

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Special Meeting
Wednesday October 6, 2010**

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

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent (9:00 p.m.); Mary Will, Business and Finance
Director; Dr. Robert Mealey, SEA

Open Session

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

1. School Committee Report

(a) Search for a New Superintendent of Schools

Susan Iuliano reported that at its meeting the previous evening, the Board of Selectmen praised Superintendent Brackett and noted that his departure will be a significant loss to the Town. Chairman John Drobinski announced a plan to confer with the Lincoln Board of Selectmen to determine if there is interest in reviewing the regional agreement for possible revision. Bob Haarde will represent the Sudbury Board.

Ms. Iuliano noted that most governance structural changes would involve changing the regional agreement. The only structure that would not require a change to the regional agreement is if SPS and LS hire the same person under their separate governances. When the Budget Review Task Force considered consolidation and other prospective cost-saving scenarios, the School Committee determined that such measures fell short on anticipated cost savings and administrative efficiencies. The Committee reiterated these sentiments; however, it considers it beneficial to have an initial conversation with Lincoln at this time. At present, there is no indication that Lincoln has an interest in making changes to the regional agreement.

Recognizing that changing the regional agreement is a years-long process, the Committee will move forward with its plan to identify a consultant to assist with its search for a superintendent for SPS. The Committee also wishes to impress upon the Selectmen to report back about its discussions with Lincoln in a timely manner; there is some concern that any ongoing discussions of changes in governance will compromise the District's ability to attract quality candidates. Moreover, the number of anticipated vacancies is expected to add to the hiring challenge. It is anticipated that interviewing final candidates will take place in March under the present circumstances.

The Committee discussed the various options for procuring a consulting firm, as well as the Open Meeting Law and types of consultants. The Committee determined that the RFP process best provides the flexibility it seeks. The Committee outlined a scope of work/qualifications from which Susan Iuliano and Jeff Beeler will draft the RFP. Among the criteria the Committee tentatively agreed on specifying is the following:

- Engage between six and nine focus groups
- Provide a written report
- Work with the Committee to develop criteria, given a leadership profile developed by the Committee
- Actively search for/recruit candidates

- Assist in developing an informational brochure and advertising
- Demonstrate some experience with a district similar in profile to SPS
- Demonstrate some ability for national or regional outreach
- Assist Screening Committee in screening applicants, verifying details, preliminary interviews
- Assist School Committee with second stage of interviews, background checks, final decision
- Provide a contingency if an appropriate candidate is not identified
- Provide for the School Committee to review the credentials of, and interview the prospective assigned consultant

(b) Senior Center Event

Lisa Gutch met with Deborah Galloway, the Acting Director of the Senior Center. She learned that there are approximately 1,800 participants, not all of whom are from Sudbury. The two discussed potential events at which the School Committee might participate, such as a holiday-themed coffee, the “Soups on Thursday” program, or a morning coffee. Ms. Gutch recommended the Soups on Thursday program, which is highly structured and has good attendance. She will follow up with Ms. Galloway. It was also suggested that any joint event be posted, with the goal of engaging more people.

(c) Follow-up to Town-wide Financial Work Sessions

Susan Iuliano reported that the Board of Selectmen specified that their proposed Fiscal Working Group is a short-term assignment.

2. Open Forum

Jeffrey Sullivan, a PATCH.com reporter asked for additional detail concerning the Senior Center event.

5. Members’ Forum

Michele MacDonald suggested inviting the LS School Committee to participate in the Senior Center event.

Superintendent Brackett arrived after attending the Parent Education talk *Family Matters: Raising Healthy Children in Challenging Times*, given by Robert Evans, Ed.D. He described it as both well attended and well received. He also noted that Stan Davis, who has been working with the District on bullying prevention over the past year, will give a talk entitled *Raising Resilient and Responsible Children* on Thursday evening. Mr. Davis will also present at Friday’s professional development day.

Susan Iuliano noted that Rich Robison will attend the upcoming MASC convention.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to designate Rich Robison as the SPS delegate at the MASC convention. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

Lisa Gutch asked if she should generate an update on the present meeting or wait to combine it with a subsequent meeting. The Committee recommended circulating an update for each meeting, consistent with current practice.

Jeff Beeler announced that the Massachusetts School Building Association will conduct a site visit on Thursday to verify some of the data in the recently submitted SOI. Although he characterized this as a positive sign, he suggested that it is too soon to tell if the District will receive funds for replacement of the Noyes roof, windows, and boilers.

Michele MacDonald noted that she is unable to attend the November 3 meeting.

Bob Mealey announced that next Wednesday is the annual golf tournament to raise funds for scholarships. It will be held at the Wayland Country Club.

Superintendent Brackett reported on the preconstruction meeting about the Noyes solar panels. The work will start this Friday and will be completed before school reopens on Tuesday.

3. Minutes—Special Session September 17, 2010

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2010 Special Session as amended. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

4. Communications

None.

6. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to adjourn the Special Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 9:20 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary