

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday October 3, 2012  
Fairbank Senior Center**

**Present:** Dr. Rich Robison, Lisa Gutch, Ellen Winer Joachim, Bob Armour, Lucie St. George

**Also Present:** Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent; Dr. Todd Curtis, Assistant Superintendent; Melissa Morabito, SEA

**Open Session**

Rich Robison called the Open Session to order at 7:37 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

**1. MCAS Results**

Superintendent Wilson described the MCAS results as one measure to inform instruction. The math and ELA curriculum coordinators are assessing the data at the district level in conjunction with Debbie Dixon, Todd Curtis, and Linda Karpeichik. Data coaches and teams will assess individual school data against IST and RTI criteria for individual students.

Overall, the District performed well, and in all cases, significantly above the state average. In 12 of 14 categories, the District ranked in the top 10%. Dr. Wilson highlighted some individual school achievements: Nixon was one of only 64 schools to receive a state commendation and was 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in the state for ELA and math, respectively; 2/3 of Loring fifth graders achieved the advanced category in science and in the top 1% in ELA; the Grade 7 math ranking was in the top 3.2%; Haynes scored in the top 1.1% in ELA in Grade 4; Noyes in the top 4% for High Needs students in all grades and subjects.

Bob Armour asked about professional sharing of best practices. Assistant Superintendent Todd Curtis remarked that the ELA and math coordinators will be working on this during professional development workshops.

Mr. Armour also asked if the small changes in the District's performance over the last several years are statistically significant. Dr. Curtis responded that the significance is in the progress toward the target performance and that the performance of the subgroups—data that was not shown—is where this is especially apparent.

The Committee reviewed summary charts of student progress from year to year and discussed the breakdown of school districts in some of the five levels. Of note is that under the previous accountability system, a district was penalized by having restrictions applied to some funding. Under the current system, there is flexibility in the use of those funds.

Rich Robison congratulated all involved for the District's performance.

**2. Loring Principal Search**

Superintendent Wilson outlined the anticipated timeline for the search, as well as the proposed composition of the initial Interview Committee. Initial interview dates are scheduled for November.

**3. October 1 Enrollment**

Dr. Wilson reported an increase of three students over the September numbers for pre-K–8, to 3,007.

#### 4. Special Town Meeting Update

##### (a) Nixon Roof

This article was approved at the Special Town Meeting (STM) on September 24. Schematic designs, timelines, and other required materials were submitted to the MSBA for approval at its November meeting. Following that approval, the request for a debt exclusion will appear on the December 4 Special Town Election ballot.

##### (b) SPS Administrative Offices

This motion to repair the Fairbank roof was not approved at the STM. Selectman Bob Haarde argued the need for a new facility at the STM, and proposed raising private funds to do so. Lisa Gutch commented that the roof/building needs will be on the Board of Selectmen's agenda.

Ms. Gutch noted the risk to personnel and technology, as well as structural concerns. She expressed a concern that an alternative plan could take longer to pursue than what remains of the lifetime of the current roof. Also noted was that MSBA funds are only available for school buildings, not those used for administrative purposes.

Rich Robison recommended that the Committee offer its leadership to the Selectmen, given that the Central Offices are located under the portions of the roof that are failing.

#### 5. School Committee Report

##### Preschool Coffees

Lisa Gutch reported conferring with Anne Wilson and Linda Karpeichik to begin planning for the Committee's November and March coffees. Morning and evening coffees will be planned for a date in November.

Rich Robison reported receiving an inquiry concerning GIC benefits from the Dighton-Rehoboth School District. That district is interested in engaging participants in a panel presentation at the November 7 MASC conference. He indicated it is unlikely he can participate.

#### 6. Open Forum

No comment.

#### 7. Superintendent's Report

##### (a) Donations

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lucie St. George, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to approve with thanks a donation \$610.36 from Target Corporation to the Nixon School. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

##### (b) Recognitions

Superintendent Wilson praised the efforts of Math Coordinator Maggie McGinty and Coach Stephanie Rousseau for facilitating the IReady online math assessment pilot program in one Grade 6 classroom and the Math Maven program at Haynes.

##### (b) Bill Schedule

A Bill Schedule was presented.

##### (c) Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

#### 8. Minutes

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

## 9. Members' Forum

Melissa Morabito remarked on the great start to the school year.

Todd Curtis noted that Ms. Morabito is facilitating the fourth-grade math workshop at this Friday's professional development day. He also noted that the pre-K teachers will be participating in the non-fiction unit design activities on Friday.

Rich Robison reported attending a meeting where the circuit breaker was discussed. The preliminary posting is at 70%; DESE believes it could go to 72%.

Anne Wilson expressed excitement about Friday's activities. She's heard from teachers, including those who are facilitating, that they are very excited.

Bob Armour suggested that a greater effort be made to coordinate and prioritize capital improvements within the Town. He also stated his appreciation for the frameworks and MCAS data overview as the basis of developing a common language for discussing performance. Mr. Armour advocated for the concept of a balanced "score card" that measures SPS on a scale broader than just MCAS and spending.

Lucie St. George reported attending her second orientation session for new Committee Members. She highlighted two elements: the desirability of an overview of how the Committee's yearly calendar and goals are set; the fact that School Committee meetings must be held in public, but do not require inclusion of a public comment period. She also noted that new topics cannot be added to the agenda. Ms. St. George also announced that the Special Education Parent Advisory Council is sponsoring a lecture on executive function strategies on October 10.

Ellen Joachim reported that the Nixon PTO asked for a change in the Committee's meeting date from December 19 to December 12.

Sheila Cusolito reported attending a well run seventh-grade open house. She also asked if IReady was a commercial product and if there had been an increase in the number of products available to match the changeover to the Common Core. Dr. Curtis responded affirmatively, but noted that the products trail the implementation curve.

## 10. Executive Session

**VOTED:** On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to negotiations with Union and non-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 9:38 p.m.

Yes Rich Robison  
Yes Lisa Gutch  
Yes Ellen Winer Joachim  
Yes Bob Armour  
Yes Lucie St. George

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito