. Open Forum

No comments.

7. Superintendent’s Report

(a) Donations

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to accept with thanks a donation of \$4,000 from Marcela and Paul Noonan, Pheasant Road, given in appreciation of the preschool program. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

(b) Recognitions

Dr. Brackett recognized the Curtis staff and Assistant Superintendent Bob Milley for their commitment to the METCO program. Fifteen staff members will join Mr. Milley and parents from Sudbury and Boston at an upcoming gathering in Boston.

(c) Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

(d) Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

8. Minutes—Regular Session, October 7, 2009

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2009 Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

9. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

10. Members’ Forum

Rich Robison noted that policy discussions at the state level are becoming increasingly polarized as resources tighten.

Sheila Cusolito asked for clarification regarding the energy grant submissions.

Bob Mealey reported that the SEA annual golf tournament on October 8 raised \$500 for scholarships and was attended by 44 golfers. He also noted an upcoming celebration for teachers who’ve reached 25 years of service, to be held on December 10.

Bob Milley reported that the Investigations and Impact math programs are fully incorporated and running successfully at the elementary and middle schools respectively. The District is now looking at programs for struggling students. He, along with Noyes Assistant Principal Kristin Moffat, Curtis Principal Stephen Lambert, and Curriculum Specialist Joy Cooke, recently attended the first in a series of workshops on improving instruction for such students.

11. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to adjourn to adjourn the Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 11:00 p.m.

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

