

Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Present: Susan Iuliano, Chairperson, Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson,
Rich Robison, Jeff Beeler, Michele MacDonald

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent, Robert Milley, Assistant
Superintendent, Mary Mahoney, SEA

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

Open Forum I

Mary Mahoney announced that the SEA softball bonanza, where teachers play against the Grade 8 baseball team, will be held at Featherlands on May 16. Proceeds go toward scholarships for LS graduating seniors.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Introduce Superintendent of the Day

Superintendent Brackett introduced Ryan Kenney, Grade 8, who served as superintendent that day. Ryan's sister Caroline, (Noyes, Grade 3) was also introduced. She and her brother Andrew, Grade 5, served as superintendents on April 10.

Introduce new principals of Loring and Haynes

Superintendent Brackett introduced Jeffrey Dees, the incoming principal for Loring, and Kim Swain, the incoming principal for Haynes. Mr. Dees and Ms. Swain each expressed their eagerness to serve SPS in this role. Dr. Brackett briefly outlined the transition process, which allows for some overlap with the existing administration at each school.

4 Reorganization of the School Committee

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to appoint Susan Iuliano as Chairperson. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to appoint Jane Santinelli as Vice Chairperson. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

a. School Committee Liaisons, Subcommittees, and Delegate to MASC

The Committee discussed the activities of the various appointments and made the following assignments by consensus:

Liaisons and MASC Delegate

Board of Selectmen

Susan Iuliano

Jane Santinelli Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

Susan Iuliano

Jane Santinelli

EDCO

Rich Robison

Michele MacDonald Permanent Building Committee, School Building Committee,
Planning Board

Jeff Beeler

Michele MacDonald

Finance and Budget Committee

Jane Santinelli

Susan Iuliano Health Advisory Committee

Rich Robison

Susan Iuliano

S.E.R.F.

Michele MacDonald SPED (SSEAC)

Rich Robison

Jeff Beeler

M.A.S.C. Delegate

Susan Iuliano

Subcommittees

Negotiations

Rich Robison

Jeff Beeler Budget

Susan Iuliano

Jane Santinelli

Public Relations

Jeff Beeler Superintendent's Evaluation

Rich Robison

Jeff Beeler

Policy

Susan Iuliano

Jeff Beeler Land (and Building) Use

Not assigned

The Committee was asked by the Board of Selectmen to consider the reappointment of Thomas A. Scarlata to the Permanent Building Committee. Mr. Scarlata's term expires on April 30, 2008.

Voted: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to reappoint Thomas A. Scarlata to the Permanent Building Committee for a three-year term to expire April 30, 2011. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

b. 2008-2009 School Committee Schedule

A proposed meeting schedule was presented and modified as follows:

Location changes: Date changes:

September 17, 2008 at Nixon From May 6, 2009 to May 13, 2009
October 1, 2008 at Noyes From May 20, 2009 to May 27, 2009
November 19, 2008 at Haynes From June 3, 2009 to June 10, 2009
From June 17, 2009 to June 24, 2009

Bob Milley recommended adding Odyssey dates to the SPS 2008-2009 calendar.

Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

Approve Revised Donation Policy 2.4

Susan Iuliano presented a third iteration of a revised policy, generated after consultation with PTO chairpersons. She also presented several alternatives for language specific to PTO donations. Rich Robison raised questions concerning the wording that delegates decision-making authority to the principals. Additionally, while the Committee has an interest in ensuring adequate approval for curriculum-specific and technology (or other capital) donations, it wants to avoid wording that will be construed as limiting PTO's in terms of other types of donations.

Mary Mahoney asked if the policy, as it relates to covering salaries by donations, includes stipends for theater troupe personnel. The Committee agreed that stipends would count as salaries under the policy and thus donations for stipends would need to be accepted by the School Committee prior to use.

Additional discussion related to a desire for the Committee to better quantify the extent to which, and in what capacities, volunteers are utilized within the schools. Furthermore, it was noted that at present, the District does not have a formalized inventory system.

A fourth draft document will be presented for consideration on May 7.

Approve Preschool Tuitions for FY09

On behalf of Mary Will, John Brackett presented a proposal to increase tuition for 2008-09 that also includes an annual increase for subsequent years. Tuition for the District's Integrated Preschool has remained constant over the last three years and is not competitive with other preschools in the area. A 33% upward adjustment with annual 5% increases would align the Integrated Preschool with others in terms of cost.

Some concern was expressed that such a large increase may lead to attrition. Jeff Beeler suggested a tuition structure involving a smaller initial increase and larger subsequent-year increases, e.g., three years at 8%. The Committee asked for more information on demographics and enrollment trends and will continue the discussion on May 7.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognition

John Brackett expressed appreciation for the involvement of the following students in the Principal candidate interviews and tours at Loring and Haynes.

Loring: Conor Lewis, Sam Roth, Erin Mullin, Samantha Ward, Sean Driscoll, Matthew McKenna, Alexandra BenDavid, and Alexandra Stahr.

Haynes: Alexandra Nygren, Nicholas Laviolette, Yelizaveta Sapozhnikov, Cameron Kinney, Adriana Grimes, Catherine Garrett, Jordan Wolkon, Cameron Hyde, David Hyer, and Claire Gilberto.

Dr. Brackett announced that sixth-grade teacher Paula Feynman is one of ten statewide first-place winners of the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education, sponsored by the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The award honors public school teachers for outstanding initiatives in energy and environmental education. Ms Feynman's loosestrife project, initially funded by S.E.R.F., is the basis for her award. She will be honored at a reception on May 12 at the State House.

Process for Reorganization/Redistricting

John Brackett presented a draft outline of the scope and process of a reorganization/redistricting effort, which included an outline of the composition of the prospective committee charged with studying the matter. Several members cited history of previous reorganization/redistricting efforts.

The Committee did not reach a consensus on whether the focus should be on resolving the immediate need to redistribute the current (level) school population, or if the charge should also include longer range consideration of possible reorganization of the buildings with different grade configurations. The Committee will continue the discussion on May 7.

10 Open Forum II

Lauren Hochberg, Camperdown Lane, thanked the Committee for the fabulous job in communicating budget information to the public. She asked if SPS could develop an override budget separate from the other cost centers. She also noted that she thought the PTO's may have ideas on how they could be involved with gathering and transmitting information on volunteers. Ms Hochberg's primary interest is in discussions of reorganization or redistricting.

11 Communications

As outlined in the Communication packet and by fliers distributed for two SEA-sponsored events.

Additionally, Susan Iuliano reported being contacted by Lincoln's School Committee Chairperson, Julie Dobrow, suggesting they meet to discuss how the Committees communicate with the public regarding school operations and budgets.

12 Minutess – Regular Session, March 26, 2008

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2008 Regular Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

13 Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel packet. John Brackett noted that any additional resignations received before the end of the school year could result in recalling staff released due to budget constraints. This would prevent the need to re-post vacancies.

14 Members Forum

Both Jeff Beeler and Rich Robison encouraged Committee members to submit their Superintendent evaluations before the next meeting on May 7.

Jeff Beeler and Rich Robison also summarized the discussions of Monday night's Budget Review Task Force meeting, focusing on the disparate negotiating approaches of the Town and the District.

Rich Robison reported that Connecticut's "Unfunded mandate" lawsuit against the Department of Education for its No Child Left Behind Act was dismissed.

John Brackett will communicate with Representative Tom Conroy regarding the status of a legislative bill that would empower Town management to consolidate business functions with the schools without requiring approval by the School Committee.

On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jane Santinelli, the Committee voted to adjourn the Regular Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 11:45 p.m.

Yes Rich Robison

Yes Susan Iuliano

Yes Jane Santinelli

Yes Jeff Beeler

Yes Michele MacDonald

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary