

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 25, 2012
Fairbank Senior Center**

Present: Jeff Beeler, Chairman; Susan Iuliano, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Rich Robison, Lisa Gutch, Ellen Winer Joachim

Also Present: Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent; Dr. Judy Malone Neville, Assistant Superintendent;
Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance; Mary Taylor, SEA

Open Session

Jeff Beeler called the Open Session to order at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

8. Superintendent's Report

(b) Donations

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to approve with thanks a donation to the Loring School from the Loring PTO of gifts totaling \$51,000, including one laptop cart, one ActivBoard, ActivExpressions, iPads, a document reader, and instructional support materials for Grade Three reading programs. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

1. Superintendent Evaluation

Rich Robison presented highlights of the input received from each Committee Member, which have been compiled as a draft document. The evaluation consists of ratings in functional categories, as well as narrative assessments. Categories and some of the ratings and comments include (1) Education and Leadership (rating 4's outstanding/exemplary and 3's satisfactory/meets needs); (2) Personnel Management (praised as Dr. Wilson's "area of expertise"); (3) General Management (rating 3 "strong and effective"); (4) Financial Management (rating 4's and 3's "excellent communication", "effective presentation"); (5) Communications and Public Relations (rating 3); (6) Relationship with School Committee (initial rating 3 that by consensus was changed to rating 4); (7) Personal Qualities and Characteristics (rating 4). Narrative comments lauded Dr. Wilson for meeting or exceeding expectations in all areas. The Committee concluded that the District is fortunate to have Dr. Wilson at the helm.

Jeff Beeler thanked Rich Robison and Ellen Joachim for coordinating the evaluation process. Mr. Beeler also expressed to Dr. Wilson that it has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve on the School Committee and that he looks forward to continued work with both the Committee and the community.

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Susan Iuliano, to approve the Superintendent Evaluation as amended. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

2. FY13 Budget Update

Superintendent Wilson and Director of Business and Finance Mary Will concluded their budget presentations at each school. Final numbers for the budget will be obtained following the April 26 meeting of the Finance Committee.

Town Warrant Article 17, relating to the Nixon School Roof Replacement and Repair will be indefinitely postponed; the Massachusetts School Building Authority has not yet reviewed the project.

The Committee discussed the potential re-allocation of revenue from SPS to LS, following an update on the LS budget provided by Susan Iuliano, as well as the anticipated allocation of revenue from the State. Committee Members expressed concern about possible deviations in the customary allotment of 50% of total revenues to SPS. The Committee discussed the possibility of modifying its budget proposal.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Ellen Joachim, not to modify the previously submitted budget proposal. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

3. Rate Holiday Savings Transfer

Extraordinary special education out-of-district costs resulted in a budget freeze in January that only allowed for funding urgent needs. Jeff Beeler emphasized that the District is entitled to utilize its portion of the Rate Holiday Savings as it deems necessary, for instance, to purchase supplies or technology, or for maintenance.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to request that the Town transfer the SPS portion of the April 2012 premium holiday savings in health insurance, totaling \$178,511, from the Town Employee Benefits line to Sudbury Public Schools operating budget. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

4. Food Service RFP Update

Mary Will reported that three companies are expected to respond to the RFP, which was released on April 9 and which closes on April 30. She is in the process of forming a proposal review/interview committee that will include at least one School Committee Member. Ellen Joachim will represent the Committee. Rich Robison recommended including a student representative.

5. Shared Facilities Director Update

The first round of interviews was completed, with SPS Business and Finance Director Mary Will, SPS HR Director Ken Storlazzi, and Assistant Town Manager/HR Director Maryanne Bilodeau participating. Second interviews are scheduled for next week. The interview panel will broaden to include Superintendent Wilson, Permanent Building Committee Chairman Mike Melnick, and Town Manager Maureen Valente. Twenty-seven applications were received. Seven candidates were interviewed in the first round; three finalists will be invited to interview in the second round.

6. School Committee Report

(a) Communications/Public Relations

Lisa Gutch announced the May 5 School Committee coffee. She will be distributing notice via constant contact and include a reminder about Town Meeting, which begins on May 7.

(b) Curtis Scoreboard Removal

Jeff Beeler reported that the Town recently removed two scoreboards from Curtis playing fields due to safety concerns. Removal occurred without the knowledge or approval of the School Committee. Mr. Beeler noted that the School Committee has governance over the pre-K–8 school buildings and grounds. Through separate agreement, the Sudbury DPW maintains the fields and the fields are made available to Sudbury Park and Recreation for use. This agreement with the Town does not include authority to install or remove items from school property.

Mr. Beeler stated that the scoreboards were a gift from a high school student as part of his Eagle Scout project. The gift was approved by the School Committee and then-Superintendent John Brackett. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Beeler expressed his sincere apology and disappointment for the incident and assured that the scoreboards would be reinstalled.

The Town has responded that it will replace the scoreboards within two weeks. Mr. Beeler expressed appreciation for the Town's responsiveness.

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Rich Robison, to appoint Superintendent Anne Wilson to act on behalf of the School Committee in all matters relating to the scoreboard reinstallation. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

7. Open Forum

No comments.

8. Superintendent's Report

(a) Bill Schedule

A Bill Schedule was presented.

(c) Loring Principal Search Update

Superintendent Wilson announced that the Principal search for Loring has begun. She outlined the anticipated process and timeline and reported meeting recently with staff to discuss the desired qualifications and characteristics of the next Principal. Interviews are scheduled for May 14 and 15. Rich Robison offered to represent the Committee on the interview team.

9. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2012 Regular Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

10. Members' Forum

Rich Robison reported that negotiations are ongoing. The next meeting is scheduled for April 30. He also stated that information about the state budget is expected tomorrow.

Lisa Gutch thanked Jeff Beeler and Susan Iuliano for their service on the School Committee:

Thank you for everything you've done for Sudbury Public Schools—the students and staff. Your dedication and unwavering commitment has benefited all of the families and (really) the entire Sudbury community.

I want to say a huge heartfelt thank you for all that you've done for our Committee and for me, personally, as I learned the ropes (and continue to learn).

Along with the many accomplishments to which you've made a significant contribution or, in fact, led like the establishment of Full-Day Kindergarten, adding ILAP days to support our staff's professional development, developing an Anti-Bullying policy that preceded legislation and ensures a safe and welcoming environment for children, preparing the community to support the Green Repair Project at Noyes and working with the Permanent Building Committee to bring the project in under budget and on time, the creation of the Shared Facilities Director position, advocating for Senior Tax Relief, and the many years of budgeting and advocating for proper funding of our schools, there is so much more that you've done every day. All the relationship-building, attending meetings, working closely with our Superintendent and staff (when appropriate), mentoring School Committee Members, keeping us informed, responding to the public...these are the things that are

not usually highlighted but are so important. You've spent countless hours giving your best to keep our school district performing as one of the top in the State and giving Sudbury's children an excellent opportunity to fulfill their potential.

Your greatest contributions, though, are the examples you set and the lessons you taught in patience and leadership, trustworthiness and openness. These are your qualities, ones that we know should be intrinsic to every School Committee Member and, in fact, to every public official.

Thank you for all that you've given. Sudbury owes you a debt of gratitude.

Susan Iuliano thanked Ms. Gutch for her comments. She noted what a terrific experience it has been to serve on the School Committee for nine years. She thanked both past Committee Members and the SPS staff, acknowledging Mary Taylor for representing the staff, as well as Jeff Beeler for his passion for the Committee's mission, as well as the District's students.

Jeff Beeler acknowledged three previous Committee Members in attendance: Bill Braun, Jane Santinelli, and Michele MacDonald.

9. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Susan Iuliano, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel, as discussion in Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 10:17 p.m.

Yes Jeff Beeler
Yes Susan Iuliano
Yes Rich Robison
Yes Lisa Gutch
Yes Ellen Winer Joachim

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary