

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 3, 2003**

Present: Bill Braun, Chairperson, Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson
Members: Rich Robison, Susan Iuliano, Alexa Crowe
Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent, Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent,
Mary Will, Director of Business & Finance, Debbie Dixson, SPED Administrator, Beth Brown, SEA

The Budget Hearing began at 7:05 p.m. Dr. Brackett gave the Budget presentation.

The following comments/questions were taken from audience members:

Carol Zais, Old Coach Road, thanked Dr. Brackett for an excellent presentation. Does the level funded budget include steps and lanes? Yes it does.

Michael Weintraub, Old Coach Road, asked who the district uses for health benefits, noting that the increase seems higher than the industry average? We are part of the Town of Sudbury's health insurance plan. Actual rates are now being determined and should be lower than the estimated 20% increase.

Patty Kenny, Ames Road, asked the Committee to not consider cutting school nurses.

Loyd Kittleson, Easy Street, noted that the school system could incur higher insurance costs if nurses are cut. There would be legal issues to consider and a lawsuit from parents of students with diabetes.

Kat Strahan, Suffolk Road, asked where the \$62,000 was cut from to accommodate the step and lane increases? Several accounts were cut including Other Salaries, Staff Development, Administration-new equip, legal ads, lease agreements, postage, professional development, and transportation.

Michael Weintraub, whose son is diabetic, noted that constant contact is necessary with the school nurse regarding his son. He also noted that the numbers of students with diabetes is increasing.

Carol Zais, Old Coach Road, asked for clarification regarding contract negotiations that were done last year and being done again this year. Last year,

a 1% increase was given for only one year with the understanding that the compensation part of the contract would be re-negotiated again this year. *Carol also noted that in the Sample Budget Cuts, there were additional cuts to the music program. The elementary program was significantly reduced two years ago. There was a lot of support and effort around keeping the program intact.*

Gilbert Forest, Jason Drive, asked if all cost centers have been asked to come up with the same scenarios? Yes. He also added that he has a diabetic son. The level of collaboration with school staff is great. A proactive role by the teacher and the school nurse is needed constantly throughout the day.

Jan Durgin, Ridge Hill Road, noted that the library assistants were cut two years ago.

Bill Braun called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:25 p.m.

Open Forum I

Gay Gibson McDonald, Stow, Library Media Specialist at Noyes, expressed concern regarding reducing Library Aides any further.

Nick Foscolos, 7 Pratts Mill Road, expressed concern about the potential of building affordable housing on a parcel of land on Pratts Mill and Peakham Roads. This is an area already heavy with vehicle and foot traffic, from both school and commuter traffic.

I. School Committee Report

A. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

B. Potential Sites for Affordable Housing

Larry O'Brien and members of the Blue Ribbon Housing Site Selection Committee were present to discuss two properties being considered for affordable housing - Newbridge Road and the corner of Pratt's Mill Road and Peakham Road.

The Pratt's Mill site could be used for administrative space in the future. The Newbridge Road site needs to be looked at more closely. If Nixon School is expanded due to increased enrollment, lost space may need to be replicated on the Newbridge Site.

The Nixon School Site needs to be measured and surveyed and the impact of the addition of 6-8 classrooms needs to be considered. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Several School Committee members expressed their philosophical intent not to

unreasonably place barriers on the mission of the Housing Committee. Future and potential school needs for all property will be their primary objective.

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Recognition

Dr. Brackett reported that 28 staff members were recognized for achieving professional status.

B. 2004-2005 Budget

This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

C. Vote on Revolving Accounts

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Alexa Crowe, to approve the Early Childhood Revolving Fund, the Music Revolving Fund, the Bus Revolving Fund, and a new Circuit Breaker Revolving Fund. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Open Forum II

No comments.

III. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

IV. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Alexa Crowe, to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2003 Regular and Executive Sessions as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

V. Personnel Action

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

Member's Forum

Beth Brown offered Association support at the Finance Committee Meeting on January 8.

Bob Milley reported on positive feedback on the Staff Professional Development Day.

Rich Robison noted we should communicate with the town about procedures during snowstorms.

Dr. Brackett reported that the DOE released Adequate Yearly Progress reports. This item will be discussed at a future meeting. Dr. Brackett updated the

Committee about improving the field space at Nixon School.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Alexa Crowe, to adjourn the meeting. The time was 10:00 p.m. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Yes Bill Braun
Yes Jane Santinelli
Yes Rich Robison
Yes Alexa Crowe
Yes Susan Iuliano

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary