

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday April 27, 2011**

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

**Also Present:** Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent; Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance

**Open Session**

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

**1. FY12 Budget and Upcoming Town Meeting**

**(a) Non-override Budget**

Susan Iuliano asked the Committee to consider if it will support the non-override budget allocations to the three cost centers that will be presented at Town Meeting next week. Additionally, she reported that the Board of Selectmen voted on Tuesday to place three questions on the ballot for a June 7 election, one relating to the L-S operational budget override, one operational override relating to a lease for snow plows, and one related to a debt exclusion for the business district sewer project.

Superintendent Brackett presented a summary of the FY12 final non-override budget, which he characterized as still changing. The District is presenting a non-override budget of just over \$35.4M that will allow level staffing, the return of a third Curtis House Administrator, a computer technician, a 0.5 FTE Haynes Assistant Principal, 0.5 FTE support for a facilities manager to be shared with the Town, and restoration of approximately \$20K to the technology expense budget.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Michele MacDonald, seconded by Rich Robison, to approve the FY12 non-override budget as presented. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to support the L-S operating budget override. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to support the operating budget override for the snow plow leases. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to support the debt exclusion for the engineering study for the Town sewer project. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**(b) Town Meeting Presentation**

Susan Iuliano reported that she will speak at Town Meeting to indefinitely postpone Article 16, Transportation Fees.

Susan Iuliano reported that details are not yet in place regarding cost center presentations at Town Meeting. She recommended that Superintendent Brackett speak on behalf of the District. The Committee recommended that Dr. Brackett state the budget numbers, provide information on the difference between the budget as it appears in the Warrant and the current proposed budget, and highlight the critical needs that will be met by the proposed budget. The Committee recommended that he state the District's support of the

L-S override budget, include a comment about class size, and note that not all critical needs are addressed by the proposed budget.

The Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. before town meeting.

The Committee also discussed its position regarding reallocation of funds between cost centers. The Committee agreed by consensus that it is not in favor of reallocation as a means to mitigate shortfalls in the other cost centers. Among its reasons are the history of cuts to the SPS program and the negative impact such reallocation might have on collective bargaining.

**2. Shared District/Town Facilities Manager**

Susan Iuliano reported that the previously circulated draft MOU will be replaced by a new version to be developed. She stated that the district should examine what has been done in other towns. Ms. Iuliano suggested that the manager and assistant would report to both cost centers, but it has not been determined if personnel would be part of a stand-alone department or part of one of the cost centers. Rich Robison reiterated his concerns surrounding sustaining the District's current quality of service and flexibility. It was noted that a shared manager might allow access to funds that otherwise wouldn't be available to the District.

**3. School Committee Report**

Recognitions

Susan Iuliano lauded Michele MacDonald for her service to SPS, both as a parent and as a Member of the School Committee. She noted that Ms. MacDonald's quiet demeanor masks her passion for her work. Ms. Iuliano cited Ms. MacDonald's PTO service and leadership in improving communications and transparency. Lisa Gutch commented on Michele's prior service as Chair of SERF. On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Iuliano presented Ms. MacDonald with a chair to commemorate her service to SPS.

Superintendent Brackett characterized Ms. MacDonald's style as "push-pull", stating that she often pushed in a positive way for new initiatives or alternative ways of thinking, then would "run out ahead" and pull the District along. Dr. Brackett cited Ms. MacDonald's ability and interest in asking "why" as something he will particularly miss.

**4. Open Forum**

No comments.

**5. Superintendents report**

Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

**6. Minutes**

Tabled.

**7. Communications**

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

**8. Members' Forum**

Rich Robison commented that the House state budget debate occurs this week and that circuit breaker will likely be at 65% reimbursement to the districts.

Lisa Gutch asked for direction on the communication summarizing the current Committee meeting.

Sheila Cusolito praised the clarity of the budget presentations.

John Brackett asked about sending an email reminder about Town Meeting and the upcoming ballot questions.

Lisa Gutch asked if the District would distribute benchmarking data.

Bob Milley reported that he and John Brackett attended the Haynes fifth-grade science event, commending teacher Elizabeth Kerrigan and the parent volunteers.

**9. Executive Session**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to adjourn the Regular Session and move to Executive Session to discuss strategy for negotiation with nonunion personnel, as discussion in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the School Committee, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 9:02 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary