

**Sudbury Public Schools  
Sudbury, Massachusetts  
School Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday May 16, 2012  
Fairbank Senior Center**

**Present:** Dr. Rich Robison, Lisa Gutch, Ellen Winer Joachim, Bob Armour, Lucie St. George

**Also Present:** Dr. Anne Wilson, Superintendent; Dr. Judy Malone Neville, Assistant Superintendent;  
Dr. Robert Mealey, SEA

**Open Session**

Superintendent Anne Wilson called the Open Session to order at 7:38 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

**1. Reorganization of the School Committee**

(a) Welcome new Members Bob Armour and Lucie St. George

Superintendent Wilson welcomed newly elected Members Bob Armour and Lucie St. George. She noted that Business and Finance Director Mary Will is not present as she is attending the Massachusetts School Business Officials conference.

(b) Selection of Members to serve as Chair and Vice Chair

Traditionally the SPS Committee takes a collaborative approach, with the Chair responsible for running meetings, signing payroll, and generally facilitating work with the Superintendent, the Town and LS. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair assumes a portion of the responsibilities.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to appoint Dr. Rich Robison Chairman of the School Committee. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to appoint Lisa Gutch Vice Chairperson of the School Committee. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Rich Robison welcomed Bob Armour and Lucie St. George, noting that he looks forward to the perspectives each will bring to their work on the Committee.

(c) Assignment of Liaisons, Responsibilities, and MASC Delegate

Rich Robison provided an overview of the tasks and responsibilities of the various liaison assignments and areas of responsibility. He credited Jeff Beeler with creating an anti-bullying program in advance of the legislative requirement to do so. The Anti-Bullying Committee will likely combine with the Health Advisory Committee. Lucie St. George reported that she is no longer the Chair of the Sudbury Special Education Advisory Committee and that SSEAC will elect officers at its next meeting.

Dr. Robison described the G4 as a committee that examined ways to share resources. Representatives of Wayland, Lincoln, Sudbury, and LSRHS participated. G4 efforts resulted in a report outlining possibilities as well as roadblocks to resource consolidation. Superintendent Wilson commented that efforts continue to collaborate between districts. The four superintendents met this school year and discussed potential opportunities to collaborate on enriching programming in such areas as technology, special education, and professional development. Assistant Superintendent Judy Malone Neville elaborated on some of the District's efforts to coordinate with Lincoln on professional development, particularly in the area of ELL. Although coordination efforts met with limited success, she characterized the current relationship as a professional learning community.

Rich Robison disclosed that he was appointed to the statewide Collaborative Review Committee. The District is a member of three Collaboratives, including EDCO, which will no longer require a School Committee Member on its Board.

Bob Armour asked about the policy manual and suggested outlining governance, the responsibilities related to the various assignments, and the mechanisms by which effectiveness will be assessed.

The Committee agreed on the need for a METCO liaison. Additionally, the Sewer Commission was added to the assignments. Following discussion, tentative assignments were made, to be approved at the next Regular Session.

Members agreed to approve assignments to Public Relations and Negotiations/Labor Relations.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Ellen Joachim, seconded by Bob Armour to appoint Rich Robison, Ellen Winer Joachim, and Bob Armour to Negotiations/Labor Relations, and Lisa Gutch to Public Relations. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

(d) School Committee meeting schedule

The Committee agreed to meet on May 30 in order to address the food services contract. Lisa Gutch queried Members on the possibility of moving School Committee meetings to Thursday nights. SEA President Bob Mealey commented that Thursday is better for teachers, given their teaching schedule and the duration of some of the meetings. Draft meeting schedules for the summer and upcoming school year will be reviewed at the next Regular Session.

Bob Mealey announced that five teachers and three assistants are retiring and will be honored on June 1 from 3:30 to 5:30 at the Hosmer House.

**2. School Committee Report**

- (a) Communications/Public Relations  
No update.

**3. Open Forum**

Sonya Stevens, Dutton Road, asked about efforts to coordinate school schedules with Lincoln and LS, relative to professional development days. Both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent expressed their commitment to continuing efforts at aligning calendars and professional development opportunities.

**4. Superintendent's Report**

- (a) Bill Schedule  
A Bill Schedule was presented.  
Rich Robison explained that the Committee signs off to authorize the expenditures.

- (b) Personnel Actions  
As outlined in the Personnel Packet.  
Superintendent Wilson commented on how much she enjoyed the annual Softball Bonanza last Friday. She thanked all who participated. Bob Mealey noted that her participation sends a great message to the community that the fundraiser is for the entire community.

**5. Minutes**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2012 Regular Session. The vote was 3–0 in favor.

**VOTED:** On a motion by Ellen Joachim, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2012 Special Session. The vote was 3–0 in favor.

**6. Members' Forum**

Bob Mealey announced that the Softball Bonanza yielded sufficient funds to award five students scholarships of \$1,200 each. The success of the fundraiser allowed for an increase in both the number of awards and the dollar amount.

Judy Malone Neville reported that MCAS testing is nearly complete. Grade 6 students have also completed the newly added GRADE assessment. Dr. Malone Neville remarked on the wonderful culminating activities at each of the schools.

Superintendent Wilson thanked Members for serving and for taking on assignments.

Lisa Gutch welcomed Lucie St. George and Bob Armour. She noted that Ms. St. George's teaching experience and Mr. Armour's corporate background represent valuable expertise.

Rich Robison reported on having served on the interview committee for the Loring Principal. Of 55 applicants, six were interviewed over two days. Dr. Robison also noted that negotiations have been on hold since before Town Meeting.

Ellen Joachim reported that three food service providers were interviewed last week. Proposals will be reviewed next week.

Rich Robison noted that the Senate Ways and Means budget was released today. The Circuit Breaker was increased by 16 Million over the House budget and Chapter 70 increased by \$16.5 Million over the House. Funding in areas such as METCO and regional transportation were reduced.

**7. Adjourn**

**VOTED:** On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel and to discuss potential litigation, as discussion in Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the School Committee. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 9:48 p.m.

Yes Rich Robison  
Yes Lisa Gutch  
Yes Ellen Winer Joachim  
Yes Bob Armour  
Yes Lucie St. George

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary