

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 23, 2007**

Present: Susan Iuliano, Chairperson, Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson
Members: Rich Robison, Bill Braun, Jeff Beeler
Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent, Debbie Dixson, SPED Administrator, Mary Mahoney, SEA

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and explained the Open Forum portion of the meeting. She recognized that the audience was present specifically to comment on the 4th grade Odyssey Trip.

Rich Robison explained that there is an on line survey available to parents and a public forum scheduled on June 14 regarding the Odyssey Trip. Susan clarified the process to review the trip up until this point and clarified that no decision has been made. She explained the process going forward.

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Bill Braun, to devote at least 30 minutes for the Open Forum portion of the meeting to comments regarding the Odyssey trip. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Open Forum I

Tom Sorbo, Hunter's Run, was a chaperone last year and recognized how valuable the trip is. The overnight portion is what makes it unique. He thinks the survey is a great idea and is happy that a public forum is planned. He thanked the Committee for hearing all comments.

JoEllen Samojla, Atkinson Lane, presented a petition of signatures, and stressed that what is best for students is the priority. She thanked the Committee for being very receptive to parent input. She is concerned that June 14 is the public forum and a decision will be made regarding parameters of the trip by June 20. Could the timeline be re-considered?

She questioned how the forum information, the survey and the student feedback will be used. What are the re-design goals for the program? The campground has been contacted and is willing to move the trip into June.

Greg Wilkins, Meadow Drive, commented that all students anticipate the trip. He was a chaperone and felt it was a very unique experience.

Carrie Lepordo, Fairbank Road, said parents would be willing to go through training to help with the staffing issues. There are a number of students who don't go on the trip and asked if accommodations could be made for students with differing needs so all could attend.

Stacy Zeder, Saddle Ridge Road, feels the program is a great learning experience. The focus on hands on, environmental learning is important. She feels it would be a lost opportunity to not have the trip. She feels losing the overnight aspect would ruin the program. She doesn't understand why the program is being changed now.

Hannah Woolf, Babe Ruth Drive, went on the trip. It was a great opportunity to get to know classmates outside of school and it was a great learning opportunity.

Jim Logan, Robert Best Road, stated that the community is concerned about the timing of the conversation. He wants the issues "quantified." How many kids don't go? How many teachers don't want to go? How many teachers do we need? He doesn't feel the timeline is in the community's best interest.

Tricia Caltabiano, Old Lancaster Road, encouraged all to read Last Child in the Woods, a book on why it is so important for children to learn about nature.

Olivia Ference, DeMarco Road, is going on the trip this year. She reported that 4th grade students are very excited to go. She thinks the trip should stay and have at least one overnight.

Brenee Bausk, Pratts Mill Road, went on the trip 33 years ago. The self reliance aspect is very important.

Martha Reed, Forest Street, stated her son is going on the trip. She reported that other area towns have similar programs. She encouraged communication with those communities. She also expressed concern regarding the timeline. She encouraged discussion before the trip for anxious parents.

Andrew Wilkins, Meadow Drive, went on the trip last year. It was a great learning opportunity. He talks about his memories from the trip often with his friends. He wants his younger brother to go.

Bill Braun asked what schools were represented at the meeting. Haynes 3, Nixon 4, Loring 6, Curtis 2. Most audience members were from Noyes.

Dr. Brackett explained that information will be collected from a variety of sources, including the survey and the forum on June 14. In the meantime, work by staff is still ongoing. This is not a two week decision, it is a year long process.

I. School Committee Report

A. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

II. Superintendent's Report

B. Haynes 3rd Grade Request for Out of State Field Trip to Roger Williams Zoo, Rhode Island

The Superintendent introduced Haynes 3rd Grade teacher Angela Spirito who presented a proposal for a one day field trip to the Roger Williams Zoo in Rhode Island. The Superintendent recommended approval of the trip.

VOTED: On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the Haynes 3rd grade field trip to the Roger Williams Zoo as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

C. Middle School Technologies

The Superintendent introduced a presentation by Middle School staff on current technologies being used in classrooms.

Engineering Program - Dave Jurewicz and Frank Byrne presented a history and the current status of technology/ engineering education at the middle school. Dave thanked SERF, Dr Brackett, Bob Milley, Kathy Codianne, Science Curriculum Specialist Karen McCarty and Steve Lampert for all of their support in the success of their program.

Grade 8 Computer Course - Michelle Zinner and Donna Criswell gave a presentation on the 8th grade computer curriculum updates and demonstrated student work. The ability to do more advanced computer projects is hindered by the limitations of the current hardware and software.

Teacher Websites – Mary Mahoney demonstrated her webpage.

A. Curriculum Updates

1. ILAP

The Superintendent updated the Committee on ILAP and presented a draft schedule for the 2007-2008 school year. He noted that assessing the program will be an integral part of the plan.

2. ELL/Title I

The Superintendent presented a report from Title I Teacher Susan Richman showing an increase in scores of Title I math students.

The Superintendent presented data summarizing the ELL population currently in the District. Some staff movement will be needed to address current 5th graders moving on to Curtis.

Open Forum II

No comments.

III. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

IV. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2007 Regular Session as amended. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

V. Personnel Action

As outlined in the Personnel Packet. Dr. Brackett noted the retirements of Sandy Bell and Jan Sefter.

Member's Forum

Mary Mahoney thanked everyone who attended Softball Bonanza. She also thanked Sudbury Foundation and SERF for their ongoing support through grants.

Susan Iuliano noted a recent request of minutes of School Committee meetings prior to approval and clarified that if it is marked draft and unapproved, it can be distributed.

Susan noted that meeting agendas can be "proposed."

Susan reported that she has been appointed to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Committee to look at land use.

Dr. Brackett noted Sen. Resor will be present at the next meeting on June 6. He encouraged members to think about topics for discussion.

Rich Robison noted the Superintendent's Evaluation is due from all members.

Rich also stated that Ch. 4 News is spotlighting 15 passenger van use in schools. 29 states have outlawed them completely for school use.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 11:00 p.m.

Yes Bill Braun

Yes Jane Santinelli

Yes Rich Robison

Yes Susan Iuliano

Yes Jeff Beeler

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary