

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday August 21, 2013
Fairbank Senior Center**

Present: Dr. Rich Robison, Ellen Winer Joachim, Bob Armour, Scott Nassa

Also Present: Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent; Dr. Todd Curtis, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Robert Mealey, SEA

Open Session

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

1. Recognitions

Superintendent Wilson recognized those teachers and staff who worked over the summer to enhance the District's programs, including a focus on curriculum activities and new teacher orientation. She thanked Lucie St. George and Ellen Joachim for attending the administrators meeting last week, and Scott Nassa and Ellen Joachim for attending the new teacher orientation lunch today. She remarked on the enthusiasm of the new teachers.

2. Enrollment Update

Superintendent Wilson provided an update to the enrollment projections reported by NESDEC last year. The revised projections result, in part, from a gap between the number of births and the number of enrollments. The previous projection was 383 students; this now stands at 284. Although there has been a significant decrease in the annual birth rate since 2006 compared with the prior ten-year period, enrollments have increased, in part due to an in-migration of families with school-aged children. In the last five years, there were 142 enrollees for every 100 live births. In the current year there were 166 enrollees per 100 live births, with the enrollment trend expected to continue to increase.

Dr. Wilson noted that when Loring reopened in 1999, enrollment was approximately 2,800. This number peaked in 2006 to 3,300 and currently stands at 3,000. The implementation of full-day kindergarten (FDK) in 2009 has shifted the influx from first grade to kindergarten.

Rich Robison noted that during the planning phase for Loring reopening, enrollment was at approximately 2,500, with the expectation that the District could operate effectively with an enrollment of up to 3,000. He commented that in addition to consistent enrollments over 3,000 since 2002, FDK has increased the use of space.

Dr. Wilson also cited the increased in-District special education programming as another reason for more fully utilized space. She commented that the data projections are only good within a three-year window and recommends an annual analysis, noting that the numbers differ depending on the time of year when data collection occurs.

Superintendent Wilson presented the current kindergarten enrollment numbers. Two hundred sixty-nine students are enrolled as follows: Haynes, 2 FDK sections; Loring, 4 FDK sections; Nixon, 3 FDK sections; Noyes 3 FDK sections and 1 HDK section. The HDK enrollment is at 16. There are three pending registrations. All other sections are full or over by one or two.

Over the summer, there were 47 new registrations across the District. Bob Mealey asked if any adverse effects on class size are anticipated. Dr. Wilson responded that enrollment is not over by more than two students in any section and that she does not expect that to change.

Scott Nassa remarked on the current real estate bidding wars and the desire to live in Sudbury because of its schools. He asked if all schools are at capacity. Superintendent Wilson replied that only Nixon is under capacity. She noted that there could be a significant impact of an upward trend, especially to in-District special education programs and a projected need for increased sections of FDK.

Rich Robison stated that the District previously considered having a separate early childhood program, but could not identify an appropriate space or cost structure. He noted that previous assessments of classroom space did not fully account for other needs that were not originally considered at the state level. Dr. Robison continued that if the District experiences an upswing in enrollment, current space will not be acceptable and will have to be created anew.

3. FY14 Calendar Review

Chairman Rich Robison outlined the topics covered on the School Committee calendar. Bob Armour brought up his concern that the Committee needs to reserve time early in the year for longer-term strategic planning. The Committee also discussed ways in which more in-depth discussions of topics such as the budget or District goals, could be accomplished, including the possibility of doing so in a workshop setting.

VOTED: On a motion by Ellen Joachim, seconded by Scott Nassa to move the September 25, 2013 Regular Session to September 24, 2013. The vote was 4–0 in favor.

4. FY14 Planning

The Committee continued its discussion of how to ‘circle back’ on some of the longer-range planning ideas previously presented by Bob Armour. Mr. Armour emphasized that such planning extends beyond the School Committee to the District as a whole. He expressed a desire for more clarity around our longer-term initiatives and how they will be funded, but acknowledged the need to balance additional planning activities with activities already in process.

Superintendent Wilson remarked that the District already structures its initiatives within a longer-range framework. By way of example, she noted that the 1:1 Pilot results will influence next steps in terms of human technical resources and strategies for phasing in the program if the Pilot is successful. She also cited the If/Then theory of action to attain enhanced student achievement. Dr. Wilson stated her interest in understanding how she can add clarity to her communications.

The Committee also discussed how it might support the Superintendent in communicating her vision to the District community. The Committee agreed that convening in early fall for a broader strategic discussion would be of value.

5. School Committee Report

Scott Nassa reported that there will be a SEPAC meeting on Monday, September 16 between 6:45 and 8 p.m. that he and Lucie St. George will attend.

Ellend Joachim stated that she did not attend a meeting at LS this week, but noted that LS and SPS outreach was a topic of discussion.

Rich Robison noted that the Route 20 sewer project is with the Selectmen.

Anne Wilson reported that the Nixon roof repairs and replacement are completed. The remaining item is the installation of skylights, which will occur this Friday. She noted that the project was completed on time and under budget, thanks in large part to Mike Melnick and the Permanent Building Committee.

Bob Armour stated that the Fairbank RFQ was issued by the PBC and that down-selection is now taking place. He confirmed that a FinCom meeting is scheduled for September 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Superintendent’s conference room.

6. Open Forum

No comments.

7. Superintendent’s Report

(a) Report

Superintendent Wilson stated that September 3 is the first day of school. Administrators returned last week. Professional development will start on August 28 and continue on August 29. Dr. Wilson welcomed Chase Eschauzier, who is the newly appointed Assistant Principal at Haynes and Nixon. She expects to finalize the hiring of an HR director soon.

(b) Bill Schedule

A Bill Schedule was presented.

(c) Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

8. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Scott Nassa, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2013 Regular Session. The vote was 4–0 in favor.

9. Members’ Forum

Bob Mealey looks forward to a good school year. He announced a new scholarship fundraiser: a road race to be held this November.

Todd Curtis noted that there are new activities coming on line related to coordinating and communicating with LS. He praised the high level of activity of both staff and teachers over the summer, in particular, acknowledging those who presented at the New Educator Orientation on August 21 and 22: Barbara Ryan, Exploring Sudbury; Ken Storlazzi, Laurajane Taylor, Human Resources; Angela Spirito, Todd Curtis, Mentoring and Professional Development; Deborah Dixon, Janine Dailey, Special Programs; Robert Mealey, Melissa Morabito, SEA; Anne Wilson, Superintendent’s Welcome; Elizabeth Greer, Stephen Wiltshire, School Culture and Anti-Bullying; Jennifer Soalt, Maggie McGinty, Holly Estes, Curriculum Overview; Michael O’Brien, Bernie Alicandro, Andrew Kuhn, Donna Criswell, Technology Overview.

Dr. Curtis also reported that teaching and learning communications can now be accessed via the following link on the Superintendent’s web page: learninginsudbury.wordpress.com.

Scott Nassa expressed appreciation for the chance to meet the new hires today. Ellen Joachim echoed this sentiment.

Bob Armour noted his disappointment in not being available to participate in the school-year start-up events.

10. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Scott Nassa, seconded by Bob Armour, to adjourn the August 21, 2013 Regular Session. The vote was 4–0 in favor. The time was 9:53 p.m.

- Yes Rich Robison
- Yes Ellen Winer Joachim
- Yes Bob Armour
- Yes Scott Nassa

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito