

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday March 10, 2010**

**Present:** Susan Iuliano, Chairperson; Jeff Beeler, Vice Chairman;  
Dr. Rich Robison (9:26 p.m.), Jane Santinelli (8:27 p.m.), Michele MacDonald

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

**Open Session**

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

**1. FY10 Budget to Actual Report**

Mary Will presented the quarterly FY10 budget to actual report through February 19. She indicated that the District may have to return money to the Town and that there has been no word on 9C cuts or local receipts. As a precautionary measure, a budget “frost” is in effect, whereby all purchase orders must be approved prior to submission. Items considered essential are exempted. At present, the ending balance after expenses is approximately \$500K, which puts the District in a good position if it will be necessary to return funds to the Town.

Since the last report, the District is over budget with substitutes. No other significant changes have occurred. Special education expenses have been adjusted for Circuit Breaker and IDEA stimulus funds, which amount to nearly \$700K. Additionally, some savings are anticipated on utilities.

Mary Will reported no changes to projections for FY11.

**2. FY11 Budget Update**

Superintendent Brackett reported that a budget overview will be available on the District website. He provided each Member a copy of this overview, as well as one that will be used in upcoming budget forums.

Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District is seeking approval to issue a bond for a \$750K feasibility study of facility improvements. All 16 communities within the region must vote positive in order for the study to proceed. The cost to the District will be approximately \$10K over five years. A Special Meeting within Town Meeting will occur on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. to address this and to vote; if no vote is recorded, it is considered a “yes” vote.

**3. Facilities Fees Policy Review**

Mary Will acknowledged Michele MacDonald for providing information on the L-S fee structure and scope. She provided a packet of L-S fees and categories for comparison with those of SPS.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed to address the entire policy and fee structure in FY11 and implement changes all at once in FY12. Information will be shared with users as early as possible, both for users’ planning purposes and so that they can provide a response regarding impact.

**4. Full-Day Kindergarten Report & Set FY11 Tuition Rate**

Early Childhood Education Coordinator Linda Karpeichik outlined the significant successes, curriculum, fee structure, and budget of the full-day kindergarten (FDK) program, which is in its first year. She presented data illustrating statistically indistinguishable performance levels of students attending Sudbury’s half- and full-day programs.

The Center for Applied Child Development at Tufts University performed a comprehensive needs assessment, facilitated a summer institute, provided building-based coaching, and individual support. Currently, the partnership involves near-monthly consultations, ILAP workshops, and work in classrooms. The District has also engaged Ideal Consulting to assist in its use of various assessment tools.

Ms. Karpeichik reported that enrollment is projected to decline, that all students have been accommodated, and that classroom space is not an issue. She stated that the District may have to consider other classroom configurations, for example, two schools with FDK and two with HDK.

Mary Will summarized the FY10 tuition reconciliation. Tuition was based on a revenue projection of 475K. At this time, expenses are somewhat lower than projected, resulting in a balance of nearly \$42K. She proposed offering a 50% tuition reduction for the month of May, which would not eliminate the entire balance. Cost-neutrality was one of

the goals in developing the FDK program. The Committee suggested reimbursing as much of the balance as can be done consistently for all enrollees.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to reduce the FDK tuition for the 2009-2010 school year in order to meet the cost-neutral objective and to do so in a manner that provides a consistent reduction to all. The vote was 4—0 in favor. Rich Robison was absent.

Mary Will also provided a financial projection for FY11. Based on anticipated expenses and enrollment, she recommends decreasing tuition to \$3,250, which would result in a projected balance of \$41K.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to set the 2010-2011 FDK tuition at \$3,250. The vote was 4—0 in favor. Rich Robison was absent.

Both Susan Iuliano and Superintendent Brackett recognized Linda Karpeichik for her excellent leadership and steadfast efforts to bring a full-day kindergarten program to fruition.

## 5. **Report on FY11 Special Education Programs**

Special Education Administrator Debbie Dixon provided an outline of the school locations of the various programs the District supports for special education. Redistricting has resulted in an opportunity for program consolidation. Among the advantages are enhanced program continuity and consistency, more focused ILAP and professional development, enhanced flexibility and collaboration, and consolidation of personnel and materials. Eighteen students will be affected by moves, not including those moving on to Curtis. Ms. Dixon also reported that one or two students may be returning to the District after having attended specialized programs elsewhere.

The Committee was interested in knowing about staffing consolidations, particularly in the event that a non-override budget is passed. Ms. Dixon stated that she expects staffing to be finalized at the end of this month and can report on it in early April.

## 7. **Open Forum**

Paula Moyer, Blueberry Hill Lane, praised the full-day kindergarten program.

## 6. **School Committee Report**

### District Email Account

Susan Iuliano emphasized the need for all email communications to be archived. Creating user accounts for each Member through the District's email system would facilitate this process. Members had different opinions regarding using a dedicated account. No other Town committee uses a special account at this time. Superintendent Brackett recommended providing sufficient information for each member to make an individual decision.

### *Town Crier* Guest Column

The Committee discussed the draft of the *Town Crier* article that Susan Iuliano had distributed. Bob Mealey suggested emphasizing that the teacher negotiations were done with the knowledge that Sudbury was already in the bottom third in total compensation compared to surrounding towns. Wording will also be added both to state the Committee's support of an override and to urge support from others.

Susan Iuliano additionally plans to modify the article to distribute by email, with a greater emphasis on voting in support of the override at Town Meeting. Jeff Beeler will send this draft to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance to make sure it fits within the constraints of applicable laws.

## 8. **Superintendent's Report**

(a) Donations  
None.

(b) Recognitions

Eight Curtis Middle students had artwork accepted for exhibition at the Worcester Art Museum as part of Youth Art Month. The Grade 6 students are: Hailey Martinez, collage; Alexi Fee, sculpture; Katie Quirk, collage; and Nellie Fagan, ceramics. Grade 7 students are: Victoria Coronado, oil pastel; Andrei Rakitin, painting; and Sandra Nygren, sculpture. Grade 8 student, Sydney McGrath was accepted for sculpture. Congratulations to all of our students who participated and their art teachers, Ronald Darzen and Scott Greenaway.

Dr. Brackett reported that Massachusetts was one of 16 states moved to net round for federal Race to the Top funding. Ten states will advance following the second round. Oral presentations will be made on March 21 to federal representatives. Districts are also being asked to attend a meeting on March 18 to make non-binding presentations of areas they want to be involved with. No decision was made concerning who would attend this

meeting.

Bob Mealy commented that the message at a recent Massachusetts Teachers' Association meeting was that only Title I towns would be among the 10 districts to proceed to the next level. This differs with Dr. Brackett's understanding of the communications he's received.

- (c) Bill Schedule  
A Bill Schedule was presented.
- (d) Personnel Actions  
None.

**9. Minutes—Regular Session, February 24, 2010**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2010 Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**10. Communications**

None.

**11. Members' Forum**

Assistant Superintendent Bob Milley circulated a copy of an invitation sent to Boston parents inviting the to gather with administrators and Math Curriculum Specialist Joy Cooke on March 18 in Boston.

Sheila Cusolito commented on the benefits of using the District's email system for Committee work.

**12. Adjourn**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to adjourn to Executive Session to comply with FERPA and other privacy laws, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 9:55 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary