

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday August 25, 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 7:35 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

**1. Shared METCO Director Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Susan Iuliano welcomed Fhynita Brinson, the new METCO Director, who started on August 1. Ms. Brinson comes to Sudbury from the Wakefield Public Schools, where she served as the METCO Director for six years. Additionally, Ms Brinson was a participating student in the Reading METCO program.

Ms. Brinson and Superintendent Brackett are continuing to recruit METCO bus monitors. Additionally, Ms. Brinson has been working on getting the high school program underway and met with the 9<sup>th</sup> graders. She also met with the Curtis administrative team and some of the newly hired academic advisors: Sonia Fortin, Curtis; Diane Krasnick, Nixon and Haynes; and Stephanie Brodney, Loring and Noyes.

**3. School Committee Report**

(b) Update on Noyes solar installation; possible grant application for roofing, boiler, window replacement

Jeff Beeler updated the Committee on the status of the grant-funded solar array purchase and installation at Noyes. He reported a slight delay until October due to the possibility of receiving additional funding. The Town previously received a grant award of \$22,500; a request for an additional rebate was recently submitted. It is hoped that installation will occur over the October 8-11 school break.

Jeff Beeler and Permanent Building Committee (PBC) Co-Chair Mike Melnick spoke about a new funding opportunity through the School Building Authority (SBA) Green Repair program. The focus of this program is repairs to roofs, windows, and boilers for buildings that will continue to be utilized as schools for the anticipated lifetime of the repair. Last Spring, the PBC surveyed roof conditions on Town buildings, including schools; Noyes was identified as requiring a roof replacement.

Mr. Melnick reported that the Noyes roof replacement will cost approximately \$1.1 Million. Window replacement is estimated at \$377K and boiler replacement at \$225K. Design fees are estimated at 8%, for a total estimated cost of over \$1.8 million.

The SBA reimbursement rate is based on the affluence of the community; the rate for Sudbury would be 35.42% (approximately \$650K). The balance due for any repairs would require appropriation by a Town Meeting vote.

Superintendent Brackett informed the Committee of some of the submission requirements. Statements of interest must be filed by September 22, which will require a significant effort to meet. The Committee discussed the possibility of hiring an individual or seeking

a volunteer to aid with the submission. Mr. Melnick will provide the Committee with consultant's reports, which will contain some of the information required for the submission. He estimates the cost for additional assessments on the windows and boilers at \$3,300.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Jeff Beeler to authorize an expenditure of an additional \$2,000 from the 1997 Town Meeting-voted school construction fund for the roof study commissioned by the Permanent Building Committee. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Rich Robison, to authorize an expenditure of \$3,300 from the 1997 Town Meeting-voted school construction fund, to be used for window and boiler studies. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

Jeff Beeler asked if the report could include an assessment of the payback on window replacement for Noyes. Mr. Melnick responded that he will make that request. He stated that he does not believe there will be a payback on the windows on the basis of their projected cost. Superintendent Brackett suggested that a statement of interest for all three repairs for Noyes be submitted and modified as more information is obtained. The Committee agreed by consensus to this approach.

## **1. Shared METCO Director Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)**

Superintendent Brackett highlighted the changes to the MOU, which was initially discussed at the July 7, 2010 Regular Session.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to authorize Susan Iuliano to sign the METCO Director Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the SPS Committee. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

## **2. FY11 Budget Update**

### **(a) Town Financial Summit**

Susan Iuliano described the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) proposal for a "financial summit" to bring together representatives of the BOS, Finance Committee, LS, SPS, and the Town to discuss the FY11 budget and to begin conversations about the broader financial forecasts of revenue and expenditures for FY12-14. The first session is scheduled for September 13 and the second for September 27. These likely will be followed by a third session at which the public will be invited to participate.

The Committee expressed concern that such a summit is an ambitious undertaking that will require significant structure and perhaps a facilitator, but agreed that a public forum for budget discussions is necessary. Superintendent Brackett expressed an additional concern that the summit would be construed as a budget development session for FY12 that would endeavor to define the budget too specifically, too soon.

### **(b) FY12 Roll-up Budget**

Mary Will provided a preliminary FY12 roll-up budget based on data from the contract settlement, but without enrollment projections and defined staffing needs. She emphasized that the focus should not be placed on a specific number or any apparent deficit or surplus, but rather on the assumptions and drivers utilized to develop the budgets.

Dr. Brackett stressed the need to emphasize for the public that at this point, the numbers are very preliminary. Jeff Beeler stated his view that it's important for the community to know the projections as well as the implication for school services of any projected shortfall.

SEA representative Bob Mealey recommended that the Committee inform staff prior to releasing numbers to the public, providing assurances that the numbers are not fixed. He stated that when information on the next fiscal year is released early in the school year, it has a negative effect on teacher morale throughout the school year.

Lisa Gutch suggested that the Committee take control of the budget message.

Superintendent Brackett also reported that Massachusetts was awarded RTTT funds in the second phase. Sudbury will benefit by \$39,000 over four years. Michele MacDonald recommended emphasizing the relatively small magnitude of the award. The District has 90 days to submit its plan.

Superintendent Brackett additionally reported on Governor Patrick's announced allocation of new jobs funding. In combination with remaining stimulus and Chapter 70 funds, Sudbury's per student expenditure will increase by \$25, about \$253,000 in total. Mary Will and Dr. Brackett will participate in a teleconference to learn about the disbursement of these additional funds, which will come directly to the District.

### **3. School Committee Report**

- (c) Communication/Public Relations/Web Site  
Tabled.

### **4. Open Forum**

No comments.

### **5. Superintendent's Report**

- (a) Anti-bullying policy and plan update

The Committee approved the District's Anti-Bullying Policy last Spring. A working group developed a draft implementation plan, which was distributed to the Committee. Recently, the State came out with a proposed model plan. Superintendent Brackett noted that our policy and draft plan align well with the State model. Districts have until December 31 to put their plans in place. In the interim, the working group will refine some components of its plan.

Rich Robison commented that the more stringent anti-bullying measures create a significant burden for school districts, in particular as accessibility is addressed. Michele MacDonald furthermore noted that parent education is necessary for bullying that occurs outside of school that nonetheless has an impact on the school.

- (b) Donations-Nixon PTO

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Rich Robison, to approve with thanks a donation of five sets of MacBooks and accessories (total cost, \$23,500) from the Nixon PTO to the Nixon School. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

- (c) Update on the Town sewer project

Dr. Brackett provided the Committee with a memo from Town Planner Jody Kablack, in which she described a modified timeline and redefinition for second-tier testing, which was originally slated for August.

- (d) Bill Schedule

A Bill Schedule was presented.

### **6. Minutes—Regular Session July 7, 2010**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2010 Regular Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**7. Communications**

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

**8. Members’ Forum**

Rich Robison described State-level activities to create guidelines for addressing bullying in IEPs. He also reported that the State convened a task force for policy development regarding administration and teacher evaluations, as required by state law and RTTT.

Lisa Gutch expressed appreciation to those who worked on the anti-bullying plan and commented that one of the benefits of the new policy will be a consistency in professional development and expectations across the District and for parents.,

Dr. Brackett reminded the Committee of a brief meeting for all staff upon the opening of the school year. The School Committee will be introduced. The meeting will occur on Monday, August 30 at 8:00 am, at Curtis.

Dr. Brackett also reported that Noyes did not meet the AYP in math for the SPED subgroup for the first year and that Curtis did not meet the same requirement for the third consecutive year. In addition to a requirement to offer middle school students school choice within the district, sanctions include setting aside 20% of Title I funds for private tutoring for students who meet the criteria for free or reduced lunch. Of note is the fact that these students are not necessarily those in the subgroup of need. Additionally, the District was found to be out of compliance with Title II funding requirements, one of which requires that 100% of teachers possess the “highly qualified” designation. This is the result of how the District documents the teacher of record for SPED students (classroom or SPED teacher). The District is required to enter a formal agreement and meet with the DESE.

Bob Milley noted that last year, the Curtis math and SPED teachers took three days off to develop quality co-teaching strategies and that they have already started work on this for the coming year. He characterized this as a national issue.

Jeff Beeler suggested notifying parents regarding the AYP findings to allay concerns.

Michele MacDonald distributed website materials to be discussed at the next Regular Session.

Bob Mealey stated that the SEA looks forward to working with the Committee this year again.

**9. Executive Session**

Tabled.

**3. School Committee Report**

(a) Approve Letter of Agreement with the SEA

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Michele MacDonald to approve the Letter of Agreement with the SEA. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**10. Adjourn**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to adjourn the Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 10:55 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary