

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, January 12th, 2009.

School Committee Members present at the meeting were Mr. Paul Brennan, Chair, Ms. Liisa Locurto, Vice-chair, Ms. Tracy Zuliani, Secretary, Ms. Wendy Mead and Ms. Pamela Beaton Graves.

Administrators present at the meeting were Dr. Cecilia Di Bella, Superintendent and Ms. Susan Rothermich, Business Manager.

Others present – no others present.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Citizen Forum

No one wished to speak.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Zuliani seconded to approve the Bill Schedule of January 12th, 2009 as presented.

Carried 5/0

Ms. Locurto moved and Ms. Beaton Graves seconded to approve the Minutes of the December 8th, 2008 meeting.

Carried 3/0 with Ms. Zuliani and Ms. Mead abstaining

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Beaton Graves seconded to approve the Minutes of the July 10th, 2008 meeting.

Carried 4/0 with Ms. Locurto abstaining

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to approve the Minutes of the July 21st, 2008 meeting.

Carried 5/0

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Beaton Graves seconded to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the July 10th, 2008 meeting.

Carried 4/0 with Ms. Locurto abstaining

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Beaton Graves seconded to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the September 8th, 2008 meeting.

Carried 5/0

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the October 6th, 2008 meeting.

Carried 4/0 with Ms. Beaton Graves abstaining

Ms. Locurto moved and Ms. Beaton Graves seconded to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the October 27th, 2008 meeting.

Carried 4.0 with Ms. Mead abstaining

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the June 24th, 2008 meeting.

Carried 4/0 with Ms. Beaton Graves abstaining

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update – no students were present to provide an update.

Agenda Item 5 – Update on FY’09 Budget, Revolving Accounts and Grants

Ms. Rothermich provided an update on the FY’09 budget, revolving accounts and grants, noting that at this time, there are no grave concerns about any of the accounts. There are some ‘other’ items that were not budgeted which will need to be reclassified later in the year.

Agenda Item 6 – Establish Schedule for FY2010 Budget

Dr. Di Bella noted that there is currently no information from the State or Department of Education about Chapter 70 allocations for the FY 2010 budget. The Committee would like to reiterate to the community that working on the budget without any ‘real’ numbers from the State is a difficult and frustrating process. The administration is preparing two versions for the DRAFT FY 2010 budget; a roll-over budget maintaining the status quo, and another version which incorporates the prioritized needs expressed by the principals. The next scheduled School Committee meeting is Monday, January 26th. With the budget due to the Town on January 30th, there is a proposal to meet on January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in Room 1A of the Municipal Center, if available, for the purpose of discussing the DRAFT FY2010 school budget.

Agenda Item 7 – Superintendent’s Update

Dr. Di Bella noted that:

- While the recent snow storms have been wreaking havoc on the school schedule, she would like to dispel any rumors about waiving the 180-day school year rule. This is unequivocally false; the direct word from the Commissioner is that the 180-day rule still applies.
- All are invited to attend the Community Service Learning program kick off event this Thursday, January 15th in the high school cafeteria. This was a great event last year and promises to be so again this year with the showcasing of the new projects that have recently been funded. It also includes a pasta dinner by ‘Chef Goyette’.
- There will be a number of ‘parent coffees’ in the Simonian Center and Elementary School over next several weeks on a number of relevant issues, including child behavior at this age.

- Parents should not be concerned about children drinking the school water. The recent and current boiling water mandate for the Wilkinsonville District of Sutton does not apply to the school complex, which operates on its own well.
- Included in tonight's meeting packet is a letter from the Sutton Town Administrator, James Smith to Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, outlining, as requested by the Governor, municipal projects that are ready to proceed within the next 180 days, as part of President-elect Obama's economic stimulus package, should it pass. Mr. Smith, in conjunction with Ms. Rothermich, detailed projects directly related to the schools.
- A number of academic programs are starting, including MCAS tutoring and other PTO-supported enrichment programs.

Agenda Item 8 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items

The Committee offered their thoughts and sympathies to Ms. Lauren Dubeau on the loss of her mother. Paul Reville, Massachusetts Secretary of Education, will speak at 7:30 a.m. this Wednesday morning, January 14th, at the Pleasant Valley Country Club. Sutton has a table of 8 reserved, with a few seats available for school committee members.

'Thank you' to Ms. Dane for wonderful 5th grade concert! With 119 members in the band, they put on a remarkable performance!

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 7:31 p.m., Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations and not return.

Carried 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary