

Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, June 11, 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, David Jurewicz, SEA

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

1. Bill Schedule

A bill schedule was presented.

2. Donations

Susan Iuliano was contacted by Abby Ward, Old Lancaster Rd, parent of a fifth-grader at the Loring School. Ms. Ward asked for feedback from the Committee on the proposed fifth-grade class gift, a marquee sign board with changeable letters, to be purchased with funds raised by the fifth grade classes from this year and last and matched by funds from the PTO. The gift would require School Committee approval because of its cost and because it represents an alteration to school property. The Committee will request a written proposal that outlines the gift parameters and anticipated impact and upkeep of the proposed gift.

The School Committee confirmed its interpretation of the donation policy to mean that fifth-grade gifts would be in the same category as a proposed gift from any school support group in terms of triggers for the level of review required.

Superintendent John Brackett notified the Committee that he accepted on their behalf a donation from the Loring PTO of a higher-end recording device for use in the school's music program.

3. FY08 Budget Report and Projection

Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance, presented an overview of the report.

4. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Re-adopt the previously increased fees for 2008-09 transportation, sports, and activities

Re-adoption of the increased fees is necessitated by having filed with the Town Clerk a Statement of Disclosure that School Committee members have children in the schools and may be subject to the increased fees.

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Jane Santinelli, to re-adopt the increased fees for 2008-09 transportation, sports, and activities. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

b. Adopt District Goals and Strategies for 2008-09

Superintendent Brackett reported receiving some questions and comments from staff, but no recommended changes to the draft document. He noted some editorial changes and modification of Goal 2 as discussed at the May 21, 2008 meeting.

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to adopt the District Goals and Strategies for 2008-09 as presented. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

5. Open Forum

Lauren Hochberg, Camperdown Lane, noted that she prefers this placement of the Open Forum between the School Committee and Superintendent's Reports to having it occur at the outset of the meeting. She asked about the cost impact of short-term use of loaned air conditioners and asked why regular education expenses cannot be paid with projected fiscal year-end balances. Mary Will noted that use of personal air conditioners is discouraged because of energy costs and explained that salaries and most program costs cannot be pre-paid. Special education regulations allow certain tuition costs to be pre-paid. The District will prepay tuition costs to the CASE collaborative for the upcoming year.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Recognitions

None.

b. Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

c. Discussion of possible Administrative-School Committee retreat in the Fall

Superintendent Brackett proposed a retreat as a mechanism for enhancing communication across the District. He envisions a Saturday half-day retreat early in the school year. The Committee recommended a facilitated discussion. Proposed dates and a request for input on topics of discussion will be circulated in the next week.

7. Minutes – Regular Session May 21, 2008

VOTED: On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2008 Regular Session as amended. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Jeff Beeler abstained.

8. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet. Additionally, John Brackett reported receiving a letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

#### 9. Members Forum

Susan Iuliano proposed July 8 as a target for presentation of the Superintendent's evaluation. Jeff Beeler and Rich Robison will circulate a draft of the evaluation to Bill Braun for comment.

Michele MacDonald noted that the Budget Review Task Force (BRTF) discussed having SPS and L-S utilize fundraising foundations.

Jeff Beeler noted that the BRTF may also request that the Districts look into the education lobbying group Stand For Children or that they form or join a regional group to make proposals to the legislature. He will comment at the next scheduled meeting about the activities of the Energy Task Force.

Mary Will reported that costs for an asset inventory would be \$10-15,000 and asked the Committee to consider a dollar threshold for items to be inventoried. She will attempt to get a more specific idea of costs as a function of threshold.

Rich Robison noted that he is only available to attend about half of the BRTF meetings scheduled for the summer. He reported that the Expense Reduction Committee developed a matrix to evaluate the impact of reductions beyond cost savings. The effort is ongoing.

Rich also reported that L-S is moving forward with bargaining negotiations which will start this summer. He also noted that the Selectmen voted at their last meeting to have representation on each District's committee for purposes of collective bargaining.

Dr. Brackett noted that the agenda for next week's meeting includes a presentation by Joe Kupczewski, Maintenance Supervisor, on energy conservation/cost-saving measures, and a discussion with representatives from the Town Planning and Community Development Office regarding affordable housing initiatives.

Jane Santinelli commented that the cost-savings realized by Maintenance are worthy of reporting in a newsletter.

On a motion by Jane Santinelli, seconded by Rich Robison, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The time was 9:45 p.m.

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

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary