

Sudbury Public Schools

Sudbury, Massachusetts

School Committee Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Present: Jane Santinelli, Chairperson

Members: Rich Robison, Alexa Crowe

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent,
Mary Will, Director of Business & Finance, Debbie Dixon, SPED
Administrator, John DeRusha, SEA

Jane Santinelli called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Open Forum I

Mara Huston, 578 Peakham Road, speaking on behalf of herself and Deborah Lillie of 582 Peakham Road, indicated their concern for the safety of children walking to the Noyes School who have to cross Concord Road at the crosswalk just south of the intersection with Route 27. There is no crossing guard at this crosswalk. They feel that it would be safer to have the crosswalk at the corner rather than where it currently exists.

I. School Committee Report

A. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

B. Donations to Sudbury Public Schools

VOTED: On a motion by Alexa Crowe, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept the donation 1,450 die cut paper frames donated by Polaroid Corporation. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

II. Superintendent's Report

Recognition

John Brackett recognized Jennifer Mahony, 5th grade student at the Noyes School, on winning 1st place in the Memorial Day essay contest sponsored by the town's Memorial Day Committee.

A. Review of Lead Teacher Position

The Lead Teacher position had been approved for the Nixon School in December, 2004, in lieu of an Assistant Principal. This role was shared by Bobbi Benson, .6 FTE World Language Teacher, and Michelle Youngs, .8 FTE Music Teacher. John Brackett, Rita Bissonnette-Clark and these two teachers met to discuss the benefits of this position and the number of hours spent each week above their teaching assignments. It is the District's intent to keep Bobbie Benson and Michelle Youngs in this position for the 2005-2006 school year, with each receiving a full stipend rather than sharing a stipend, which is what they did for this school year. Bobbi Benson was present to answer any questions regarding this role, what responsibilities each had, and what the impact was on their overall teaching responsibilities.

B. Quarterly Financial Report

Mary Will presented a revised working budget that reflected the reallocation of expenses due in part

by an increase in Circuit Breaker funding, staffing savings and effective use of grant monies.

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Alexa Crowe, to approve the working budget. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

C. Summer Maintenance and Facility Accommodations

Mary Will reported on upcoming summer maintenance projects and room renovations at each of the schools. Additional classrooms will be added, as follows: The current Literacy Center at the Haynes School will become a new 1st grade classroom. The Literacy/Learning Center at the Nixon School will become a new 2nd grade classroom. A 4th Pre-School classroom will be opened at the Noyes School and the NECC program will be moving to the Loring School. The Learning Center at Noyes will become a 2nd grade classroom and the current Music Room at Noyes will become a grade 3 classroom.

All maintenance projects addressing safety and security issues at the schools will be completed during the summer months.

D. Crossing Guard in Town Center

Mary Will reported that she has contacted Officer Rocky Conrado of the Sudbury Police Department and Bill Place, Director of the Department of Public Works, regarding the location of the crosswalk on Concord Road, south of the intersection with Route 27, and the possibility of installing a “walk” light.

After examining this area, both Officer Conrado and Bill Place feel that the existing location of the crosswalk is safer than it would be were it to be moved to the corner and also feel that the visibility is better where it currently is. Bill Place also indicated that a “walk” light would be too costly. It was suggested that Office Conrado and Bill Place put their findings in writing to the School District. It was also suggested that the School District contact Maureen Valente, Town Manager, to determine if a study of this intersection is being conducted.

E. Process for School-Based Program

John Brackett reported that there are a lot of creative initiatives at the school level started by teachers and in conjunction with the principals. These may have an impact on other schools and the District.

This process for School-Based Program or Instructional Practice Decisions has been designed to communicate school-based decisions with the other schools/district in mind and ensure systems thinking in all initiatives on proposed changes.

Open Forum II

No comments.

III. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

IV. Minutes

The minutes will be voted at the next School Committee meeting.

V. Personnel Action

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

John Brackett reported that the Middle School is having difficulty finding qualified candidates for some vacancies.

Debbie Dixon reported that she is still looking for qualified candidates. She has eight interviews scheduled for next week.

Mary Will reported that there are three openings for custodians.

Member's Forum

Rich Robison stated that the new SPED law will be effective on July 1, 2005 and will provide forms, new process, new requirements, new data and little guidance for implementation at this time.

Debbie Dixon stated that the DOE did hold a workshop recently which provided some information and limited guidance with regard to the new regulations. She also reported that the District will have a Program Review in March.

John Brackett stated that the Bargaining Training is scheduled for August 30 and September 1, 2005. He also reported that there is a Mass. Partners report coming out next Tuesday which looks at the implications of NCLB and its linear progression for meeting AYP. The Curtis Middle School is mentioned in this report as one of the high performing schools that will not meet the AYP.

Jane Santinelli spoke about an article that appeared in the Boston Globe about student census. This article indicated that the year 2010 would be another peak year for national student enrollment. The district's study indicated that there would be a plateau in growth between 2010 and 2020.

VOTED: On a motion by Alexa Crowe seconded by Rich Robison, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 3-0 in favor. The time was 10:00 p.m.

Yes Jane Santinelli

Yes Rich Robison

Yes Alexa Crowe

Submitted by Jan Sefter.