

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 10, 2007**

**Present:** Jane Santinelli, Chairperson, Susan Iuliano, Vice Chairperson

**Members:** Rich Robison, Jeff Beeler

**Also Present:** Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent, Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent, Mary Will, Director of Business & Finance, Debbie Dixson, SPED Administrator, Mary Mahoney, SEA

Jane Santinelli called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Open Forum I**

No comments.

**I. School Committee Report**

**A. Bill Schedule**

A bill schedule was presented.

**B. Donation**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept a grant from the Sallie Mae Fund of \$5,000 to support the math enrichment program for Haynes School. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept a 2006 donation of 20 computer mice from Michael Schwager/Logitech, Inc. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**II. Superintendent's Report**

**Recognition**

The Superintendent recognized Haynes Principal Susan Carlson and Teacher Kim Swain for their efforts in securing the grant from the Sallie Mae Fund.

**A. ILAP**

**07-08 School Calendar**

**School Times**

The Superintendent reviewed the current ILAP, including 07-08 school calendar options and an overview of the comments and concerns raised during the parent forums recently held. The Superintendent pointed out that the goal is to improve student learning and student achievement by providing well structured time for teachers to collaborate on improving their skills and their students' learning. The Superintendent recommended additional early release days on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each Month (with the exception of November due to parent conferences and Thanksgiving). No lunch/recess will be provided on those days. Kindergarten turn-around will continue.

The Superintendent also presented modifications to start and dismissal times to alleviate busing issues.

Beverly Hogan, Carriage Way, asked whether a late start one day a week was considered. Dr. Brackett explained that it was considered but busing issues would prevent that. Also, before school care would be a problem for parents. Mrs. Hogan is also concerned about middle school students going home alone in the afternoon twice a month unsupervised. Dr. Brackett explained that SED offers an after school program for middle school students. Is there any way parents could vote on the proposal? Jeff Beeler explained how unwieldy such a proposal would be given the numbers of parents in the community. He also noted that professionals such as Dr. Brackett and Asst. Superintendent Milley are responsible for presenting such operational decisions to the School Committee for vote.

John Harding, Darvell Drive, agrees with the need to offer teachers training time and is in support of the plan. He has heard a lot of negative reaction from the parent community. He suggested having a

referendum of two equally acceptable options in order to involve parents. Dr. Brackett explained that there is not another equally attractive option to be considered. Mr. Harding asked why the idea of having specialty teachers cover for regular classroom teachers was rejected? Dr. Brackett explained that there are not enough specialty teachers to allow the program to work, scheduling issues would be problematic, and all specialty teachers will be actively involved in the collaboration that is planned.

Ellen Donahue, Haynes Road, is a substitute teacher in another town that has early release every week. Her experience teaching is that students are not focused on early release Wednesdays. She also hears from teachers that there is not enough time during the day to cover the curriculum so how can we have early release days? What will happen to specialists? Is there a loss of teaching time? Dr. Brackett explained that he hopes greater efficiency and greater instructional time will result because teachers are now being pulled out of the classroom to attend meetings, etc. that would be handled on Wednesday afternoons. Mrs. Donahue encouraged greater sensitivity about what gets scheduled (ie music performances) on those days.

Bonnie McAlley, Dakin Road, asked if changing the teacher schedule was considered. Dr. Brackett explained that there are contractual times that teachers are required to be on duty. There would likely be cost implications. Mrs. McAlley also encouraged the Committee to communicate via survey or a letter updating parents on the current plan. Dr. Brackett explained that he is planning to send an email to all families early next week with the updated plan.

Betsy Cohen, Darbell Drive, is concerned that we maintain our high quality staff and we present ourselves as respectful and supportive of teachers so we can continue to attract good teachers. She expressed support for the plan.

Elizabeth Kinney, Goodman's Hill Road, is supportive of any plan to get students to take the bus and reduce parent pick ups.

## **Open Forum II**

No comment.

## **B. FY '07 Budget Actuals and Projections**

Mary Will presented the FY '07 Budget Actuals and Projections.

## **C. FY '08 Budget**

The Superintendent requested any comments from Committee Members regarding the upcoming Budget presentation.

## **III. Communications**

As outlined in the Communications Packet. Susan Iuliano noted a letter a parent dropped off prior to the meeting regarding ILAP.

## **IV. Minutes**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Susan Iuliano, to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2006 Regular Session as presented. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

## **V. Personnel Action**

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

## **Member's Forum**

Jeff Beeler distributed a proposed letter to the editor in response to a recent article regarding ILAP, for the purpose of correcting inaccurate information. It was suggested that the revised start and dismissal times be highlighted. Dr. Brackett will contact the newspaper in an effort to place an article in the upcoming paper.

Rich Robison will be away on January 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Susan Iuliano will write the February newsletter. She will focus on the Budget.

Dr. Brackett distributed information from the DOE regarding the calculation of Per Pupil Expenditures. He also reported that Hercules Dry Cleaners is interested in having a relationship with the school system and will be donating a portion of its profits to the Sudbury Schools.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Rich Robison, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 4-0 in favor. The time was 10:15 p.m.

Yes Jane Santinelli

Yes Rich Robison

Yes Susan Iuliano

Yes Jeff Beeler

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary