

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
October 2, 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, Mary Mahoney, SEA

Rich Robison called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Open Forum I

No comments.

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Recognition

On behalf of Kevin Plodzik, the Superintendent thanked Patrice Hurley, Sharon DeCarlo, and Tom Lopez, Curtis Housemasters, for their efforts on developing a schedule at the Curtis Middle School.

The Superintendent recognized a grant received from the Exxon/Mobil Alliance which provided for a multimedia library.

Rich Robison reported that Bill Hurley received recognition from the Mass. Department of Education for the 400+ hours Bill served as a Mass. Educator Certificate Review Panelist.

B. Sargent Center 8th Grade Trip

Kevin Plodzik updated the Committee on efforts to have the 6th grade Nature's Classroom trip available to all students. Kevin reported that all seven teams will go this year. Kevin expressed his gratitude for the cooperation and collaboration exhibited by the teachers and the administration.

Kevin requested to continue the 8th Grade Sargent Center trip at a cost of approximately \$150 per student. The Superintendent recommended the Committee accept the proposal as outlined. Scholarships are available.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Kathy Precourt, to approve the 8th Grade Sargent Center trip scheduled for the spring of 2003, at a cost of approximately \$150 per student. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

C. Music Festival Trip

Bob Mealy and Kevin Plodzik presented a proposal for the 7th and 8th Grade Music Festival Trip to Montreal. The Superintendent recommended the Committee accept the proposal as outlined. Scholarships are available.

VOTED: On a motion by Karen Krone, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to approve the 7th and 8th grade Music Festival Trip to Montreal scheduled for the spring of 2003, at a cost of approximately \$294 per student. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Kevin Plodzik updated the Committee on the work on the grounds of Curtis Middle School. The school received donations from Landscape Design of Sudbury and Waverly Landscape of Belmont, and parent volunteers have planted bulbs and mums and spread mulch in an effort to beautify the grounds. There is a plan for a donation of bricks and labor to build a retaining wall for plantings. Kevin will arrange for recognition of the donations.

D. Upcoming Meetings with Finance Committee

The Superintendent reported that a Finance Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, October 8, 8:15 in the Sudbury Pines Room, where the Superintendent will be making a presentation on the impact of budget reductions for this year.

Also, at a November 12 Finance Committee meeting, the Superintendent will be making a presentation on the impact of Special Education to both academic programs and the budget. Rich Robison presented a donation of 20 copies of A Guide to Special Education which will be made available to the Finance Committee and the Special Education Department.

E. Academic Support Services Program

Patti Grenier reported on an \$8,300 grant from the Department of Education's Academic Support Services Unit, to provide academic support for students who scored 220 or below on the MCAS.

F. Preliminary MCAS Results

Patti Grenier presented the 2002-2003 MCAS Review Process at both the District and School level, along with Points of Interest. In summary, Sudbury Grades 3-8 continue to score among the top performing districts in the State. The scores for the last five years continue to be very consistent with an increase in the percentage of students scoring in the Proficient and Advanced categories.

G. Supervisor of Facilities Update

The Superintendent reported that Joseph Kupczewski has been hired as the new Supervisor of Facilities.

Open Forum II

Cat Strahan, Nixon School Council, commended the teaching staff and the district for moving Needs Improvement students into Proficient on MCAS. However, she noted that in some categories the numbers in the Advanced category went down. Will this issue be addressed in the future? Patti Grenier will continue to look at trends in the data over several years. She explained that in some years scores have increased in some content areas and decreased slightly in others. One variable is the cohort of students tested each year.

I. School Committee Report

A. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

B. Donation to Sudbury Public Schools

VOTED: On a motion by Karen Krone, seconded by Bill Braun, to accept a donation of a computer and related equipment from Henry Roman. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

C. Superintendent's Search - Screening Committee

Karen Krone gave an update. She distributed copies of the brochure which has been placed on the website. The September newsletters included a general overview of the search process. Notices to parents have been distributed regarding participating in the Screening Committee. Some spots have been filled on the Screening Committee - Bill Braun and Jane Santinelli for the School Committee, Kevin Plodzik for Curtis, Tracey Mara (Assistant Principal at Noyes) for Elementary Administrators, Betsey Whitney as an SEA representative and a

Nixon teacher, Laurie Wishner for the L-S School Committee, SNACC representative Rebecca Gonawich, Debbie Hartline as a Haynes teacher. Parents have until 10/4 to mail a letter of interest. We are still waiting for a Loring teacher. Once the Committee is established, communication will go out informing members of upcoming events. Focus groups results are due next week. Kathy Precourt and Rich Robison will participate in the paper screening process, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 23 at 3:30. The Committee agreed that Sue Kuykendall will be the Community representative. An e-mail will be sent to PTO chairs and School Councils reminding them about the deadline for parent representative letters. The evening meeting scheduled for October 23 need not be posted as a special meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for the orientation of the Screening Committee.

III. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet. Also presented was a letter from the Sudbury Educational Support Personnel requesting to begin contract negotiations. The Superintendent will draft a response for the School Committee.

A letter was also received from the Mass. Care Coalition regarding supporting a referendum to oppose the MCAS graduation requirement.

IV. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Karen Krone, to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2002, Regular Meeting 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 budget cuts continue at the state level.

Bill Hurley presented enrollment figures as of 10/1/02.

Jane Santinelli reported on a recent EDCO meeting where the focus was on the use of technology in schools.

VOTED: On a motion by Karen Krone, seconded by Kathy Precourt, to adjourn the meeting. The time was 10:45 p.m. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Yes Bill Braun

Yes Jane Santinelli

Yes Rich Robison

Yes Karen Krone

Yes Kathy Precourt

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary