

Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 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 & Finance

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

1. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

2. Energy Conservation and Future Planning

Joe Kupczewski, Maintenance Supervisor, provided an overview of the feasibility and benefits analyses he has conducted on the use of alternative energy sources within the district. He also described energy conservation measures that have resulted in utility cost savings of approximately \$400,000 over the last five years.

Pascal Chesnais, Newbridge Road, noted that the State makes some grant money available for energy conservation initiatives.

John Brackett noted that energy conservation considerations will be an important point of collaboration with the Town as consideration of possibly consolidating functions evolves.

3. Discussion with Town Housing Officials

Jody Kablack, Director of Planning and Community Development, and Beth Rust, Community Housing Specialist, outlined community housing objectives and efforts in town. They described local preference selection criteria, which sets aside a percentage of units for those with Sudbury connections, including District employees. They asked the Committee to consider a general endorsement of Sudbury's community housing program, with the hope that the Committee will consider voicing its support for specific projects as they come on-line.

The Committee concurred that the local preference aspect of community housing opportunities provides a benefit to the District in terms of recruitment and retention and will consider specific wording of a resolution to vote on at a later time.

4. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

None.

5. Open Forum

Lauren Hochberg, Camperdown Lane, cautioned the Committee in any use of the community housing program as a recruitment tool, noting that the number of units available at a given time is very small.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Recognitions

None.

b. Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet. John Brackett noted that the District has been able to recall one staff member released due to budget cuts because of some resignations.

7. Minutes – Regular Session June 11, 2008

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2008 Regular Session as amended. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

8. Communications

Susan Iuliano reported receiving a letter from Town Manager Maureen Valente outlining the role of Selectman Larry O'Brien as the designee to the School Committee for collective bargaining purposes.

9. Members Forum

John Brackett noted receipt of a \$6,000 grant from the Sudbury Foundation, given to support developing and piloting a unit of study on the history of Sudbury. The unit will be designed to enhance the third-grade Colonial America curriculum. The Sudbury Historical Society also received funding for this initiative and will work in partnership with the District.

Dr. Brackett described this year's Odyssey trips as very successful in meeting the program's objectives. He noted that although there are some issues to address, the programming, staff, location, and health and safety accommodations have met our objectives, and the program was deemed successful, and he recommended the program for another year. Bob Milley commented that the diminished travel distance allowed students to accomplish as much in 2½ days as was accomplished on the longer trips taken in previous years.

Rich Robison noted that the Superintendent's evaluation process is ongoing. He asked if it was necessary for the Committee to respond at this time to two email communications. One communication concerns the Wayland Superintendent's use of email to convey override considerations to the school community. The other was a communication from

Town staff regarding a land purchase opportunity. John Brackett stated that the Committee will need to keep/become better informed regarding communications in override elections. Jeff Beeler has communicated with Town officials regarding the Committee's interest in obtaining information on the property as it becomes available.

Jeff Beeler noted that Joe Kupczewski's research on energy conservation/cost-saving measures dovetails with his own work on the Budget Review Task Force (BRTF) and recommended that the District wait until the BRTF concludes its information gathering before moving forward with any proposal.

Sheila Cusolito informed the Committee that she is not available for the meeting scheduled for July 8, but will work to have the current minutes ready for approval at that time.

On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to adjourn the Regular Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 10:30 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary