

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday September 11, 2013  
Fairbank Senior Center**

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

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

**Open Session**

Rich Robison called the Open Session to order at 7:31 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

**1. Recognitions New Administrator Introductions**

Superintendent Wilson introduced five new administrators, three of whom represent internal promotions: Loring Principal Stephen Wiltshire (former Loring Assistant Principal), Loring Assistant Principal Sara Zawadzkas (former Loring teacher), Curtis House Administrator David Jurewicz (former Curtis teacher), Haynes and Nixon Assistant Principal Chase Eschauzier, and Director of Human Resources Kathy Doyle-Arena. Haynes Principal Kim Swain and Curtis Principal Stephen Lambert were also present to welcome the new administrators.

Mr. Wiltshire, who joined the Loring community two years ago, expressed excitement about the direction of both the District and the Loring School and looks forward to continuing to get to know the community. Ms. Zawadzkas, who has taught at Loring for seven years, is excited to be able to continue in an administrative role at the school. Mr. Eschauzier, who came by way of Milton Public Schools, noted that his colleagues there are aware of and impressed by the reputation of SPS. Mr. Jurewicz has taught at Curtis since 1995 and views his new role as a perfect opportunity to work within a community he knows very well. Ms. Doyle Arena, who came from the private sector, enthused about the warm welcome and support she's received.

**2. Final FY13 Budget to Actual**

Director of Business and Finance Mary Will stated that the District had accomplished its FY13 goals, despite experiencing the unexpected expense of the security system installation. Savings were realized in both salaries and energy costs. Additionally, SED contributed to the costs of the security system. In addition to the security system, savings were applied to upgrading the Curtis wireless system, pre-paying \$100K in special education tuitions, and purchasing ELA curriculum materials. A balance of \$2,435 was returned to the Town.

In response to queries from the Committee, Ms. Will expressed some concern for anticipated costs of math curriculum materials. She also explained that the District routinely pre-pays special education costs to CASE and that the payments are actually early payments on costs incurred two years prior.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Scott Nassa, seconded by Lucie St. George, to approve the line item transfers as presented for the final FY13 budget. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**3. Nixon Roof Update**

Superintendent Wilson praised those who worked to see the Nixon roof project through on time and under budget: PBC Co-Chairman Mike Melnick, Facilities Director Jim Kelly, and Maintenance Director Joe Kupczewski. She also thanked the administrative and custodial staff at Nixon for their extraordinary efforts in readying the school for opening day.

#### **4. Preliminary Enrollment Report**

Dr. Wilson provided an update on enrollment, noting some novel trends that could not have been predicted, for instance, the enrollment of seven new fourth graders at Haynes. Present enrollment stands at 1,915 in Pre-K through Grade 5.

The enrollment pattern in kindergarten is the same as last year. At present, there are 20 students over the projection. Across the District, at least some sections at each school are over the enrollment guideline.

In response to the Committee's request, Dr. Wilson will provide information on the proportion of students at each grade level living in Sudbury vs. the in-District enrollment numbers.

#### **5. Technology Update**

Assistant Superintendent Todd Curtis spoke about the August 28<sup>th</sup> PD day, which focused on strategies to integrate technology. He noted that the majority of workshops were facilitated by SPS teachers and that the comments from teachers were enthusiastic. Dr. Curtis also reported on the successful launch of the 1:1 technology pilot, as well as the parent information meeting held on Monday that generated many thoughtful questions.

Dr. Curtis reported that students have had very little difficulty utilizing the technology and that its use actually makes it easier for teachers to assist students without disrupting the pace of others in the class. He did note that between the launch of the 1:1 pilot and the Curtis wireless network update, technology staff was 'beyond stretched'.

Rich Robison commented that it will be important to strategize in building capacity in order to allow the technology staff time to develop and implement higher level expertise. Dr. Wilson pointed out that teacher comments on the PD and the 1:1 classroom observations illustrate the connections to the District's strategic objectives. Lucie St. George asked if the technical expertise of LS students can be tapped.

#### **6. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)**

Superintendent Wilson presented an overview of PARCC, which is intended to replace part of the MCAS and is anchored in the Common Core standards. The PARCC involves both ELA and math and was developed with input from both business sectors and colleges. The assessments fall into two categories: a performance based assessment after completion of 75% of the school year and an end-of-year assessment after 90% of the school year.

Todd Curtis interjected about an eighth-grade problem-based initiative in science to model the problem of access to clean water. The initiative is an example of the cross-curricular, real-world problem solving that will increasingly characterize assessments.

The DESE-prescribed transition to PARCC will involve voting sometime in November on a transition plan. Field testing of both on-line and paper versions of the PARCC will occur in the spring, with an anticipated implementation date in FY15. All five SPS schools were selected to participate in the field testing.

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

Scott Nassa reported that he and Lucie St. George will attend a SEPAC meeting on September 16, at the District office. Officers will be voted in at this meeting.

Ellen Joachim stated that she and Lucie St. George will meet as the Policy subcommittee tomorrow morning.

Bob Armour reported that the Fairbank Task Force met yesterday with the PBC to select a contractor to oversee the study. Jack Ryan and Dick Williamson were nominated as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

## **8. Open Forum**

Muoi Lam, from West Roxbury, wanted to know how to resolve issues with student placements. She has met with the Superintendent. Dr. Wilson offered to have a follow-up discussion.

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

### **(a) Report**

Dr. Wilson reported on a very smooth school opening, despite the Landham Road traffic diversion. She praised teachers, school staff, and the SPD and DPW for making it happen, illustrating the strength of our community. Dr. Wilson commented that students were engaged from the start in meaningful work.

Superintendent Wilson attended the Haynes open house last night and will attend the Noyes open house tomorrow. She gave kudos to the custodial staff, especially at Nixon, for the quality of work in readying the buildings.

Dr. Wilson announced that the Superintendent chats will begin in October, with alternating day and evening sessions. Parent feedback indicated an interest in topic-based chats, which will be incorporated this year.

### **(b) Bill Schedule**

A Bill Schedule was presented.

### **(c) Personnel Actions**

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

## **10. Minutes**

Tabled.

## **11. Members' Forum**

Bob Mealey announced that the 25-year teachers will be celebrated on December 12 at Lavender.

Scott Nassa noted that he attended the Haynes playground dedication. He also commented on the emotion of this day and his attendance at the 9/11 commemoration at Heritage Park this morning.

Anne Wilson reminded the Committee that its next Regular Session will be on Tuesday, September 24.

Bob Armour announced that the company he started last year will soon merge with another. Although he expects increased work-related travel, Mr. Armour voiced his commitment to the School Committee and its meetings.

Lucie St. George expressed how wonderful it was to be at opening day this year. She found it an inspirational window into the devoted staff of SPS. She also found the student musical performance 'awesome'.

Rich Robison stated his appreciation for the participation of other Town officials at opening day, including those from the Police, Fire, and Town Manager's office. He also saw value and diminished stress in holding the PD activity in the same location as the opening day activities.

Bob Mealey also stated that the two-day PD format created a more relaxed start to the school year, as did starting after Labor Day, rather than the day following PD.

**12. Adjourn**

VOTED: On a motion by Scott Nassa, seconded by Lucie St. George, to adjourn the September 11, 2013 Regular Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 9:28 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito