

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday July 7, 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

Open Session

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

1. Shared METCO Director Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Assistant Superintendent Bob Milley reported that the District received 129 applications for the shared METCO director position. The District made use of EDCO to assist in the initial screening, which identified 35 candidates. Representatives from L-S and SPS worked with a consultant to identify eight candidates who will interview early next week with a committee that includes L-S students, Boston and Sudbury parents, and staff from both districts. A community forum is also scheduled for Thursday next week in Boston. Superintendents Brackett and Carpenter or their designees are scheduled to interview finalists and make a decision over the week of July 19.

Superintendent Brackett presented the Committee with a draft MOU. He highlighted that the METCO director's salary would be pro-rated based on the number of students served in each district. The MOU also contains provisions in the event that significant changes in enrollment occur or if one party decides to opt out of the agreement. Both provisions are designed to provide sufficient time to make necessary budget arrangements or other program changes for the upcoming year. The MOU furthermore provides for the Superintendents to make some decisions regarding sharing staff without having to seek School Committee approval.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed with the intent of the MOU, but will wait for clarification of the details of the Director's employment status—joint or by reimbursement by SPS to L-S—before approving it.

2. Budget Update

Superintendent Brackett reported on how the Governor's signed budget, in conjunction with Chapter 70 and circuit breaker revenues, compares with the numbers presented at Town Meeting. Excluding L-S, SPS and the Town are down by \$36K. Circuit breaker revenue will be about 40%, which is what the District anticipated. Local revenues are also expected to align with Town Meeting projections.

Susan Iuliano circulated copies of the Finance Committee's report that confirms the \$36K difference. She noted that the report is available on the Town's website.

Jeff Beeler commented on a recent email that suggested the availability of additional monies that would require a special town meeting. He confirmed that additional state aid that would require a special town meeting is not available.

3. School Committee Report

Communications/Public Relations

Lisa Gutch and Michele MacDonald provided an outline of discussion points regarding communications. The Committee focused on written communications, as well as the District's website. With regard to written communications, the Committee made a distinction between periodic updates that are circulated by email and available on the District website and the more substantive policy or position papers that are based on a motion and vote by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the appropriate depth, level of review, and turn-around time for the meeting updates that are currently prepared by Lisa Gutch. The Committee agreed that topical content, such as that in its newsletters, requires greater review and that position or policy papers warrant an even higher level of review.

By consensus, the Committee agreed to add the *Town Crier* to its email circulation list and also agreed to review its by-law related to communications.

With regard to websites, Michele MacDonald provided examples of websites from other school committees, some of which are separately maintained from the affiliated District website. The main advantage of this arrangement is that it provides school committees greater and more timely access. Although timely access is not an issue within SPS, the Committee agreed with a suggestion to explore options and improvements with Technology Manager Michael O'Brien. A mock-up of a proposed School Committee website will also be prepared.

Rich Robison noted that as a public entity, any changes to the Committee's website would have to meet ADA accessibility requirements.

The Committee agreed to defer discussion of other aspects of its communication policies and procedures until its September meeting.

4. Open Forum

Rick Johnson, Bent Road, asked how the District communicated with the community about the METCO director search committee. Susan Iuliano responded that individual outreach occurred to those involved with the program or those who expressed an interest. Mr. Johnson suggested outreach to a broader audience in the future.

Mr. Johnson also commented on his dismay with both a Curtis teacher's comments regarding the budget and with Superintendent Brackett's response to his letter of complaint. He characterized the teacher's comments, which were made during a parents' day gathering in the presence of students, as inappropriate. He requested that Dr. Brackett take a stand and issue an apology. Susan Iuliano noted that the School Committee does not screen comments made by teachers, but recognizes the delicate balance required for such comments. Superintendent Brackett stated that he will not take a public stance on a private matter. He emphasized that his responsibility is to investigate the complaint and that he will respond directly to Mr. Johnson after more fully investigating.

5. Superintendent's Report

(a) Donations

None.

(b) Recognitions

None.

(c) Bill Schedule

None.

(d) Personnel Actions

As presented in the Personnel Packet.

6. Minutes—Regular Session June 23, 2010

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2010 Regular Session. The vote was 4–0 in favor. Susan Iuliano abstained.

7. Communications

None.

8. Members' Forum

Susan Iuliano reported that the Open Meeting Law is now in effect. She clarified that individuals must only sign the Certificate of Receipt when newly elected or appointed.

The Committee agreed by consensus to cancel its July 21 and August 4 meetings and to move the August 18 meeting to August 25.

9. Executive Session

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Rich Robison, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss strategy regarding non-union personnel negotiations and to complete the written evaluation of the Superintendent, to return to Open Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 9:25 p.m.

Yes Susan Iuliano

Yes Jeff Beeler

Yes Rich Robison

Yes Michele MacDonald

Yes Lisa Gutch

10. Return to Open Session

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to return to Open Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 9:55 p.m.

11. Superintendent Evaluation and Contract

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Rich Robison, to extend the term of the superintendent's contract by one (1) year, to include 2012-13. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Rich Robison, to provide a 2.5% increase in salary for the superintendent for the 2010-11 school year. With the exception of contract term and this salary adjustment, the contract would be unchanged from the current agreement. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

12. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to adjourn. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary