

Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 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 Will, Director of Business and Finance
Larry O'Brien, Chairman of the Board of Selectman; Ken Storlazzi,
Coordinator of Human Resources

1. Executive Session

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. with a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategies. Each member individually voted approval of the motion. Motion passed (5 – 0).

2. Open Session

At 7:30, Jane Santinelli moved to return to Open Session. Seconded by Rich Robison. Motion approved 5 – 0.

Ken Storlazzi reported on a meeting with the Insurance Advisory Committee on May 1, 2008.

3. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

4. Superintendent's Evaluation

Rich Robison described the evaluation process by which each member contributed input. A subcommittee developed the evaluation report and reviewed this with Dr. Brackett. The Committee has reviewed the final report. Mr. Robison described the rating scale and categories and then read some sample comments. The Committee thanked Mr. Robison for his diligence in leading the subgroup and writing the final report. Jane Santinelli moved to accept the superintendent's evaluation as presented. Seconded by Jeff Beeler. Motion passed 5 – 0.

5. Draft of Administrative Procedure: Financial Assistance Program

Mary Will described a process established for the purpose of allowing parents to request a waiver for various fees for services and activities. This process would provide a once-per-year application to have selected fees waived or reduced. One objective is to avoid families having to apply multiple times per year and to ensure consistency of application across the schools. Backup financial documentation is required from each applicant family. The application period opens May 1st prior to the upcoming school year. The Committee unanimously favored the process.

6. School Committee Report

a. Statement on Town Housing Program

The Committee reviewed a draft Statement of Support on the Town Housing Program. Suggestions for modification were made that will contribute to the final version. Susan Iuliano shared the Housing Goals and Objectives so that reasons for support would be clear. It was moved by Jeff Beeler that the Statement be approved as amended. Seconded by Rich Robison. Approved 5 – 0.

b. MSBA Audit Acceptance

The Committee reviewed the Massachusetts School Building Authority Audits of the School Building programs for the Haynes, Loring, and Curtis schools. Rich Robison moved to accept the reports and authorize Susan Iuliano to sign each acceptance on behalf of the Committee. Motion seconded by Jeff Beeler. Approved 5 – 0.

7. Open Forum I

Lauren Hochberg, Camperdown Lane, asked the Committee, “Who gives input to the Superintendent’s evaluation process?” The reply was that only the Committee provides formal input, but it considers information submitted by others.

Ms. Hochberg also commented on the school fee waiver process and cautioned that tax information is historical and does not necessarily reflect current status of a family’s financial situation.

8. Superintendent’s Report

a. Cable T.V. Programming

The local access channel of cable TV made an offer to feature SPS leaders and Committee members discussing key policy and governance issues in an upcoming show. Filming could take place in late August or early September. The format would be an informal interview show or brief discussion of salient issues. The Committee expressed much interest in having a regular opportunity to communicate to the public on many of the issues and initiatives that are of interest in SPS. This could not happen until October however. In a related matter, John Brackett mentioned that he hopes to discuss with principals the possibility of having cable TV do more coverage of student activities and events.

b. Personnel Actions

John Brackett shared a list of recent personnel actions that included assignments, non-renewals, and resignations through July 8, 2008.

9. Minutes – Regular Session June 18, 2008

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2008 Regular Session. The vote was 5 – 0 in favor.

10. Communications

Susan Iuliano acknowledged receipt of the L/S School Committee minutes of May 13 and May 20, 2008.

11. Members' Forum: Status of August Meeting

The next School Committee meeting will be rescheduled for August 27 (from August 20). It will be so posted.

Jeff Beeler discussed the potential of doing a feasibility study in regard to alternative energy sources. There are Mass Energy Collaborative grants available to do feasibility studies at no cost. Rich Robison mentioned that the BRTF and the energy study group felt it to be positive that the schools were exploring such options. He suggested that perhaps a brief report could be made to the groups. It was suggested by John Brackett that Jeff Beeler meet with Joe Kupczewski, Mary Will, and himself to talk more in depth about the possibilities of actually taking advantage of some available energy co-generation opportunities.

Bob Milley mentioned that an Investigations Math Institute operated by TERC is being conducted during the week of July 7 for about 90 teachers from across the country, with nearly 30 participants from SPS. The synergy among participants was excellent. One benefit of hosting the event is some free participant fees. Also, when such an event is conducted onsite, more local teachers enroll.

Also, two ActivBoard workshops, funded through PTO donations, will be conducted in July and August.

Rich Robison located some prior redistricting information from his files and shared it with the superintendent.

Jane Santinelli expressed delight in reading a current article in the Town Crier that described the Colonial Sudbury Grant supported by the Sudbury Foundation. The article demonstrated how the Sudbury Public Schools and Sudbury Historical Society have collaborated closely on an exciting grade three social studies venture to be implemented in the spring of 2009. It also demonstrated the value and contribution of the Assistant Superintendent position.

12. Executive Session

At 9:18 p.m., Jane Santinelli. made a motion that the Committee enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing non-union contracts. Seconded by Jeff Beeler.
VOTED: 5 – 0.

13. Return to Open Session

On a vote of 5 – 0, the Committee returned to Open Session at 10:12 p.m.

14. Superintendent's Compensation and Contract Extension

Rich Robison moved and Jeff Beeler seconded, a motion to a) increase the superintendent's compensation by 3% for the 2008-09 fiscal year, b) extend the contract to June 30, 2011, and c) allow the current allocation for tuition reimbursement to include "other professional development opportunities." Vote: 5 – 0 in favor of the motion.

15. Adjourn @ 10:15 p.m.

Moved by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Michele MacDonald to adjourn. Vote 5 – 0.

Recorded by Bob Milley, Assistant Superintendent
Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary