

Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 21, 2008

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

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent, Robert Milley, Assistant
Superintendent, Mary Will, Director of Business & Finance, Mary Taylor, SEA

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

1. Open Forum I

Abby Ward, Old Lancaster Road, asked if the Committee knew of any efforts on the part of groups such as the Earth Decade Committee or Sudbury Valley Trustees to address the environmental impact of increased car transportation to and from the schools that might result from the increase in transportation fees. The Committee is not aware of any efforts at this time.

2. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

3. Donations

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to accept a donation of \$4,000 made by Marcella and Paul Noonan, for use in the Integrated Preschool program. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Bob Kavanagh, Director of Technology, outlined the proposed donations of technology items from the PTO's of ECMS and each elementary school. He indicated that the items align well with the District Technology Plan and do not adversely impact the equity of the accessibility to technology within the district schools. Bob Milley, Assistant Superintendent, highlighted the enthusiasm of teachers in acquiring and learning to use ActivBoards, in part evidenced by the overwhelming response to participate in summer workshops.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to accept the donation of items as outlined, and as further detailed (*italicized*): ECMS to receive 6 ActivBoards; Haynes to receive up to 5 ActivBoards; Loring to receive 25 laptops with cart, one wireless base station, 8 desktop computers, and 2 laptops with projector; Nixon to receive 8 ActivBoards and 8 laptops; Noyes to receive 10 ActivBoards, 10 laptops and peripherals-15 ActivSlates, and 4 sets of ActivExpressions. Note: subsequent to this meeting, it was established that Haynes would receive 3 ActivBoards.

4. FY09 District Goals and Strategies

Superintendent Brackett presented an updated draft document for discussion. The focus of the goals for student learning was narrowed to highlight math and literacy/writing. This better reflects District-wide involvement with these newer initiatives, while allowing school-based goals to be developed in science or social studies, which currently are not subject to new initiatives.

As it relates to leadership and planning goals, Dr. Brackett reported that he and Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance, attended a meeting with senior Town staff and a consultant who will work as a task force to examine operations and possible consolidation of functions between the Town and SPS. Dr. Brackett concurred with the Committee that SPS requires significant representation on the task force and, in fact, may lead-by-example in terms of some of its cost-saving efforts.

The Committee agreed with the focus of the District goals. Dr. Brackett will revise the document to incorporate the Committee's suggestions in anticipation of distribution to staff for comment and a vote to adopt the goals at the Committee's next Regular Session.

5. Redistricting Plan

Superintendent Brackett presented a document modified as discussed during the May 7, 2008 Regular Session.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to approve the project scope and process as presented. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

6. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Change School Committee Meeting from July 9 to July 8, 2008.

The Committee approved this change.

b. Finalize School Committee Liaison Assignments

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to adopt the liaison and subcommittee assignments as outlined and as further detailed: Jeff Beeler assigned to Land/Building use; Subcommittee Assignments renamed Responsibilities. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

c. Re-approve the previously increased fees for transportation, sports, and activities.

Tabled until next meeting.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Recognitions

None.

b. Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

8. Minutes – Regular Sessions April 30 and May 7, 2008

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2008 Regular Session. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2008 Regular Session as amended. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

9. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

10. Members Forum

Michele MacDonald asked to revisit placement of the Open Forum. The Committee agreed to place the Open Forum between the School Committee Report and the Superintendent's Report at its next meeting.

Rich Robison noted that the M.A.S.C.-published profiles of the state's school districts is not yet available. He also reported attending the swearing in of Mitchell Chester, appointed Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. Rich reported that he and Susan Iuliano reviewed the Superintendent's self-evaluation. He encouraged Members to submit their individual evaluations.

Bob Milley stated that he met with Susan Henry, who led the Harvard group that evaluated ILAP and who provided a report on the group's findings. He will comment on the report at an upcoming meeting.

On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Susan Iuliano, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss preparations for negotiation with non-union personnel, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 4-0 in favor. The time was 9:55 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary