

# School Committee Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, February 27, 2002**

**Present:** Rich Robison, Chairperson, Karen Krone, Vice Chairperson

**Members:** Bill Braun, Kathy Precourt, Jane Santinelli

**Also Present:** William J. Hurley, Superintendent, Patti Grenier, Assistant Superintendent, Paul Funk, Director of Business & Finance, Debbie Dixson, SPED Administrator, Paul Hurd, SEA

Rich Robison called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

## **Open Forum I**

No comments

## **II. Superintendent's Report**

### **D. Pre-School Guidelines**

### **E. Pre-School Tuition**

Patti Grenier and Linda Karpeichik, Early Childhood Coordinator, reviewed the current status of the Pre-School Program. Presently, there are 39 IEP students in the program and 45 peer group students. The program maintains a balance of students with and without IEP's. Non-IEP slots are in high demand. The program has grown significantly over the past two years. Suggested guidelines for accepting students into the program are as follows: students on IEP's first, then their siblings. Next, a lottery would be conducted for tuition slots for Sudbury residents. Any remaining slots would be filled through a faculty lottery in accordance with School Committee Policy. It was also recommended that the tuition be increased from \$200/month-\$250/month. A sliding scale is available based on family income. The average pre-school program in Sudbury is \$317. There was discussion among the Committee to raise tuition fees to be more in line with market conditions.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Karen Krone, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to increase the Pre-School tuition from \$200 to \$300 per month, with continued use of the sliding scale structure, as of September 2002, accepting the Complete Class Composition guidelines as proposed. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

## **I. School Committee Report**

### **A. March School Committee Meeting Schedule**

The Committee agreed to amend the School Committee schedule for March to meet on the 6th and the 20th, and cancel the meeting on the 13th.

### **B. Letter from Somerville School Committee**

The Committee unanimously agreed to support the Somerville School Committee in their efforts to recommend to the Governor to put a one-year freeze on the income tax decrease.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Kathy Precourt, seconded by Karen Krone, to send a letter to Governor Swift requesting a one-year freeze on the income tax decrease. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

### **C. Bill Schedule**

A bill schedule was presented.

## **II. Superintendent's Report**

### **A. Recognition**

The Superintendent recognized Wally Bell, Haynes teacher, who passed away after a long battle with cancer.

### **B. Strategic Plan**

A final version of the Strategic Plan was presented to Committee members for review.

### **C. Bus Fees - see Budget discussion**

### **F. Use of School Facilities Request**

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

### **G. EDCO Legislative Forum**

The annual Legislative Forum will be held on March 22, 2002. This year the topic will be funding for Special Education. Interested Committee members should contact Jan Seftor.

### **H. Budget**

The Committee discussed the increased costs of unemployment benefits associated with laid off employees and who absorbs those costs. Seven area districts report that escalating costs in healthcare and unemployment are borne by the Town, not the School Committees.

Bill Braun reported that a group of people (the Superintendent, Bill Braun, the Town Manager, a selectman and a School Committee member) will form a subcommittee to look at the history of this issue. Members are encouraged to e-mail the Superintendent with any questions/issues that they would like this group to address.

The Superintendent presented a list of proposed cuts based on scenarios of an override and a non-override budget. The issue of providing non-mandatory busing, including raising bus fees was discussed. Committee members expressed concern regarding preserving reading support in first grade. Concern was also expressed about cutting back on guidance

counsellors and school psychologists, which are areas that have historically been under-funded. The main concern centered around restoring the kindergarten and first grade aides in the Override Budget. The consensus of the Committee was that if the override passes, every effort will be made to maintain bus service with a substantial increase in fees (possibly \$225 with a family cap). With a non-override budget, non-mandatory busing would be eliminated.

## **Open Forum II**

Tad Mayer, Community Coalition, thanked the Committee for their continued efforts. The Coalition will be getting out the most current information to the community.

Sue Richmond reported that people are talking about bus fees alot and she felt it important to get the issue clarified for voters.

## **III. Communications**

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

## **IV. Minutes**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Karen Krone, seconded by Bill Braun, to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2002 Regular Session as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

## **V. Personnel Action**

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

## **Member's Forum**

Rich Robison reported that the State is still looking to cut Ch. 70 Aid in the House proposed budget. The FY '02 Budget continues to decrease, particularly 50/50 special education funds for residential placements.

Jane Santinelli sent flowers to the Bell family on behalf of the Committee.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Karen Krone, seconded by Bill Braun, to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of Collective Bargaining.. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 11:15 pm.

Yes Bill Braun  
 Yes Jane Santinelli  
 Yes Rich Robison  
 Yes Karen Krone  
 Yes Kathy Precourt

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary

---

[Home](#) | [General Information](#) | [News](#) | [Individual Schools](#) | [Central Office](#) | [Curriculum](#) | [School Committee](#) | [Site Index](#)

*contact the webmaster: [pbarr316@sudbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:pbarr316@sudbury.k12.ma.us)  
last updated March 8, 2002*