

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday October 9, 2013
Peter Noyes School**

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; Laura Burney, SEA

Open Session

Rich Robison called the Open Session to order at 7:33 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

1. Recognitions

Superintendent Wilson announced that October is National School Principal Month. She acknowledged the dedication of the District's five principals.

2. Noyes PTO Welcome (Lisa Valensi and Kari White, Co-Chairs)

Lisa Valensi described the PTO as comprising parent volunteers who value education and work to enrich and improve the educational experience of students. Approximately 70% of funds raised by the PTO support enrichment programs, with the remainder used to augment teacher budgets and support community-building events.

Ms. Valensi noted the challenges in creating a sense of community at a large school. Despite some extraordinary challenges last year, she stated that the Noyes community has been restored, evidenced in part by an unprecedented sell-out of the PTO's Spring event.

3. Noyes State of the School Presentation (Annette Doyle, Principal; Kristin Moffat, Assistant Principal)

Principal Annette Doyle acknowledged the work of the PTO, stressing the necessity and success of working together for the benefit of the school community. She outlined the School Improvement Plan Goals, three of which remain from last year. Continuing efforts involve using student data, implementing the new educator evaluation, and aligning with the Common Core. The remaining goals are focused on promoting executive functioning and improving recess.

Ms. Doyle presented data on school culture from Fall 2012 and Spring 2013. Surveys of both parents and teachers demonstrated increases in the numbers of individuals who define Noyes as a positive environment.

The Professional Learning Community (PLC) construct is an ongoing, highly successful process at Noyes. Teachers characterize it as a time-sacred, highly empowering opportunity to identify essential learning, conduct data and error analysis, and share best teaching practices. Ms. Doyle stated that her responsibility is to create time for the PLC's to convene.

Another successful undertaking is the flexible grouping in math, which has expanded and now includes grades 3–5. MCAS data illustrate the continuing trend of strong performance in math.

Ms. Doyle spoke about the new focus on executive function. Noyes received a SERF grant to work with Sarah Ward, a local expert in the field who has done some previous work within the District.

Assistant Principal Kristin Moffat spoke about the focus on recess, reporting that students in grades 3–5 identified outdoor recess as the primary location of negative behaviors. She noted that

historically, 67% of disciplinary actions derive from playground activity, mostly from team sports. The addition of a ‘hands-on’ staff member who plays along with the students, as well as the creation of play zones, has diminished the number of disciplinary visits to her office. To date this year, there have been no recess-related disciplinary incidents.

Principal Doyle highlighted some of the grade-level activities that both enrich the educational experience and bring the community together with parent involvement, including: Chick Fest, Japan Day; Odyssey, Colonial Day, and the recently held fall carnival. She praised third-grade teacher Florence Aldrich-Bennett, who celebrates 50 years in teaching this year. Ms. Aldrich-Bennett’s twin sister, a teacher in Cambridge, has also met this milestone. The two were recently featured in an article in *The Boston Globe*.

Ms. Doyle closed with a video clip featuring an annual school-wide celebration to honor veterans. She reported that representatives from the VFW in Framingham recently visited the school with a service dog and announced that Noyes students have been selected to name the next-born service dog, which is expected in December.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the array of efforts and the dedication of the Noyes community, including work around the growth mindset and flexible grouping. To specific queries, Ms. Doyle identified the following as challenges: strengthening the ELA writing component and implementing genre units, continued community-building, making time for PLC activities, and guarding against teacher burnout.

4. 2013 MCAS Results

At its September 24, 2013 Regular Session, Superintendent Wilson presented a brief overview of MCAS results, which were received the week prior, with a goal of making a more comprehensive presentation following more detailed analysis. She emphasized that MCAS is only one measure of achievement and that data analysis is still underway, occurring at various levels within the District. She also noted that this is the first year of a multi-year effort to align questions with the Common Core. Dr. Wilson presented and defined some of the terms associated with MCAS measures, relating them to the accountability levels that are assigned to each district by the State.

Dr. Wilson noted that year-to-year rankings provide valuable information on how individual students are progressing. She also noted that there is a balance between growth and performance; high performance may limit the degree of growth that is possible. Overall performance at each school was rated at 90% or better. Improvements will be sought in the performance of students in the high needs subgroups (students with disabilities, students from low-income homes, students who are English language learners), which aligns with the District goal of enhancing the capacity to meet diverse student learning needs.

Assistant Superintendent Todd Curtis summarized the extensive array of analyses that teachers perform on the MCAS results, noting that this is the interface for directly affecting classroom instruction. Dr. Curtis explained that during this time of transition to aligning with the Common Core and moving toward the PARCC assessment, the District will be monitoring how well it is preparing each student for these transitions.

5. Technology Acceptable Use Policy (Second Reading)

VOTED: On a motion by Bob Armour, seconded by Lucie St. George, to accept the Technology Acceptable Use Policy as presented. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

6. Residency Policy (First Reading)

Lucie St. George read the proposed residency policy, which was absent from the Policy Manual. Rich Robison asked that the term ‘disability’ be added to the non-discrimination clause.

7. Appoint Capital Finance Working Group Representative

VOTED: On a motion by Lucie St. George, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to appoint Bob Armour as the representative to the Capital Finance Working Group. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

8. Appoint Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Working Group Representative

On a motion by Ellen Joachim, seconded by Scott Nassa, to appoint Lucie St. George as the representative to the OPEB Working Group. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

9. School Committee Report

Scott Nassa reported that he attended a SEPAC meeting on Monday. The organization is growing and recently raised \$400 in a raffle fundraiser.

Rich Robison reported that the Sewer Committee is attempting to clarify the respective responsibilities of that committee and the Sewer Citizens Advisory Committee. He stated that the possibility of connecting to the Marlborough facility is gaining momentum. Dr. Robison noted that a related activity is the beautification of Route 20, including relocating utilities underground. Although related, there will not be an effort to tie these activities to the sewer project itself.

Dr. Robison also mentioned a concern that unplanned development under Ch. 40B might be triggered when the sewer project is completed. The Town is interested in ensuring that such development occurs in an intentional manner. He noted that the projected date for completion is 2016.

Bob Armour reported that the Fairbank Task Force selected an architect and will meet on October 15. There will be an opportunity for community input. Mr. Armour believes it is the same firm that is drawing plans for Town Hall; he is optimistic that the District's expressed needs will be well met in the transition from space to space.

Lucie St. George attended the LS School Committee meeting, at which Bella Wong's contract was extended through the 2014–2015 school year. Ms. St. George also attended an EDCO Board meeting last week, the first of the school year. She and Ellen Joachim attended an EDCO roundtable for school committee members, at which topics for discussion were generated.

10 Open Forum

John Baranowsky, Belcher Drive, asked if the District has assessed the impact of the 2010 redistricting on MCAS performance. Rich Robison expressed an interest in examining the cohort performance, but emphasized that the redistricting was enrollment-driven.

11. Superintendent's Report

(a) Report

Superintendent Wilson reported that last year's DESE Coordinated Program Review report was received and is posted online. The compliance review is undertaken every six years and includes both a mid-cycle review and an opportunity for parents to comment. The special education program met 50 of 52 requirements. Lacking was the consistent, immediate distribution to families at TEAM meetings of a proposed IEP and the provision of stand-alone, designated space for speech and language service delivery. Civil rights criteria were met in 24 of 26 categories. Lacking were comparable facilities for ELL instruction and an institutional assessment of equal access to programs, facilities, and ELL reports. Dr. Wilson assured that corrective actions are underway, with the space and IEP submission issues already resolved.

(b) Bill Schedule

A Bill Schedule was presented.

(c) Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

12. Communications

None.

13. Minutes

Tabled.

14. Members' Forum

Assistant Superintendent Todd Curtis announced that the upcoming second full PD day of the year will focus on alignment of the curriculum with the Common Core, including aligning assessments and instruction strategies.

Rich Robison asked Mary Will about the status of preparations for the October 21 presentation to the FinCom. Dr. Robison also asked Members to review the MASC resolutions in order to prepare to take a position if warranted.

Dr. Wilson announced that the next meeting on October 23 will be held at the Nixon School.

12. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Scott Nassa, seconded by Lucie St. George, to adjourn the October 9, 2013 Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 11:23 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito