

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday May 29, 2013  
Fairbank Senior Center**

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

**Also Present:** Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent; Dr. Todd Curtis, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance

**Open Session**

Rich Robison called the Open Session to order at 7:34 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

**1. Recognitions**

Superintendent Anne Wilson announced that works of art created by Curtis sixth- and seventh-graders are on display at the Goodnow Public Library. A reception will be held on May 30 from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the library to honor the students, who worked in teams to create two-dimensional pixilated reproductions of famous works of art using Lego bricks. The project was designed to expose students to contemporary art and the idea of using commonplace items in new contexts to create visual and interactive experiences. It also provided an avenue to explore iconic works of art and an opportunity for students to give back to the community. The exhibit will move to the Boston Children’s Hospital in June.

Dr. Wilson also praised students, staff, and parents at Noyes for a fabulous Chick Fest and those at Haynes for a successful Japan Day festival.

The SEA was recognized for another successful Softball Bonanza, which raises funds to provide scholarships to LS seniors. Dr. Wilson thanked the teachers, students, administrators, and parents who participated in the event.

**2. Bonjour Québec Culture and Language Immersion Trip / Québec City, QC (Curtis Middle School House Administrator Angela Menke and Social Studies Teacher Ben DeMott)**

Mrs. Menke and Mr. DeMott provided an overview of the four-day, three-night trip, which is offered in alternate years to students enrolled in French. Next year’s trip will be the first to include seventh-graders and the fifth taken by eighth-graders. Financial, health, and educational supports for those students in need are provided. Typically 95% of students participate. The Committee must vote to approve overnight, out-of-town trips.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Ellen Joachim, seconded by Scott Nassa, to approve the trip to Québec City Canada for seventh- and eighth-grade students. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**3. Early Childhood Education Update (Early Childhood Education Director, Linda Karpeichik)**

Linda Karpeichik introduced the SPS early childhood programming, which includes integrated preschool and full- and half-day kindergarten (FDK, HDK) options. She noted that this is the fifth year of FDK. The Early Childhood team is utilizing Carol Dweck’s *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* as a cornerstone of its approach, including meeting the readiness level of each incoming student by providing just the right amount of challenge for each. Ms. Karpeichik described the structure of the integrated preschool program, which is staffed by special educators as well as specialists in speech and language, OT, and PT, and ABA tutors.

The OWL (Opening the World of Learning) preschool curriculum is focused on both developmental and learning objectives. It is literacy-based, integrated with content curriculum, and aligned with the Common Core. The preschool program is utilizing the GOLD assessment program, with benchmark periods in fall, winter, and spring.

This year, 63 students are enrolled; 30 have IEP's. Fifty-nine students are enrolled for next year, with 18 students on IEP's.

The kindergarten programs cover the same content areas as the preschool.

Ms. Karpeichik stated that kindergarten enrollment has already surpassed the predictions of both the District and the NESDEC survey and is likely to surpass this year's enrollment of 273 students. The majority of students are enrolled in FDK; however, the District is committed to offering both HDK and FDK options, which utilize the same curriculum, but differ in pace.

Ms. Karpeichik shared first-grade student assessment data that show no difference in performance as a function of full- or half- day kindergarten enrollment. She also noted that 80% of enrollees enter at age five and only 20% at age six.

Technology plays a role in both the preschool and kindergarten programs, with iPads utilized in both. The iTouch is also used in preschool and ActivBoards are utilized in kindergarten classrooms. By the start of the next school year, each classroom will have its own ActivBoard. Funds for such technology come from either the revolving or general account.

Ms. Karpeichik will follow up in the fall with an interactive presentation to the School Committee.

Bob Armour asked about the greatest accomplishment and greatest challenge to the Early Childhood programs. Ms. Karpeichik responded that bringing technology into the classroom is both the greatest accomplishment and challenge. Mr. Armour recognized both the clear articulation of and passion for her "vision."

Scott Nassa commented that as the parent of a kindergartener, he is amazed at the growth and excitement he observes in his child.

Todd Curtis noted that Ms. Karpeichik worked with Math Curriculum Coordinator Maggie McGinty on Numicon. He noted that aside from its use as a math teaching and learning tool, the theory behind Numicon is very interesting. With regard to Ms. Karpeichik's comments on technology, Dr. Curtis emphasized that the District is stretched by the small size of its technology personnel. Dr. Wilson added that the addition of technology has been accomplished in a purposeful manner, with a focus on identifying how instruction will be enhanced and with PD in place prior to a highly defined implementation.

Rich Robison requested a comment on the rationale for the use of the iPad and iTouch technologies in these early programs. Ms. Karpeichick stated that the iTouch was implemented following collaborative consultation because it is much lighter weight than the iPad. Its use in conjunction with a customized harness makes it very accessible as a communication device. Kindergarten classrooms make use of software that can be utilized with any tool. The PTO's might help to purchase additional items for each classroom.

#### 4. Reorganization of the School Committee

Assignment of Liaisons, Subcommittees and Delegate to MASC

##### 2013-2014 Liaison Assignments

###### Board of Selectmen

Rich Robison

Ellen Joachim

###### EDCO

N/A

###### Finance and Budget Committee

Bob Armour

Ellen Joachim

###### S.E.R.F.

Lucie St. George

###### M.A.S.C. Delegate

Scott Nassa (delegate)

Rich Robison (alternate)

###### Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

Lucie St. George

Ellen Joachim

###### METCO

Lucie St. George

###### SEPAC

Lucie St. George

Scott Nassa

###### Permanent Building Committee, School Building Committee, Energy Committee, Planning Board

Rich Robison

Bob Armour

###### Health Advisory Committee

Ellen Winer Joachim

Scott Nassa

###### Anti-Bullying Committee

Scott Nassa

Ellen Winer Joachim

###### Sewer (Selectmen appointed)

Rich Robison (Steering)

Scott Nassa (Advisory)

###### Park and Recreation

Rich Robison

###### Fairbank Task Force

Bob Armour

###### Nixon Roof Project

Lisa Gutch (previously voted)

##### 2012-2013 Responsibilities/Assignments

###### Negotiations/Labor Relations

Ellen Winer Joachim

Bob Armour

###### Public Relations/Communications

Lucie St. George

Ellen Winer Joachim

###### Policy

Ellen Winer Joachim

Lucie St. George

###### Budget

Ellen Joachim

Bob Armour

###### Superintendent's Evaluation

Bob Armour

Rich Robison

###### Special Education

Lucie St. George

Scott Nassa

**VOTED:** On a motion by Scott Nassa, seconded by Bob Armour, to accept the assignment of Liaisons, Subcommittees and Delegate to MASC as presented. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

#### 5. EDCO Board Member and Advisory Board Member Appointments

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lucie St. George, seconded by Scott Nassa, to appoint Superintendent Anne Wilson as the SPS representative on the EDCO Board of Directors. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Ellen Joachim, seconded by Scott Nassa, to appoint Lucie St. George as the School Committee representative on the EDCO Advisory Council. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

#### **6. Whitson's Contract Extension for FY14**

Mary Will reported on the food service program under management by Whitson's. This is the first year of the contract, which can be renewed for up to five years, but only on an annual basis. This year was also the first year of new federal regulations for nutrition requirements, including reduced portion size. Although there have been some challenges, including changes in personnel, reduced participation, an instance of undercooked chicken, and food that students largely don't like, Ms. Will stated that Whitson's has been very responsive to the District's requirements and procedures. Additionally, the federal regulations on portion size were relaxed in response to a nation-wide outcry; Whitson's accommodated that change, as well as a change to more desirable food options, as the year progressed. Ms. Will emphasized that some of the challenges would have been faced by any service provider. She recommends renewing the contract rather than starting over for what would be the third consecutive year. Ms. Will noted that the current contract specifies that the District will break even and is additionally guaranteed \$35K.

Scott Nassa asked if there is anything that can be done to make the food more appealing. Ms. Will stated that improvements are ongoing. She also reported that students will have a chance to provide feedback through a survey and that the Whitson's chefs will give demonstrations as part of a community outreach effort. There is also an active parent advisory group working with Whitson's.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Bob Armour, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to approve renewal of the Whitson's contract for food service management for one year, on condition of successful price negotiations for FY14. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

Ms. Will stated that participation stands at 40%, up from 30% at the start of the school year. Under self-operation, participation averaged 50%.

#### **7. School Committee Report**

Ellen Joachim reported that LSRHS School Committee Chair Nancy Marshall informed her that Bella Wong was hired as the Interim Superintendent/Principal, with a start date of July 1. Ms. Wong looks forward to working at LS, where she formerly taught, as well as with SPS.

Rich Robison reported that Nancy Marshall announced via email that she has resigned as LSRHS School Committee Chair. Member Radha Gargeya will assume that role.

Bob Armour stated that the process and funding for the Fairbank Community Center study are progressing. The Task Force met with the Permanent Building Committee tonight. Mr. Armour is pleased with the plans for conducting the study. The PBC will lead the process for the study including a high level of collaboration with key stakeholder groups – important given the nature of the study to identify best path forward for a more integrated, true community center.

Lucie St. George reported on the final taping for the cable program *Be In The Know About SPS*. Technology Curriculum Specialist Donna Criswell and Director of Technology Michael O'Brien were interviewed. There is now a direct link to the program on the SPS website. The Committee recommended a program focused on health and wellness for the start of next year. Scott Nassa asked if a panel involving parents and Whitson's is a possibility. Ms. St. George indicated that the program is only a half hour, but there might be an opportunity for this.

Ms. St. George also reported on attending a DARE graduation. This is the first year School Committee Members have attended. Ms. St. George considered it a nice opportunity to be present within the schools and inquired about participating in graduation at the middle school. Dr. Wilson

agreed that it is appreciated by the school communities to have Members attend such functions. She will once again invite the Committee to the administrators' luncheon, held just prior to the start of the school year.

## **8. Open Forum**

No comments.

## **9. Superintendent's Report**

### **(a) Report: Nixon Roof Update**

Dr. Wilson reported attending a preconstruction meeting involving the architect, consultant, Mike Melnick of the PBC, Facilities Director Jim Kelly, and roofing representatives. Scheduling, materials, and planning were discussed. The roofing representatives will research the best option between wrapping and re-pointing the chimney. The roofers would also like to have two workers start some tasks prior to the end of school. They will provide Dr. Wilson information on such factors as air quality impact. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18.

Nixon and Noyes students are attending Odyssey at Camp Bauercrest this week. Haynes and Loring students will attend next week.

### **(b) Donation**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lucie St. George, seconded by Scott Nassa, to accept with appreciation a donation of \$35K from Sudbury Extended Day, Inc. to cover costs associated with the entry security systems installed at each school. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Bob Armour, seconded by Lucie St. George, to accept with appreciation the annual donation of \$50K from the Jack and Mae Rosenberg Charitable Trust to be applied for the ongoing benefit of the Aspirations Program. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

Bob Armour asked for feedback on how the security system is working. Dr. Wilson reported that it has been well received, that visitors feel welcomed and staff are comfortable with the system. She called the transition 'seamless' and noted that front office staffing has not been increased at this time. Mary Will added that the badges will be ready for the start of the school year. She is working with Facilities Director Jim Kelly on engaging a security consultant to determine next steps.

### **(c) Bill Schedule**

A Bill Schedule was presented.

### **(d) Personnel Actions**

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

## **10. Minutes**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Ellen Joachim, seconded by Scott Nassa, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2013 Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

## **11. Members' Forum**

Todd Curtis reported that a PD calendar will be ready by the end of the school year. The PD day scheduled just prior to the start of school will focus on integrating technology.

Bob Armour reiterated his desire to plan ahead for resource needs in technology. Todd Curtis noted that data collection from surrounding districts is now complete. He also commented that the planned pilot programs will provide a qualitative assessment of needs.

Scott Nassa commended the tone and content of Superintendent Wilson's response to an email inquiry about the inBloom data storage system. He asked if something similar could be

communicated to the broader school community, noting that the topic is on the LSRHS Committee's June 11 agenda. Dr. Wilson responded that there is some disagreement regarding the accessibility of information and that she would share information with the Committee as it is obtained.

Mary Will provided an update on ongoing capital projects. Funds were obtained for new switch gear at Noyes and for carpet replacement in ten rooms at Nixon (4) and Noyes (6).

## **12. Adjourn**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Bob Armour, seconded by Scott Nassa, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation, as discussion in Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 9:30 p.m.

Yes	Rich Robison
Yes	Ellen Winer Joachim
Yes	Bob Armour
Yes	Lucie St. George
Yes	Scott Nassa

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito