

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2003**

Present: Bill Braun, Chairperson, Jane Santinelli, Vice Chairperson
Members: Rich Robison, Susan Iuliano, Alexa Crowe
Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent, Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent,
Mary Will, Director of Business & Finance, Debbie Dixson, SPED Administrator, Mary Mahoney, SEA

Jane Santinelli called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Open Forum I

Helene Simon, Newbridge Road, asked the School Committee to consider the impact of transferring a parcel of land on Newbridge Road for affordable housing use. She expressed concern around issues of future land use and children's safety.

Maggie Brewer, Old Forge Lane, expressed support for the continuation of the instrumental music program.

I. School Committee Report

C. Revisit Requests for Potential Sites for Affordable Housing

Dr. Brackett and Bill Braun gave an overview of the Blue Ribbon Housing Site Selection Committee's plan for affordable housing on Newbridge Road and its potential impact on future needs of the land for school use. Other considerations discussed were locating an early childhood center or administrative offices on the land, but these options were determined to be unlikely. The Committee requested additional information regarding the current septic system and available space on the site for relocating the leaching field. Also, a more definitive description of the available space is needed. The item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

II. Superintendent's Report

C. Curriculum Report: Wellness

Betsy Grams, Curriculum Specialist for Health and Wellness, gave a presentation on Sudbury's health and wellness program,

I. School Committee Report

A. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

B. Donation to Sudbury Public Schools

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Alexa Crowe, to accept a cash donation from Michael Lueders of Lueders Environmental, Inc. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

II. Superintendent's Report

A. Recognitions

The Superintendent reported that Hannah Chao is the Curtis Middle School winner of the Geography Bee and will move on to the qualifying round of the State competition.

B. 2004-2005 Budget

The Superintendent recommended adopting a 3% Budget, which reflects lane and step increases, two additional teachers due to projected increased enrollment, a personnel manager, and a wage increase of about 2.5% (this is yet to be determined based on contract negotiations). It does not add new programs or restore previously cut programs (over \$1.5 million has been cut over the last two years).

Public Comments

Dan Harrington, requested clarification on the percentage of the budget increase vs. enrollment increase. There is not a real direct correlation between the two pieces of data.

Joellyn Samojla, Atkinson Lane, asked if the budget includes teacher reductions. No, it includes two additional teachers and a personnel manager.

Dan Harrington, reported that there is talk of large increases in classroom size at Haynes. Is that true? This probably resulted from a slide that was included in the budget presentation to show what would happen if a teacher was reduced at each grade level at each school. It is not the recommendation. However, it is likely there will be some reductions in the teaching staff based on the reality of the Town's budget scenario.

Will the 3% Budget cause an override? No, not directly. The Selectmen decide to put an Override on the Ballot.

Susan Richman, Willis Road, asked what the difference between the 3% Budget and the Level-Funded of \$650K translates to on a per house assessment? It is based on current valuations. There is information in the back of the Warrant that would be helpful.

Roger Van Duinen, Greystone Lane, commented that most items in the budget are out of the Committee's control. Why doesn't the School Committee manage its own benefits? The Town negotiates the health benefits. It is an issue that is being actively discussed.

Mark Collins, asked if the comparative teacher salary analysis is available to the public? It will be available through the Finance Committee within the next few months.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Alexa Crowe, to accept a FY '05 budget of \$22,683,653, which represents a 3% increase, as proposed and outlined in Dr. Brackett's presentation. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

D. Adequate Yearly Progress

Bob Milley and Debbie Dixon reported on the AYP of all schools and plans to address the needs of students in the future.

Open Forum II

No comments.

III. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet. The Superintendent noted two letters regarding the Nixon School Site.

IV. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to accept the minutes of the December 3, 2003 Regular Session as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

V. Personnel Action

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

Member's Forum

Debbie Dixon reported that the District is in need of two Special Education teachers.

Jane Santinelli presented a Boston Globe article regarding student activity fees.

Mary Will reported that the DOE came out with a definitive statement regarding Transportation and fees.

Bob Milley distributed recent feedback from the Bridges Program.

Rich Robison reported that the Massachusetts Board of Education voted the School Construction Priority List, noting that Lincoln-Sudbury is 135. The Board also voted to require School Committee's to develop a travel policy for late night school-sponsored student trips. The Board also passed language regarding MCAS appeals for students with special needs.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Alexa Crowe, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 11:20 p.m.

Yes Bill Braun
Yes Jane Santinelli
Yes Rich Robison
Yes Alexa Crowe
Yes Susan Iuliano

Submitted by Joanne Bleiler, Recording Secretary