

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday May 12, 2010**

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

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent; Bob Milley, Assistant Superintendent, Mary Will, Business and Finance Director; Dr. Bob 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. Endorsement of Energy Reduction Plan and Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy

Bill Braun, Chairman of the Town's Energy Committee summarized some of the energy conservation initiatives and funding opportunities that the Energy Committee recommends pursuing. Under the Massachusetts Green Communities Act of 2008, \$10 million is available to designated communities to fund broadly defined activities. Selection criteria include zoning, permitting, a baseline for the town's energy use, and a plan for 20% reduction within five years. Sudbury currently stands at approximately 9.5% reduction using a 2008 baseline, largely due to controls on buildings.

School officials must agree to both the energy reduction plan and fuel-efficient vehicle purchase. According to Jeff Beeler, who also serves on the Energy Committee, notification of designation as a green community may occur as early as next week, with grant applications due shortly thereafter. Funding would permit implementation of energy audit recommendations that cannot be accomplished, due to lack of funding, within the operating budget.

The Committee noted that the efforts of Maintenance Supervisor Joe Kupczewski have had a significant impact in reducing costs for HVAC and lighting, going back to 2005.

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to endorse the Sudbury Energy Reduction Plan. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to authorize Susan Iuliano to sign the following Resolution on behalf of the School Committee:

The Sudbury School Committee supports the application by the Town of Sudbury for designation as a Green Community in accordance with the Massachusetts Green Communities Act of 2008, and hereby adopts and directs the Superintendent to promote and assist in, the implementation of the Energy Reduction Plan specified as part of Criterion 3 for Green Community Designation.

The vote was 5-0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to endorse the Sudbury Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to authorize Susan Iuliano to sign the following Resolution on behalf of the School Committee:

The Sudbury School Committee supports the application by the Town of Sudbury for designation as a Green Community in accordance with the Massachusetts Green Communities Act of 2008, and hereby adopts and directs the Superintendent to implement the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy specified as part of Criterion 4 for Green Community Designation.

The vote was 5-0 in favor.

2. FY11 Budget and Override Results

The District will move forward with the 1.12% growth non-override budget in light of the May 11 defeat of the budget "override" request. Dr. Brackett discussed the budget situation and indicated that nearly \$670K must be cut from the \$34 million budget; cuts will occur in expenses, salary, and staff.

Although specific expenses haven't been identified, approximately \$200K from school and the central administration operating budget will be cut. Each school will determine where reductions will be made. Funding for professional development, technology, and memberships will also be reduced. Jeff Beeler expressed concern that training such as

that for Open Circle may be discontinued, as it directly influences anti-bullying initiatives and such cuts undercut safety within the schools.

Rich Robison suggested seeking grant funding; however, the District does not have staffing to support this labor-intensive activity. Moreover, the District often does not qualify for funding that is based in any part on the number of free and reduced lunch recipients. Bob Milley noted that we do participate in seeking funds through collaboratives.

The remainder of cuts, totaling nearly \$400K, will occur in staffing, including 4.5 teachers, one middle school house administrator, a curriculum leader and a custodian. Messages were delivered to those staff members who will be laid off. Adjustments will also be made between SPED staff and their assistants, with assistant positions eliminated in favor of additional SPED staff. Resignations will allow for some adjustments to the staff identified for lay off.

As a result of teacher lay-offs, fourth-grade class sizes will increase over guidelines at Loring, Noyes, and Nixon. At Haynes, the fifth-grade class size will be affected. Superintendent Brackett noted that the effect would have been worse without redistricting. Enrollments in the kindergarten program are such that a full-day section was added to Nixon.

Jeff Beeler expressed concern that 21 of the 93 District sections are over enrollment guidelines.

Rich Robison asked if individuals have rights to open positions under union agreements. Dr. Brackett stated that they do not, but will be encouraged to apply.

Lisa Gutch noted that only 36 students, rather than the 67 anticipated from redistricting, appear on the enrollment summary. Dr. Brackett explained that while move-ins to-date are accounted for in current registration projections, move-outs will not be tabulated until the school year is over.

Michele MacDonald asked about fees. Mary Will summarized that Curtis auditorium use fees have been implemented; other building use fees will become effective in the Fall, as will meal prices. No other changes were adopted for next year, although a mid-year change could be adopted.

Mary Will also reported that May FDK tuition payments were refunded. Additional refunds may occur when all bills have been paid. She reminded the Committee that the program must cover its costs, but cannot generate revenue. Tuition for next year was reduced based on expenses in this first year.

Michele MacDonald inquired about recovery of delinquent lunch money. Mary Will reported that Food Services has been very proactive in recovering funds.

3. Reorganization of the School Committee

(a) Assignment of Liaisons, Subcommittees, and MASC Delegate as follows:

2010-2011 Liaison Assignments	
Board of Selectmen	Permanent Building Committee, School Building Committee, Planning Board
Susan Iuliano	Jeff Beeler
Jeff Beeler	Michele MacDonald
EDCO	Health Advisory Committee
Rich Robison	Susan Iuliano
	Lisa Gutch
Finance and Budget Committee	Anti-Bullying Committee
Susan Iuliano	Jeff Beeler
Lisa Gutch	Susan Iuliano
S.E.R.F.	Sudbury Special Education Advisory Committee
Lisa Gutch	Rich Robison
	Michele MacDonald

M.A.S.C. Delegate	Consolidation Working Group
	Susan Iuliano
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School	G4
Michele MacDonald	Susan Iuliano
Susan Iuliano	
2010-2011 Responsibilities/Assignments	
Negotiations/Labor Relations	Budget
Jeff Beeler	Susan Iuliano
Rich Robison	Lisa Gutch
Public Relations	Superintendent's Evaluation
Lisa Gutch	Rich Robison
Michele MacDonald	Jeff Beeler
Policy	Land/Building Use
Susan Iuliano	Jeff Beeler
Jeff Beeler	
Planning Board	Special Education
Jeff Beeler	Rich Robison
	Jeff Beeler

The Committee will review updated assignments at its next meeting.

(b) School Committee meeting schedule

Superintendent Brackett presented a schedule that will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. METCO Update

Superintendent Brackett reported that a meeting to discuss the proposed reorganization was held at Franklin Park Golf Course on May 5. There were approximately 80 attendees. Concerns similar to those expressed at the May 12 Joint Session were expressed: the critical role of the METCO director, academic services, the process utilized in developing and presenting the proposal, questions about next steps. Dr. Brackett also shared a letter from Representative Tom Conroy outlining his concerns regarding METCO funding.

Superintendent Brackett also reported that he and Superintendents Carpenter and Brandmeyer participated in a conference call with the Commissioner of Education, which he described as helpful in both directions. The Commissioner had heard of the concerns with the proposed reorganization and encouraged the administrators to continue discussions. Dr. Brackett anticipates that by the next meeting on May 26, an updated proposal will be available.

7. Open Forum

Dana Smalls, Dorchester, has children at Haynes and L-S and attended the May 5 meeting. She asked if the Lincoln director can assume responsibility for the SPS program and leave Nicole Stewart at L-S. Dr. Brackett emphasized that the administration will be looking at a number of scenarios and wants to hear more from parents. Ms. Smalls also asked if there would be any savings by using a smaller bus for the transport of six METCO students who currently ride on a large bus. Dr. Brackett indicated that savings would be very marginal for the District and not cost-effective for the bus company.

Dr. Brackett reiterated that the G4 is considering bidding jointly on transportation as a cost-saving measure; however, contract cycles won't be in sync until next year.

Ms. Smalls additionally asked if the Districts had considered charging Boston families a bus fee, calling it an investment in education. Dr. Brackett stated that this has not been considered and may not be allowed.

Pamela Jones of Boston asked if SPS could contract on its own instead of through METCO Inc. for transportation. Dr. Brackett reiterated the idea of a collaborative bid. Assistant Superintendent Bob Milley noted that collaborative bidding may stop costs from rising, but not necessarily lead to money saved, given the inflationary nature of transportation.

Tanisha Tate, Fairbank Circle, and an L-S employee, asked if consolidation of superintendents has been considered, emphasizing the significant savings in salary. Susan Iuliano stated that proposals to share administrations had been considered; however, such plans require changes in school governance as well. Rich Robison noted that the Consolidation Working Group continues to explore such structural changes. Michele MacDonald pointed out that changes to the Districts' administrative structure would not change METCO funding.

Ms. Tate asked when a vote on a proposal will occur and whether there will be another meeting with Boston parents. Superintendent Brackett indicated that another meeting will occur before a vote, but the timing has not been established.

Debbie Howell, Victoria Road, wanted to know if the changes were anticipated to be in effect for the next school year. Dr. Brackett stated that he expects to have a plan in place by June and clarified that the SPS director position will be eliminated effective in June, regardless of consolidation plans.

Ms. Howell considers it important to note that Sudbury parents were not represented at the April 28 meeting, calling it embarrassing that our METCO director did not attend either. She suggested that it is difficult to be a METCO parent volunteer, although it is a great resource with no cost.

5. Draft FY11 District Goals

Superintendent Brackett presented a draft of the District's goals for review and discussion. While not a new initiative, he highlighted the addition of reducing the number of reported cases of bullying as a goal. He also highlighted RTI and MCAS performance improvement goals.

The Committee made some suggestions for redefining communication goals, as well as leadership and planning initiatives, particularly collaborative efforts.

Based on this input, an updated draft will be circulated to the broader school community.

6. School Committee Report

None.

8. Superintendent's Report

(a) Donations

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to accept with thanks the following items from the Loring PTO: an AV system for the dining room (\$12,000), two computers for the computer lab (\$2,000), ten classroom computers (\$9,440), an ActivBoard for the library (\$4,000), an ActivView document reader for the library (\$500), an annual subscription to Raz-Kids (\$1,799), a playground bench (\$1000), and teacher wish list items. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

(b) Recognitions

Tabled

(c) Bill Schedule

A Bill Schedule was presented.

(d) Personnel Actions

As presented in the Personnel Packet.

5. Minutes—Regular Sessions: March 24, 2010; April 2, 2010; April 5, 2010; April 28, 2010

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the minutes of the March 24 Regular Session as amended. The vote was 4–0 in favor. Lisa Gutch abstained.

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2010 Special Session. The vote was 4–0 in favor. Lisa Gutch abstained.

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2010 Special Session. The vote was 3–0 in favor. Lisa Gutch and Rich Robison abstained.

Susan Iuliano stated that the April 28, 2010 minutes would be circulated to the other participating districts for their

review and comment.

6.Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

7.Members' Forum

Bob Mealey announced that the Softball Bonanza scholarship fundraiser is May 14 at 5:00.

Susan Iuliano stated that she will not attend the next meeting.

Rich Robison stated that he circulated email related to the senate budget schedule.

Lisa Gutch asked about the May 24 RTTT deadline. Dr. Brackett explained that this deadline is for those districts that did not have three signatures at the time original filings were due.

Sheila Cusolito asked for some clarification for the current meeting minutes.

8.Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss litigation, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 10:45 p.m.

Yes	Susan Iuliano
Yes	Jeff Beeler
Yes	Rich Robison
Yes	Michele MacDonald
Yes	Lisa Gutch

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary