

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday March 23, 2011**

Present: Susan Iuliano, Chairperson; Jeff Beeler, Vice Chairman;
Dr. Rich Robison, Michele MacDonald, Lisa Gutch

Also Present: Dr. John Brackett, Superintendent; Robert Milley, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance; Dr. Robert Mealey, SEA

Open Session

Susan Iuliano called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

1. Deliberations and Appointment of New Superintendent

Susan Iuliano provided an overview of the process utilized in the superintendent search. The process included use of a search consultant, a screening committee, visits by the three finalist candidates, reference checks, and reciprocal visits to each candidate's district. A large number of people were involved, providing for a wide range of input. Rich Robison and Lisa Gutch added their appreciation for the effectiveness and dedication of the screening committee participants.

Susan Iuliano also highlighted the input the Committee received on desired qualities of the superintendent. Among the qualities mentioned: visibility in the schools; ability to interact at all levels; an experienced administrator with budget building experience; an understanding of, and willingness to work collaboratively with, the School Committee; an articulate communicator; a skilled, collaborative decision-maker; a strong, student centered instructional leader; a good understanding of technology. The Committee agreed that the three candidates bring a different mix of qualities that could serve the District well. The Committee discussed the qualities of each candidate.

Needham Middle School Principal Glenn Brand was characterized as a strong, child-focused, well-regarded leader, who has additional experience overseeing a building renovation and its accompanying grade relocation. Additionally, his teaching experience spans both elementary and middle school. His town-wide connections and collaborative working relationships were noted. The Committee was impressed with the breadth and depth of his teaching and building-based administrative experience, but noted his lack of central office experience.

Natick Assistant Superintendent/Director of Student Services Lauren Gilbert was viewed as an articulate, visionary administrator. In addition to her knowledge of special education, she has experience in negotiations, technology, and anti-bullying initiatives. The Committee noted Ms. Gilbert's lack of building-based administrative experience.

Anne Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in Brookline, was characterized as having extensive experience as a teacher, middle school assistant principal and principal, and central office administrator. In her current role, she has handled difficult situations related to negotiations and made significant changes in the benefit structure as a means to cost savings. She is viewed as a student-focused, detail-oriented educator who acknowledged her lack of district-wide budget building experience.

Although the Committee agreed that any one of the candidates would serve the District well, it concluded that Dr. Wilson's skills and experience best matched the needs of SPS.

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to appoint Dr. Anne Wilson as Superintendent of the Sudbury Public Schools, effective July 1, 2011, contingent upon successful negotiation of an employment agreement. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

Rich Robison and Jeff Beeler agreed to participate in negotiations with Dr. Wilson. The Committee will then vote on the terms. Superintendent Brackett will provide input on transition activities.

2. Shared School/Town Facilities Director

Superintendent Brackett reported on his meeting with Town Manager Maureen Valente. There are 26 Town buildings, five of which are schools. The schools make up the greater part of the square footage as well as the insured value. Upkeep on all buildings is fragmented and the preventative maintenance program is unevenly applied. A shared facilities director is viewed as a way to contain costs and apply services more uniformly to extend the life of all the buildings. Additional benefits include centralized purchasing and service contracts, more training and skill development, and greater focus on capital and construction planning.

The initial thinking is to start in FY12 with a full-time director and part-time clerical support, with office space in the DPW building. Costs, estimated at \$110K, are to be shared equally by the Town and SPS. Dr. Brackett shared a draft agreement with the Committee and asked for input. He also noted that this will be discussed at a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

The Committee expressed some concern that with a 50/50 cost split, the expectations of SPS might not be met. There is also some concern that the wording suggests control falls largely to the Town and that the scope is much broader than originally proposed, touching on building use, union representation, and budget structuring that would not allow SPS to adequately manage a component of its own budget. Dr. Brackett noted that the proposal was based on those successfully implemented in surrounding towns such as Lexington, Weston, Wellesley, Needham, and Andover.

Jeff Beeler commented on the lack of a central repository for information on the schools so that the Permanent Building Committee can be adequately advised on capital needs, noting that a change in structure will affect the role of the PBC.

Dr. Brackett will continue discussions with the Town in light of the Committee's input.

3. Discussion of FY12 Budget

Dr. Brackett reported no changes to the proposed budget or to the State's budget. Rich Robison commented that he recently met with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dempsey, who is projecting a \$1.5 billion deficit. Superintendent Brackett commented that attention is needed to the critical needs list, which might result in a longer budget session in early April.

4. Transportation fees warrant article

Tabled.

5. School Committee Report

Tabled.

6. Open Forum

No comments.

7. Superintendent's Report**(a) Donations**

None.

(b) Recognitions

Dr. Brackett praised those involved with the production of the middle school musical "Charlie Brown". He also reported that three Curtis Destination Imagination teams won first place and will go on to State competition. One elementary team finished second and will also move on to State competition. The middle school science Olympiad team finished second in State competition.

Two groups of Curtis art students are receiving the District's "Continuing to Improve On Excellence" certificates. Teacher Scott Greenaway reported that eight students received *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Awards: Angela Malone, Katie Quirk, Francesca Gallo, Mari Herrema, Ariel Joiner, Kristin Kimble, Becca Gorman, and Katie Pinto. Teacher Ron Darzen reported that another eight students had their work accepted for exhibition at the Worcester Art Museum as part of Youth Art Month: Sage McClure, Linnea Martin, Vivienne Turner, Dana Rubenstein, Alec Jacobson, Drew Baker, Peter Jubenville, Celia Feldberg.

(c) Bill Schedule

A Bill Schedule was presented.

(d) Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

8. Minutes—February 16, 2011 Regular Session

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2011 Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

9. Communications

As outlined in the Communications Packet.

10. Members' Forum

Susan Iuliano announced that the Committee will hold a brief Executive Session.

Bob Mealey thanked the Committee for including the SEA in the superintendent candidate site visits.

Bob Milley commented on the opportunity the Committee has to choose an assistant superintendent with skills complementary to those of Dr. Wilson.

Michele MacDonald reported on attending the LS School Committee meeting.

John Brackett announced that the EDCO legislative forum is scheduled for April 26.

Rich Robison commented on a report from New Hampshire that outlines recent legislative proposals, some of which have passed the House, which seek to undermine public education.

11. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Michele MacDonald, to adjourn the Regular Session and move to Executive Session to discuss strategy for negotiation with nonunion personnel, as discussion in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the School Committee, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 10:22 p.m.

Yes Susan Iuliano
Yes Jeff Beeler
Yes Rich Robison
Yes Michele MacDonald
Yes Lisa Gutch

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary