

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, December 13, 2006**

**Present Members:** Jane Santinelli, Chairperson; Susan Iuliano, Vice Chairperson; Rich Robison, Jeff Beeler

**Also Present:** Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent  
Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent  
Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance  
Debbie Dixson, SPED Administrator  
Karen McCarthy, Science Curriculum Specialist  
Nicole Lamoureaux, SEA  
Michele MacDonald, parent  
Zachary Witkin, ECMS student - Superintendent of the Day

Jane Santinelli called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Jane welcomed Zachary Witkin, student Superintendent of the Day.

**Open Forum I**

No Comments

Jane Santinelli proposed that the agenda be revised to accommodate recognitions as the first item of the evening. All agreed.

**Recognitions**

Dr. Brackett introduced ECMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student, Zachary Witkin, who served as Superintendent of the Day on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The day's activities were described that included meeting with a number of SPS central office staff and learning about their various roles. He also had lunch with central office administration, visited schools and discussed school issues with administrators, and had opportunities to share his perspectives.

Mr. Witkin and Dr. Brackett recognized ECMS math/ science teacher Paula Feynman who is working with her class on a project to control purple loosestrife, an invasive purple plant, through the introduction of a special beetle into the environment that eats only such plants.

Also recognized were the efforts of Elizabeth Richter, Literacy Specialist at Noyes, who is providing a 10-week workshop to 14 staff at Noyes on guided reading.

**I. School Committee Report**

**A. Bill Schedule**

A bill schedule was presented.

**B. Donations to Sudbury Public Schools**

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to accept the donation of an eMac computer from Mary Dockray-Miller. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

There was discussion about developing a policy that better defines how to look at donations and gifts. Susan Iuliano added that such a policy should better define the goal that guides such decisions. The vote

to follow would be treated as a grant from a private foundation.

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Susan Iuliano, to accept a donation in the amount of \$110,000 from the Jack and Mae Rosenberg Charitable Trust. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept a donation of \$50 from Lueders Environmental, Inc. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

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

### **A. Science Curriculum**

Karen McCarthy presented information on the science curriculum K-8. A matrix was provided that showed how at each grade level the four domains – Earth/Space Science, Physical Science, Life Science, and Technology/ Engineering – were addressed. Recent shifts in curriculum, based largely upon MCAS and the availability of resources, were described. MCAS test results from grades 5 and 8 in 2006, were reviewed. The disappointing scores in specific areas with some potential causes for these were discussed.

Karen affirmed the value of ensuring that inquiry learning remains an integral part of our program and that the need to assess this approach, although not a focus of the MCAS, is important. Bob Milley mentioned that the principals were provided with a three-hour session on the science curriculum and established teaching practices to enable them to better understand the program's intended outcomes and to be more effective at evaluating best practices.

### **B. FY '08 Budget Adoption**

Dr. Brackett presented various versions of the FY '08 budget for consideration. A level staff budget, with growth capped at 3%, yielded a deficit (budget to cap) of about \$750,000. A level staff budget requires a 5.94% increase over FY '07. A level service budget in which staffing levels would accommodate growth (4.5 FTE added) yielded a 7.77% increase which is a 1.2 million increase over the 3% cap. A target budget was presented at 8.29% that was 1.3 million over the 3% cap. This was less than the target budget previously presented to the committee. A revised list of what was included and what was eliminated was reviewed.

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to adopt the target budget of \$27,496,526. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

The Committee discussed strategies for presenting the budget to the public. The presentation to the FinCom would be on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The Town's Budget and Capital Improvements presentation would be on January 11<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that Dr. Brackett would do the presentation.

### **C. Approval of Revolving Funds**

The School Committee's annual approval of the articles to continue the school revolving funds, Transportation, Instrumental Music, and Early Childhood, for FY 2007 - 2008 was discussed. As had been previously discussed, the Early Childhood Revolving Fund could be used more effectively if it was set up under Chapter 71, Section 47 instead of Chapter 44, section 53 E 1/2 . Upon Advice of a DOR Attorney, School Committee should request that Town Meeting terminates the existing Early Childhood Revolving Fund as of the date of Town Meeting, use encumbered funds for the rest of FY 07, and set up a new Early Childhood Tuition Revolving Fund under Chapter 71, Section 47.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve an article requesting that Town Meeting terminate the existing Preschool Revolving Fund as of the date of Town Meeting. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

The School Committee then addressed approving articles for the remaining two revolving funds, Transportation and Instrumental Music.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the articles for the continuation of the Transportation Revolving Fund and Instrumental Music Fund for FY 2007 – 2008. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Finally the School Committee discussed an alternative article for the Early Childhood Tuition Revolving Fund, to be used only in the event that the Town Counsel does not approve the previous article that eliminates the Revolving Fund set up under Chapter 44, Section 53 1/2.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve an article for the continuation of the existing Early Childhood Revolving Fund for FY 2007 – 2008 in the event that Town Counsel does not approve the previously voted article for Early Childhood Revolving Fund. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

## **Open Forum II**

No Comments.

## **III. Communications**

An invitation was extended for the Sudbury School Committee to join the National School Board Association.

Other communications as outlined in the Communications Packet.

## **IV. Minutes**

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept the minutes of the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Regular Session as presented. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

## **V. Personnel Action**

None

## **Members' Forum**

Jeff Beeler reported briefly on ILAP meetings conducted at various schools.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 4-0 in favor. The time was 10:46 p.m.

Yes: Jane Santinelli

Yes: Rich Robison

Yes: Jeff Beeler

Yes: Susan Iuliano

Submitted by Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent