

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday June 23, 2010**

Present: 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. Robert Mealey, SEA

Open Session

Jeff Beeler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

3. School Committee Report

(a) Communication/Public Relations
Tabled.

(b) Approve the Anti-Bullying Policy (second reading and adoption)

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the second reading of, as well as adopt, the SPS Anti-Bullying Policy. The vote was 3–0 in favor. Lisa Gutch was absent.

(c) Proposed Revision to School Committee By-Laws (second reading and adoption)

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Rich Robison, to approve the second reading of, as well as adopt, the SPS School Committee By-Laws. The vote was 3–0 in favor. Lisa Gutch was absent.

5. Superintendent's Report

(a) Donations

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to accept with thanks a donation of \$50,000 from the Jack and Mae Rosenberg Charitable Trust, to be used for the continued support of the Aspirations Program. The vote was 3-0 in favor. Lisa Gutch was absent.

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept with thanks a donation of five complete ActivBoard and laptop units, valued at approximately \$27,000, from the Curtis Parent Organization. The vote was 4–0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept with thanks a donation of 15 laptops and a media cart, valued at approximately \$16,000, from the Noyes PTO. The vote was 4–0 in favor.

Haynes Principal Kim Swain and PE teacher Jeff Ilg presented information to address the Committee's concerns regarding the donation of a traverse climbing wall from the Haynes Organization of Parents. The Committee is particularly concerned with student safety during non-school use of the gym. Principal Swain described the process of developing the school's wish list items. Mr. Ilg described his experience and background, possibilities for skill development and differentiated instruction, and safety and storage features. Mary Will confirmed that the District's insurance coverage is adequate and that there have been no incidents with the Curtis climbing wall which is much higher. The Committee offered suggestions for additional features that might better secure the climbing wall when not in use. Mr. Ilg will research such additional options.

VOTED: On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept with thanks a donation of a traverse climbing wall, valued at \$4,399, from the Haynes Organization of Parents. The vote was 4–0 in favor.

(b) Recognitions
None.

(c) Bill Schedule
A Bill Schedule was presented.

(d) Personnel Actions
As presented in the Personnel Packet.

1. Discussion with the Technical Advisory Committee Regarding the Town Sewer Project

Town Planner Jody Kablack and members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) presented an overview of the need for a sewer system to serve the Route 20 business district, as well as the efforts to date to identify an appropriate site for a leaching field. The Town has engaged the service of Weston & Sampson, an engineering and consulting firm. According to Ms. Kablack, the types of businesses and their ability to expand have long been limited by septic systems that are in varying stages of decline. Additionally, the business district is adjacent to the drinking water supply that produces approximately 45% of the Town's water and sewers will relieve wastewater discharge adjacent to the well areas. Some 86 sites were screened for their potential as leaching fields. The Curtis Middle School front field was among three that met the general screening criteria and is the only one of the three that met additional technical criteria.

Technical Advisory Committee Chair and environmental engineer Elizabeth Eggleston described the leaching field as similar to that for a septic system, but with a much higher quality of wastewater. The proposed wastewater treatment site is along Route 20; the treated effluent will then travel through a pipe system to the leaching field. Ms. Eggleston stated that the TAC is seeking the School Committee's approval to conduct further testing on the Curtis site. She stated that the anticipated capacity for a targeted portion of the business district is 100-300,000 gallons/day. The proposed testing is designed to determine if that capacity can be met.

The Town engaged the engineering and consulting firm Weston & Sampson nine years ago. Company representatives Steve Peterson and Blake Martin gave a presentation outlining the firm's research and analysis on the Town's needs and prospective leaching field sites. They described the next level of testing required to determine if the Curtis land can support the target effluent capacity. Initial soil testing involved taking small bore samples from three locations on the front field. Testing showed that the soil was sufficiently consistent and appropriate in its composition to serve as a leaching field. The proposed testing, a load scale test, requires digging a large pit, approximately 200 ft², that would be filled with water and monitored for up to five days.

A leaching field at Curtis is projected to handle up to 200,000 gallons of treated effluent per day through a pressurized pipe system along Horsepond Road. It is anticipated that the eastern portion of the business district would be handled by a subsequently developed sewer system if needed.

Superintendent Brackett asked if there were unsafe materials in the Curtis soil from the demolition of the old school. Ms. Eggleston stated that the material is inert rubble.

Rich Robison asked how the system will hold up to flooding. The Weston & Sampson representative explained that an analysis of the highest groundwater level will be performed and the system designed on that basis.

Jeff Beeler asked about the economic benefit as a driver for the project. Jody Kablack responded that while market studies have not been done, the premise is to redevelop existing properties, with a market analysis to follow. Ms. Eggleston clarified that the driving force for a sewer system is not growth, but a real need based on existing needs; the sewer system then becomes the basis for a maximum build-out, which will increase the tax base.

Sudbury Water District Commissioner Bill Cossart emphasized that the aquifer adjacent to the business district supplies 45% of the Town's drinking water, which he believes should be the primary concern in designing a new mode of waste management.

Lisa Eggleston noted that a recent contamination from the dry cleaner in the Shaws shopping center highlights our vulnerability. She indicated that a number of facilities are close to failure and/or businesses have had to upgrade their septic systems a number of times. Bob Leupold, Director of the Health Department, reported that the business district has spent \$3-4 million collectively in septic replacements. Selectman Larry O'Brien stated that economic values will increase when businesses are no longer constrained by Title V numbers. As an example, he noted that Domino's does not have seats because the flow in gallons per seat exceeds the Title V limit.

Jeff Beeler stated his interest in understanding safety concerns from the outset. He does not believe that the proposed testing will be disruptive to summer programming or the start of school.

The Committee was interested in knowing what the pit will look like. Consultant Blake Martin outlined the process as follows: removing topsoil to a depth of two feet; placing boards in the pit; pouring in water to check percolation. The "response" of surrounding soil will also be monitored. The pit will be located in the middle of the prospective leaching area and will be cordoned off with construction fencing. It is anticipated that the area would be landscaped before school starts. If necessary, the area can be covered with sod.

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to approve the load scale test at the Curtis Middle School front field, as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

2. **Housing Development Update**

At the request of the Committee, Town Planner Jody Kablack provided an overview of four pending housing developments that might affect the school district. None of the developers has sought a permit from the Town at this

time; all are Ch. 40B proposals pending at the state level. At its June 9 Regular Session, the Committee expressed an interest in the Town's discussion of 192 Boston Post Road, which the Town has the right of first refusal under Ch. 61B. Known as Landham Crossing, the proposal is for a 32-unit development on 8 acres. The same developer, Trask Development, that is building the Villages of Old County Road is interested in developing this parcel. The scale and look will be similar. Ms. Kablack indicated that housing trends suggest an occupancy level of 0.5 students per unit, but that the data are not firm.

The Pine Groves development is proposed for land between 293 and 301 Old Lancaster Rd. This is private property, but was one of the parcels tested as a possible leaching field for the business district wastewater system. A 12-unit development of single-family homes is proposed on 6.5 acres. These homes would likely house larger families. The developer is a local owner. The neighborhood is actively following the proceedings.

The third proposed development is the Johnson Farm at 189 Landham Rd. The proposal is for a 120-unit rental complex with no market-rate units. It is the largest such proposal that the Town has seen. The units would be a mix of one- and two-bedrooms. The area is subject to significant wetland constraints.

The fourth proposal is for a 56-unit age restricted, single-building development at 189 Boston Post Road, which is at the southeast corner of Landham Road. Depending on the level of state subsidy, the developer plans to create mostly affordable units.

Ms. Kablack noted that developers routinely contribute funds for traffic mitigation and that the intersection of route 20 and Landham Road is continually examined for improvements.

4. Open Forum

No comments.

6. Minutes—Regular Session June 9, 2010

VOTED: On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Rich Robison, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2010 Regular Session. The vote was 4–0 in favor.

7. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

8. Members' Forum

Rich Robison reported that the legislature is developing a second, "shadow" budget and plans to submit either this or their original proposal depending on the federal government's numbers and resolution to Medicaid issues. A budget presentation may occur as early as tomorrow. He also reported that the state is preparing 9c cuts and agencies are preparing cuts of 3% across the board, with July 1 layoffs to follow.

Jeff Beeler suggested the Committee table its Executive Session in Susan Iuliano's absence. The Committee agreed with this suggestion.

11. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to adjourn the Regular Session. The vote was 4–0 in favor. The time was 9:57 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary