

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 24, 2007**

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

**Members:** Bill Braun, Jeff Beeler

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

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

Jane expressed condolences to the Alenson family for their recent loss and held a moment of silence in the memory of James Alenson.

**Open Forum I**

No comments.

**I. School Committee Report**

**A. Bill Schedule**

A bill schedule was presented.

**B. Donation to the Sudbury Public Schools**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to accept the donation of soccer goals to each elementary school. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**II. Superintendent's Report**

**Recognition**

There were no recognitions.

**A. ILAP**

**07-08 School Calendar**

**School Times**

The Superintendent explained the general concept of the ILAP and the change necessary in start and end times to address busing issues. The Superintendent stressed that the goal of ILAP is to improve student learning and student achievement by providing ongoing, structured staff development and collaboration.

The Superintendent thanked the administrators for their efforts and support of the plan, He also thanked Mary Will and Rita Skog for working on the transportation. He thanked Barbara Cole, Director of SED, who has provided input and support, and the District Task Force and PTO co-chairs who also provided input.

The Superintendent recommended adoption of the 2007-2008 calendar entitled ILAP and adopt start/dismissal times associated with that plan.

Doug Weiskopf, Stone Road, asked about the 10 minutes added to each day – how is this meaningful? The half day attitude is concerning. What happens to the time that the students are released? How do we provide more opportunities to students for growth/learning? Dr. Brackett explained that 10 minutes a day is meaningful, for example, a science lesson can be extended. Jeff Beeler explained that the 10 minutes of additional classroom time would be valuable but that the focus should be broader than the~10 minute issue.~ In particular, it needed to be kept in mind that the goal of ILAP was to provide better trained teachers in the classroom every minute of the day. Dr. Brackett explained that there have been efforts to contact Parks & Rec. and other activity providers and religious education providers to discuss opportunities for students on early release Wednesdays. Some providers may develop new programs on those days.

Tracy Ward, Pinewood Avenue, asked if the program will be reassessed in the future? Jane Santinelli said that an annual review would be part of the plan.

Gail Hamel, Hawes Road, asked about the teachers' contract. Are they willing to take on the new schedule and will they be paid more? Jane Santinelli explained that the plan works within the current confines of the contract. There is no impact from a salary perspective.

Kris Shankar, Wyman Road, is in support of the plan but would prefer the consistency of early release every Wednesday, as in area towns. He also would like more flexibility with SED to be able to send his child to SED on an as-needed basis, even if he is not a regularly registered SED student. The Superintendent explained that an every week option was considered. It had some drawbacks. It had to be on Tuesday and L-S is on Wednesday and it would be difficult for families with children in both districts. Also, the total number of instructional hours brought us uncomfortably close to 900 hours.

Miriam Ruben, Linden Road, asked why not every Wednesday? How do other towns that have an early release every week meet their 900 hours? The Superintendent explained that the every week model included a later dismissal time, but also included a lunch and recess period. This resulted in less instructional time. The other districts have a longer school day to accomplish their 900 hours.

Tracy Ward, Pinewood Avenue, asked if adding on extra days at the end of the year was considered? The Superintendent explained that this would cost more money and would require renegotiation of the teacher contract.

Beth Winograd, Phillips Road, expressed support of the program.

Bob Mealey, Band Director, Sudbury Schools, spoke from a teachers' perspective, and commented that when more early release days were provided in the past, teaching was better and teachers were more prepared.

Mary Mahoney, Sudbury Teacher, commented that the ratio of veteran teacher to newer teachers was very different in the past. Today, many teachers have been in Sudbury less than five years and would greatly benefit from the additional time for education and collaboration.

Patricia McCart, Oakwood Avenue, asked if there are other after school groups for working parents?

Barbara Cole, SED, explained they will be changing their program to provide more enrichment on early release days. They will keep the cost neutral. They will always take students on a space available basis. In terms of taking additional students, working parents will be given priority. They will continue to work with Dr. Brackett to accommodate families. Dr. Brackett will inform private providers if the plan is adopted and he assumes additional programs will be available.

Doug Weiskopf Stone Road, asked how transportation to other programs will be handled? Dr. Brackett stated that conversations around transportation have already begun with other providers.

Ruth Miller, Silverhill Road, asked if there has been any concern expressed that students' after school schedules will be interrupted? Can the ten minutes be added at the beginning of the day? Dr. Brackett explained that adding the time before school was considered. There was concern expressed at the parent forums that the new schedule could interfere with after school programs. The problem is that more time and space is needed in the afternoon to make the bus routes work most efficiently. Also, Sudbury providers have indicated they will change their start times to accommodate the new schedule.

Jane Santinelli closed the open discussion portion of the meeting.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to adopt the School Calendar for 2007-2008 entitled ILAP, which includes the additional early release days. Susan Iuliano asked if there is any impact on special education students in terms of meeting the needs of IEP's? Debbie Dixson explained that

there are no major challenges in terms of service delivery for students. In addition, the time for teacher training and collaboration will be invaluable for the special education staff. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Susan Iuliano, to adopt the start/dismissal times associated with the ILAP. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**B. Facility Usage Update**

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

**C. FY '08 Budget**

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Open Forum II**

Patricia McCart commented that her heart goes out to the Ogdren family as well in the recent tragedy at Lincoln-Sudbury.

**III. Communications**

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

**IV. Minutes**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2007 Regular Session as presented. The vote was 3-0 in favor. (Bill Braun abstained)

**V. Personnel Action**

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

**Member's Forum**

The Superintendent reported that the meeting at Lincoln-Sudbury will be held on Thursday, January 24, at 7:30. A large turnout is expected. It will be broadcast at several locations throughout the school. It will be televised on Channel 8.

Bill Braun asked about the response from elementary and middle school parents. Is there anything we should be doing? Dr. Brackett explained that a K-8 meeting was discussed but not planned due to the community meeting at L-S. He will be meeting with PTO co-chairs this Friday to get feedback.

Susan Iuliano reported that Curtis Principal Kathy Codianne sent out a letter around safety to middle school parents.

Debbie Dixon reported that special education students and their families have come under attack this week with misunderstandings and accusations and we should reach out to those students and families to support them.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Bill Braun, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 4-0 in favor. The time was 9:55 p.m.

Yes Bill Braun

Yes Jane Santinelli

Yes Susan Iuliano

Yes Jeff Beeler

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary