

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 7, 2005**

**Present:** Bill Braun, Chairperson, Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson  
**Members:** Rich Robison, Susan Iuliano  
**Also Present:** Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent, Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent,  
Mary Will, Director of Business & Finance

Bill Braun called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Open Forum I**

No comments.

**I. School Committee Report**

**A. Bill Schedule**

A bill schedule was presented.

**B. Vote on Amended CASE Agreement**

The Committee would like to have more conversation about the proposed changes. This item will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting along with a general update/overview of the CASE Program.

**D. Policy Review, 1 & 2**

Ann Herlihy, 35 Munnings Drive, Nixon parent of three children who have life-threatening food allergies, reported that the number of children with severe allergies has doubled at Nixon. She feels that policies are in place but are not enforced properly. State guidelines mandate that a safe environment be in place. There is a perception among some educators that this is not a critical issue. It needs to be addressed from the top down.

Amy Gullotti, 11 Hampshire Street, nurse and Nixon parent, cited statistics regarding allergic reactions in school children. She also cited several instances where nut products were present in various areas of the school. She stressed the need for education in the area of food allergies. She provided information on successful food allergy policies from other school districts. She had a number of possible suggestions; for example, no candy, no sharing of food, no food eaten on the bus. Also, bus drivers need to be educated and possibly trained in the use of epi pens. The School Nurse should be the medical professional who assesses the situation. Field trips are another area of concern. If a parent cannot attend the trip with a child, a substitute nurse or medical volunteer should be available. No nut products should be eaten on the bus.

Natalie Mason, 122 Barton Drive, Noyes parent, has taught her son to be responsible about what he eats. She reported her son has been placed in the same class with a small group of students with allergies for three years. She is more interested in keeping her son "normal" and not stigmatized by being "one of the allergy kids." She suggested a "Peanut only" table vs. a "Peanut Free" table.

Carol Dicker, 74 Surrey Lane, Noyes parent, expressed her appreciation at being able to have a conversation about food allergies with the School Committee and offered her help.

Kerry Lucchese 15 Bowen Circle, was a classroom teacher when one of her students had an anaphylaxis episode and the school system did not have a clear policy. She stressed that teachers must be educated. She also feels that food at curriculum related events is not necessary.

Lisa Brockway, 90 Bridle Path, Loring parent, does not feel her child is safe at school. Having "Peanut Tables" with wipes would be a good idea. She drives her son to and from school because she does not feel he is safe riding the bus.

Lisa Crane, 156 Pratts Mill Road, reported her child's preschool is nut free and she feels very safe. She does not feel that her Kindergartner is safe at the public school.

Mary Ellen Coronado, 82 Washington Drive, nurse and Loring parent, feels students are placed in classrooms based on food allergies. Teachers should be trained every year in epi pen administration and identifying allergic reactions.

Anne Herlihy is concerned with the discrepancy in teachers in their approach and level of understanding of food allergies.

Amy Gullotti, suggested a film for teachers and parents called, "It Only Takes One Bite."

Pam DiPietro, 101 Pratts Mill Road, Noyes parent, has experienced situations where nut products have been given to children by teachers.

Rhonda Katz, 47 Land's End Lane, Loring parent, attends every field trip and does not send her child on the bus.

Anne Chabot, Nixon Nurse, highlighted some progress at Nixon School, for example, food-free birthday celebrations and a candy-free environment.

Carol Bradford, Noyes Nurse, stressed the importance of educating adults.

More information gathering sessions are needed to further educate Committee members on the issue of food allergies.

### **C. School Committee Position on Policy Development**

Susan Iuliano discussed the draft Food Allergy Policy as of 2/27/05. Enforceability and consequences were discussed. What is a reasonable and appropriate level of assurance that can be provided by the school district? What is policy and what is procedure? The Committee will reflect on the conversation of the evening, gather more information, and continue the discussion at a future meeting.

### **Open Forum II**

Amy Gullotti stressed the need for safety for all children.

Carol Dicker encouraged a more "meet in the middle" approach.

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

### **A. Recognition**

There were no recognitions to report.

**B. FY '06 Budget**

Dr. Brackett informed the Committee that two Budget presentations have been made, one to the Council on Aging and one at Haynes. Others are upcoming. He distributed copies of the budget information that is now on the web site.

**C. ELL Update**

This item was postponed.

**III. Communications**

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

**IV. Minutes**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2005 Regular Session as amended. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2005 Executive Session as presented. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**V. Personnel Action**

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

**Member's Forum**

Jane Santinelli will be attending a Leadership Study Group. Susan will attend as well. If members have ideas for discussion, e-mail them to Jane.

Bill Braun thanked Susan Iuliano for her efforts on the policy manual.

Joanne Bleiler reported that as a teacher she felt well supported by the existing food allergy protocol.

Mary Will is putting out the bus bid.

Bob Milley reported there is a new student from Sudan in Grade 6 who speaks no English and has no written language.

Rich Robison asked about the information presented by the Superintendent about comparable special education staffing across the elementary schools.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Susan Iuliano, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 4-0 in favor. The time was 11:45 p.m.

Yes Bill Braun

Yes Jane Santinelli

Yes Rich Robison

Yes Susan Iuliano

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary