

Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 5, 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, Mary Will, Director of Business & Finance, Mary Mahoney, SEA

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

1. Open Forum I
No comments.

School Committee Report

2. Bill Schedule
A bill schedule was presented.

3. School Committee Meeting & Planning for 2007-2008
The meeting packets are now being sent through email. A suggestion was made to send all documents in one folder. A meeting planner will be incorporated for future agendas. The upcoming meeting on 9/19/07 is in conflict with the Loring/Nixon Open Houses. The meeting will be rescheduled for Wednesday, September 26.

The Committee agreed that the presentation of School Improvement Reports will be done at the individual schools.

A facilitated work session is being planned to discuss roles and responsibilities of the administration and the School Committee. Another work session will be planned to discuss issues regarding the process of negotiations. Proposed dates will be emailed to members.

4. Accept Sudbury Foundation Grant

The Superintendent explained that Jennifer Vlacovsky has been hired as the School & Family Social Worker. He also explained a vote is necessary to accept the funding from the Sudbury Foundation.

VOTED: On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to accept the first installment of the Sudbury Foundation grant to fund this position. The vote was 4-0 in favor (Susan Iuliano abstained).

5. Town Budget Review Task Force

Jeff Beeler updated the Committee on the first meeting of the Town Budget Review Task Force. The next meeting will be on 9/10. The focus of the committee will be to identify potential avenues to increase revenues and areas for savings. The Committee agreed to request that Sudbury Public Schools have two voting members on the Task Force.

Superintendent's Report

6. Odyssey Update

The Superintendent updated the Committee on planning for the 4th grade Odyssey trip. A committee worked over the summer to look at health/safety issues, a new facility, curriculum, and team building. The objective is to provide an experiential, science-based experience that is accessible to all. Discussions are being held around staffing levels, chaperone levels and expectations, the timing of the trip, and transportation issues.

7. Opening of School Report

The Superintendent reported on a successful opening day and distributed unofficial enrollment figures. Bob Milley reported on professional development efforts over the summer. Mary Will reported on maintenance and construction projects done over the summer.

The Superintendent also reported on transportation issues, including the new start/end times and the return to a bus-stop system. Mary Will explained that several parents have requested exceptions to the current bus-stop system. Obvious safety issues are being addressed immediately and changes have been made. Two to three weeks will be needed to review other requests. Mary also reported that a Metco bus was in a minor accident in Boston. There were no injuries.

8. Open Forum II

JoEllen Samojla, of Atkinson Lane, made some suggestions regarding disseminating information to the public regarding the Odyssey trip. Specifically, the 17 member task force should be identified. It should be clarified what is meant by "accessible to all." She also questioned who pays for the transportation back and forth to the site for those who do not stay overnight? She also suggested feedback regarding how the ILAP days are being used and suggested highlighting the positive aspects of the new transportation system.

9. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet. Susan noted a letter from the Suburban Coalition about membership for the upcoming year.

10. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Bill Braun, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to accept the minutes of the July 5, 2007 Regular Session as presented. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

11. Personnel Action

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

12. Member's Forum

Mary Mahoney asked Bill and Jeff that when they go to the Town Budget Review Task Force meetings to mention that the Sudbury Teachers make the least amount of money of like communities. She also reported that a proposed change in the health insurance plan is becoming a growing concern. Mary also commended the teachers for a great opening of school.

Rich Robison commented on a recent article in the Town Crier regarding enrollment projections done several years ago. Bill Braun will follow up with Qualitas, the company used to make the projections, and former School Committee member Karen Krone regarding the article. The Committee will then determine any further course of action in response. Rich also reported that NCLB is up for reauthorization.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to adjourn to Executive Session, for purposes of discussing collective bargaining and potential litigation, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 10:40 p.m.

Yes Rich Robison
Yes Jane Santinelli
Yes Rich Robison
Yes Susan Iuliano
Yes Jeff Beeler

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary