

**Sudbury Public Schools
Sudbury, Massachusetts
School Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 4, 2012
Fairbank Senior Center**

Present: Jeff Beeler, Chairman; Susan Iuliano, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Rich Robison, Lisa Gutch, Ellen Winer Joachim

Also Present: Dr. Judy Malone Neville, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Will, Director of Business and Finance; Amie Abdal-Khabir, SEA

Open Session

Jeff Beeler called the Open Session to order at 7:31 p.m. The meeting was taped for public access broadcast.

1. Update of FY13 Budget

Mary Will reported that the first of the five PTO-sponsored budget discussions occurred at Nixon today, drawing approximately 10 attendees. Superintendent Wilson provided an overview of the presentation. Talks at Loring and Haynes will occur next week. There have been no changes in the status of the budget; however, savings are anticipated from the move to benefits coverage through the GIC. For staff, four information meetings and a health fair are scheduled to facilitate this move.

Copies of both the budget and GIC presentation materials will be distributed to the Committee.

Jeff Beeler reported having spoken with the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen regarding the Town/District health insurance trust, which must be closed following the move in FY13 from being self-insured to participating in the GIC. The trust holds approximately \$5.7 Million. Chairman O'Brien indicated that the trust must be maintained for some time—24 months—to ensure that all claims are paid.

Later in the Open Session, Mr. Beeler reported receiving email clarification from Selectman O'Brien concerning the requirement to maintain the trust beyond this fiscal year. The Town sought input from both attorneys and actuaries; 24 months is the minimum time the Town was advised to keep the fund in place.

2. FY13 Lunch Price Increase

Jeff Beeler reported that he, Lisa Gutch, and Ellen Winer Joachim each filed disclosures regarding having children within SPS, as required when discussing matters such as cost increases.

Mary Will outlined the proposed price increases: elementary school lunches from \$2.50 to \$2.75; Curtis lunches from \$2.75 and \$3.00 to \$3.25. Breakfast and milk prices will remain the same. Food Service Coordinator Rita Skog reported on new regulations that are being phased in over the next five years, starting in Fall FY13. Among the requirements are increases in the portions of fruits and vegetables, a changeover from wheat to whole grains, and a discontinuation of juice sales. Staff training is also required. Lost revenue from juice sales alone is expected to be \$15,000.

The 2011 budget and meal sales, as well as standard increases in supplies and labor, were used to compute the increase. Mary Will made note of the general rise in food prices and emphasized that the increases are tied to this fact and the increased costs associated with

implementing the new regulations. She additionally noted that the increases are entirely independent of diminished participation during this current school year. Both she and Rita Skog noted that increasing prices too much risks lowered participation and that the proposed prices are comparable to those in surrounding communities.

VOTED: On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Susan Iuliano to increase the FY13 lunch prices as presented. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

Mary Will reported that the food services contract RFP will be published next Monday. She also stated that the District, to the best of its knowledge, is not serving beef processed with ammonium hydroxide.

3. Vote to Allow Pelham Island Road Residents to Use Loring Parking Lot

The District received a request from Wayland Fire Chief Smith to allow residents of Pelham Island Road to use the Loring parking lot on Sundays in the event of road flooding during bridge construction work. Chief Smith estimated a need to accommodate approximately 50 cars from mid-April through the fall. Cars would be removed in the early afternoon at the latest. Superintendent Wilson cited this as an excellent opportunity to be “good neighbors” and expressed confidence that lot use is unlikely to interfere with activities at Loring, including basketball practice or games.

VOTED: On a motion by Susan Iuliano, seconded by Ellen Joachim, to approve the use of the Loring lot to park cars of residents of Pelham Island Road in case of flooding for Sunday mornings during construction of Pelham Island Bridge from mid-April through “Fall” 2012. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

4. School Committee Report

(a) Communications/Public Relations

Lisa Gutch announced the School Committee coffee, scheduled for May 5, 9:00 a.m. at the Grange.

5. Open Forum

No comments.

6. Superintendent’s Report

(a) Bill Schedule

A Bill Schedule was presented.

(b) Personnel Actions

As outlined in the Personnel Packet.

(c) Other

Superintendent Wilson announced the passing of John MacKinnon, a beloved evening custodian at Loring. She expressed condolences on behalf of the District.

Dr. Wilson also announced the celebration last evening at Arlington Town Hall, where Nixon World Language teacher Bobbi Benson received the EDCO Goldin Foundation Award for Excellence in Education. A large contingent from Sudbury was present, Teacher and 2008 recipient Melissa Morabito presented the award to Ms. Benson. Dr. Wilson remarked that each recipient provided a unique perspective on their love of teaching, but that all cited a connection to students as particularly meaningful.

7. Minutes

VOTED: On a motion by Rich Robison, seconded by Susan Iuliano, to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2012 Regular Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor.

VOTED: On a motion by Lisa Gutch, seconded by Jeff Beeler, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2012 Regular Session. The vote was 4–0 in favor. Ellen Winer Joachim abstained.

8. Members' Forum

Amie Abdal-Khabir announced that all are invited to an upcoming SEA-sponsored retirement party. Details will be forthcoming.

Judy Malone Neville reported that the March MCAS session was completed with fidelity and with support from teachers, students, parents, and administrators.

Jeff Beeler stated that SEA negotiations are ongoing, with regular meetings. He also advised Members to submit their Superintendent evaluations to Rich Robison in a timely manner to allow completion of the process by the next scheduled meeting.

9. Adjourn

VOTED: On a motion by Jeff Beeler, seconded by Lisa Gutch, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union and nonunion personnel, as discussion in Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee, not to return to Open Session. The vote was 5–0 in favor. The time was 8:10 p.m.

Yes Jeff Beeler
Yes Susan Iuliano
Yes Rich Robison
Yes Lisa Gutch
Yes Ellen Winer Joachim

Submitted by Sheila Cusolito, Recording Secretary