

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, June 20, 2007**

**Present:** Susan Iuliano, Chairperson, Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson  
**Members:** Rich Robison, Jeff Beeler, Bill Braun  
**Also Present:** Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent, Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent, Debbie Dixon, SPED Administrator, Mary Will, Mary Mahoney, SEA, Rex Phung, Curtis Middle School Teacher

Susan Iuliano 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.

**II. Superintendent's Report**

**Recognition**

There were no recognitions to report.

**A. 2008 Odyssey Goals**

A finalized report on the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Odyssey Trip was shared. The major goals indicated that the district would:

- Move the trip later in June out of the MCAS window
- Make it 3 days, 2 nights
- Have a venue nearer to Sudbury
- Keep the program in grade 4
- Address staffing and parental issues.

The mission would be focused on experiential learning in the area of natural and environmental science. There would also be an emphasis on team building and leadership.

Dr. Brackett indicated the need to establish appropriate staffing levels for various phases of the trip. Some guidelines need to be established. Levels of medical support staffing also need to be ensured.

An administrator should be present on site at all times. Another suggestion was that a lead administrator (active or retired) be designated as the Sudbury Odyssey Coordinator. This may be a compensated position.

**B. After School Pilot-Mandarin**

The feasibility of an after school program in Mandarin for middle school students was introduced by Dr. Brackett. One potential model is to offer an introductory program on a user-fee basis. Mary Mahoney showed some slides of her visit to China. The viability of the program was affirmed. It was agreed that there would be much interest. The Committee encouraged the administration and teachers to move forward in their planning.

**C. L-S/SPS Special Education Enrollment**

There was a discussion at a recent L/S School Committee meeting and at a Finance Committee meeting around an assumption that the actual number of SPED students moving on from ECMS surprised the high school. Susan Iuliano described the meetings she attended and reported that the numbers discussed were

not accurate. The net increase in students on IEPs was actually only one. Debbie Dixon felt that the communication on this matter was, as always, complete. It is unclear how the misunderstanding occurred. Susan felt that the LS School Committee ought to be made aware that there was really a very small discrepancy.

#### **D. Amended Contract Language – Sick/Vacation Day Accrual**

Mary Will discussed that our past practice has been to have employees receive all of their sick leave and vacation days in a lump sum at the beginning of the school year. This practice is contradictory to the wording in the contracts of the SEA and ESPAS and the custodian and nurses' contracts. These contracts state that employees accrue sick and vacation days per month with a set total for the year. Although the Town's software could enable a monthly accrual, the unions involved and the SPS administration are not in favor of changing past practice. The Town is requiring a Letter of Agreement to change the contract language to allow employees to receive their lump sum sick and vacation days at the beginning of each school year.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to approve the Letter of Agreement amending the language for the contracts of the SEA, ESPAS, the Sudbury Education Association Custodial Employees and the Sudbury Nurses' Association as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

#### **E. FY '07 Budget Update**

Mary will give a formal budget projection at the next School Committee meeting. The estimate is that we will have a positive balance of \$150,000. There was discussion of potential uses. The acquisition of ActivBoards, in support of initiatives in this regard by the various PTOs, was also discussed. Mary assured the Committee that we will safely close out the year without financial concerns.

#### **Open Forum II**

No comments.

#### **III. Communications**

As outlined in the Communications Packet. Susan read a memo from the Selectmen encouraging various town committees to adjourn by 11:00 p.m. if possible. A Hopkinton accident had recently occurred involving the Town Manager who was traveling home from a town meeting that went especially late which perhaps contributed to the accident.

#### **IV. Minutes**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Rich Robison, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2007 Regular Session as presented. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

#### **V. Personnel Action**

Dr. Brackett regretfully noted that Jan Coleman, the Haynes nurse, has resigned.

#### **Member's Forum**

Susan shared a report that indicated the Selectmen intend to start a strategic review committee that looks at long term budgetary issues. The idea is to have two groups – one that looks at the revenue side, one to look at the cost saving side. Some expertise from the community could be brought into this town task force.

The composition of the task force was suggested in the report. One school committee member from each school would be included. They wanted to know by July 10<sup>th</sup> who that participant might be. A timeframe was proposed to start within a few months, but would unlikely impact the upcoming budget schedule, but perhaps next spring. Susan will gather more information.

Jeff and Bill reported on work of the Facilities Subcommittee. In order to do a full day Kindergarten, nine more classrooms would be needed. To take care of growth and equity of programs and space along with the fulltime Kindergarten would take 24 additional classrooms. The middle school needs four additional classrooms to accommodate future growth and programs. The preliminary report will be shared with the principals for refinement.

Rich Robison indicated that the next meeting is July 5<sup>th</sup>. The Superintendent Evaluation subcommittee should meet before this. Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> was agreed upon. The goal is to get a draft to all members in advance.

VOTED: On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 10:55 p.m.

Yes Jane Santinelli

Yes Bill Braun

Yes Rich Robison

Yes Susan Iuliano

Yes Jeff Beeler

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary