

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, January 26th, 2009.

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

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. Locurto seconded to approve the Bill Schedule of January 26th, 2009 as presented.

Carried 4/0

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

Agenda Item 5 – Approve Bid for Heating Oil

Ms. Rothermich presented the low bid for heating oil for FY2010, at a price of \$1.7926 per gallon, from Global Oil.

Ms. Locurto moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the bid for heating oil as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 6 – Discuss/Approve FY2010 Budget

Ms. Rothermich presented two versions of the FY2010; Option 1 maintains the program and staffing at the current level with a total increase of 3%, Option 2 includes the administrative priorities and is 4% higher than the FY2009 budget. Final funding numbers from the State are expected by the end of January.

Ms Mead moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to approve the FY2010 Option 2 budget as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 7 – Superintendent's Update

Dr. Di Bella noted that:

- For parents of children who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2009, kindergarten screening will take place on April 14, 15 and 16, 2009. Appointments will be made during registration. Registration will be held at the Simonian Center on February 9, 10, and 11, 2009 during the hours of 9-11 AM and 12:30-2:30 PM each day. An evening registration time has also been set for February 9, 2009 from 5-7 PM.
- A memo was issued from Mitchell Chester, Commissioner of Schools with refined thinking for 180-day waiver requests and suggesting ways to adjust the school schedule to make up time in order to meet the 180-day requirement between now and the end of the school year. As of today, Sutton has two days remaining before the school year will have to be extended.
- Barbara Wrenn, Physical Education teacher who has been in the Sutton school system for 25 years has submitted her intent to retire. Dr. Di Bella acknowledged her letter and noted that she will be missed!
- There is reason to be very optimistic about President Obama's proposed stimulus/economic recovery plan. It will not solve all of the school district's woes, but would help significantly with the budget. However, it will take passage by congress and appropriations to actually take place.
- Information was released from the Massachusetts Municipal Association's meeting last Friday stating that at this point, the Governor is not planning to make any cuts to Chapter 70 education aid funds and will hold fund to FY2009 levels. While this is good news, 0% funding is actually a loss with increased expenses expected in FY2010. Town money funds the Sutton students that leave Sutton to attend BVT. In all likelihood, the School and Town will suffer decrease in aid.
- MCAS tutoring at the elementary and high schools has begun.
- Mr. Bjorn, a retired technical education teacher has returned to teach fire safety at the elementary school.
- Carol McMann will be starting the next series of parent coffees – call the school for more information.
- On Wednesday, Sutton is expecting a representative from the DOE to meet with the special education staff, Mr. Daigle and Dr. Di Bella to discuss the 'areas of concern' from the last review. They are looking to follow up on four of about 250 areas. The Superintendent is confident that our SPED Director Mrs. Austein and her staff are prepared for the review.
- The recent Winter Ball and Teens Night Out were very successful with a HUGE nod of appreciation to both faculty and parents for all of their efforts to make it so. The decorations from the ball remain up because they are so wonderful.
- Today was a Professional Development day. Through Ms. DiLeo's efforts, there were a whole host of opportunities for the staff, which were well planned and attended, with an especially good program on open response questions at the middle school.

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

- A question was raised about the status of the repairs to the Simonian Center roof. Dr. Di Bella noted that the funds for the design work have been set-aside through the town. As such, the town administrator has put out a request for proposals (RFP) for the design work so that the full project can move forward for approval at the May Town Meeting and replacement of the roof during the summer.
- Discussion arose about Sutton students attending Blackstone Valley Tech (BVT). In the current school year, there are 30 students from Sutton. It was noted that class size at BVT has been smaller in recent years due to construction that is now complete, and as such, more students will be accepted into the school next year than will graduate out this year. It will be late in August before the number of accepted students from Sutton that opt to attend BVT is known.

- The next joint meeting between the School Committee and the Finance Committee is in the planning stages.
- The next scheduled School Committee meeting will be on February 9th. The Committee is also planning an additional meeting on February 23rd to address Policy Manual items.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 7:44 p.m., Ms. Locurto moved and Ms. Mead seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and not return.

Carried 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary