Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 24, 2004

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

Bill Braun called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Open Forum I

Helene Simon, Newbridge Road, feels the proposed plan to build affordable housing on Newbridge Road is unsafe, shortsighted, and too expensive.

Bill Towle, Newbridge Road, is concerned that there is not enough space on the sight to build housing. Other issues are that it is too close to the school and there is an extreme dropoff on the property. He would like to see the land used for play space, etc.

Lee Ovian, Newbridge Road, is concerned about the wetlands structure and safety. He feels more research needs to be done and more information must be given to citizens.

Beth Orup, Newbridge Road, is concerned about the suitability of the site as it relates to the expansion of Nixon School. She is also concerned about the environmental impact.

I. School Committee Report

A. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

B. Senator Pam Resor and Senator Susan Fargo

Senator Resor and Senator Fargo were present to discuss current issues.

The Senators noted that their priorities will be funding for Ch. 70 Aid, Circuit Breaker funding, a moratorium on the opening of additional charter schools, METCO funding, transportation and early childhood education.

The Superintendent stated that Ch. 70 Aid, Circuit Breaker funding, METCO funding, and the increase in compliance issues are of great concern to Sudbury.

The Senators encouraged the Committee to maintain communication about issues of importance. (Senator Pam Resor can be reached at 617-722-1120 or 508-786-3040. Senator Susan Fargo can be reached at 617-722-1572.)

C. PTERC

The Committee discussed taking a position on this proposal at Town Meeting. The Committee considered the following options:

1. In favor - understanding that it is not perfect, has some financial flaws, but it shows unanimity among diverse community members.
2. Opposed - understanding that it has the potential to have a serious impact on the availability of funds for schools in the future, ie, it may be more difficult to pass overrides or raise revenues for the school system.
3. No position - philosophically agreeing in principal on helping seniors in need. The Committee recognized the improvement over prior initiatives and appreciates the work done by the PTERC members, but the Committee is not qualified to predict the consequences of such action to the schools.

The consensus of the Committee was to not take a position on this issue.

D. Housing Authority - Nixon Site

Bill Braun gave a brief report on the process to date and presented the details of the proposed parcel of land now designated as "Option 4."

MOTION: Rich Robison made a motion to change the configuration of the parcel from Option 1 to Option 4.

Beth Orup questioned the possibility of considering whether the parcel should be given up or not. Someone would need to make a motion to reconsider the issue.

Lee Ovian feels any school property should not be given away.

Bill Towle asked if there were any restrictions from the previous owner on the use of the land. This issue will be investigated. Will the replacement septic system for Nixon School fit on the site? Yes, with some reconfiguring of space.

Helene Simon asked about the difference between the options. She feels that Option 4 has much more flat land that could be usable for playing fields.

James Hollister asked how far in advance the land use for the schools was considered? There are plans which designate space for additional classrooms on the site but the plan for housing does not interfere with that.

Paula Adelson asked where do abutters go next in this process? The Planning

Board and the Board of Selectmen would be appropriate places.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Alexa Crowe, to amend the motion to adopt the configuration as Option 4 to be contingent upon the Housing Authority commencing construction within one year from this vote, with a stated completion date. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Bill Braun, to change the configuration of the parcel to transfer to the Housing Authority from Configuration 1 to Configuration 4. The vote was 4-1 in favor (Jane Santinelli in opposition).

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Recognitions

The Superintendent recognized the following members of the Science Olympiad Team: student captains Nabeel Ali and Tucker Krone, and staff members Rachel Barton, Michal Mueller, Colleen DeMarini, Chris Hardiman, Hans Kalkofen, JP Mann, and Emily Tozzi. The team placed second overall in the state.

Open Forum II

No comments.

III. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

IV. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli , seconded by Susan Iliano, to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2004 Regular Meeting with the following change: "Jane Santinelli" called the meeting to order; and the March 10, 2004 Executive Session as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Alexa Crowe, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2004 Special Session. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

V. Personnel Action

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

Member's Forum

Jane Santinelli thanked Bob Milley for his efforts on the recent newsletter.

Debbie Dixson reported on a meeting with the Police Department regarding the First Response Program.

Bob Milley reported on the increasing number of limited English proficiency

students entering the district. A team has been developed to plan for services.

Alexa Crowe reported on science fairs and literacy nights happening in the schools.

Rich Robison said Committee members should have received Superintendent evaluation packets. Members should return them to Rich.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to adjourn to Executive Session, for purposes of Collective Bargaining, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 10:45 p.m.

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

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary