

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 2009**

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

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent; Bob Milley, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Will, Business and Finance Director; Nicole Lamoureaux, SEA; Betsy Grams, Wellness Curriculum Specialist

Open Session

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

1. Wellness, Risk Behavior, and Bullying Report

Wellness Curriculum Specialist Betsy Grams presented data associated with risk behavior, anti-bullying, nutrition, and fitness. Adolescent behavior assessment data have been collected every two years since 1997. This permits an internal trend analysis of behaviors. Additionally, 2009 data were compared with recently collected data from surrounding towns. Within Sudbury, the trends over time for substance use are favorable. Sudbury compares favorably with trends for surrounding communities as well as with those on a national scale. Ms. Grams attributes these favorable trends to a strong school-community partnership, support for establishing safe recreational space such as the Teen Center, and data sharing with L-S. Ms. Grams noted that she has met with the superintendent, the high school student assistance team, and the school nurse and will do so additionally during the school year. One current goal of the partnership with L-S is to establish student assistance teams at Curtis through the guidance program in order to provide support for students identified as at-risk.

With regard to violence and bullying, with few exceptions in recent years, approximately 50% of all student respondents in Grades 3-8 reported being bullied or observing bullying behavior. The Committee was interested to know if the data can be extrapolated to Grades K-2. Ms. Grams explained that those children are too young to understand the concept of intentional harm. Moreover, the discussions with young children use terms such as unkind, unsafe, or unwelcome behaviors, rather than bullying behaviors. Haynes fourth-grade teacher Nicole Lamoureaux interjected that even in the upper grades, some time must be spent helping students categorize behaviors as rude or annoying, vs. bullying. For younger children, she commented that the anti-bullying curriculum must become a “must do” from year to year in order for it to be successful. Despite considerable effort, notably with increased lunchroom supervision, there was no reduction in bullying at Curtis last year.

Significantly, across the district, 30-40% of students identified as either the aggressors or targets of bullying were special education students. The Committee recommended that the Sudbury Special Education Advisory Council (SSEAC) be engaged with the Wellness program.

It is anticipated that any changes to the anti-bullying program can be incorporated within the next year. An outside consultant may be enlisted to facilitate program improvements.

In terms of physical and mental health, the District is undertaking a number of initiatives to encourage students and the community at large to exercise and engage in other healthful practices.

2. Initial Discussion of Redistricting Elementary Attendance Districts

Superintendent Brackett provided an overview of the existing conditions and projections for the future as they relate to the topic of redistricting. A committee was formed to provide insight and data related to various factors bearing on the redistricting discussion. Committee members included former school committee member Bill Braun, Cat Strahan and Laura Semple-Walsh, who are both parents and realtors, Town Planner Jody Kablack, and District transportation consultant Annalisa Michelli. In the past, capacity was an issue at the elementary schools. At present, that is not the case; the issue currently is one of distribution, with an enrollment at Haynes that bears on such features as program and staffing efficiencies, resource parity, and class size.

Ms. Strahan and Ms. Semple-Walsh discussed current real estate trends related to student population. Most vacancies are in the Nixon district. These larger homes, when sold, are projected to significantly increase the student population. That said, this might mean that Nixon enrollment will stabilize, rather than continue a downward trend. Ms. Kablack noted that effects of new development will not be known for some time; the economic downturn resulted in significant delays in construction.

Dr. Brackett noted that at this time, class size and resource allocation considerations do not, in his opinion, warrant

redistricting. He commented that the Committee must continue to examine operational efficiencies and the variation in the educational experience at each of the schools. The Committee must also be mindful of decisions that might lead to the creation of a capacity issue in the future.

The Committee agreed by consensus to continue the discussion at its next Regular Session.

3. School Committee Report

Report on “G4” Collaboration

Susan Iuliano updated the Committee on the activities of the “G4 Collaborative”. The group comprises the superintendents and one school committee representative from each of four districts: SPS, L-S, Lincoln, and Wayland. The mission is to consider ways to share resources and provide efficiencies. Areas of activity include coordination of the METCO programs, purchasing, special education and enrichment services, and payroll.

4. Open Forum

No comments.

5. Superintendent’s Report

(a) Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

(b) Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

6. Minutes—Regular Session, October 21, 2009

Tabled until the next Regular Session.

7. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

8. Members’ Forum

No comments.

9. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to adjourn the Regular Session. The vote was 4–0 in favor. The time was 10:45 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary