

Sutton School Committee Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, February 23rd, 2009.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Dr. Cecilia Di Bella, Superintendent.

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 Executive Session minutes of February 9, 2009 and the Bill Schedule of February 23, 2009 as presented.

Carries 3/0 with Ms. Beaton Graves abstaining

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

Agenda Item 5 – Introduction of Sutton Candidate for State Student Advisory Council

Dr. Di Bella introduced Cody Reinhold, a sophomore active in the Student Council and a candidate for Secretary of the Massachusetts Student Advisory Council. Cody then ‘pitched’ his campaign to the members of the Committee, highlighting some key events that he has been involved with this year. He is seeking sponsorship from the Committee as he is hoping to fundraise to cover the cost of attending the 3-day conference in Hyannis and run for Executive Board. The Committee offered suggestions for brainstorming and pitching his campaign and wished him well!

Agenda Item 6 –Update on FY2010 Budget

Dr. Di Bella provided an update from the Town Administrator’s budget presentation on February 17th. The Town is experiencing a severe fiscal problem due to a reduction in state aid and local revenue sources. Mr. Smith’s budget allocation for the School Department reflects a decrease of \$66,000 from FY09. She noted there are still many places where the school budget is in flux on both revenue and the expense side, however. Specifically, the costs of transportation and special education are difficult to know right now. On the revenue side, it is unclear as of yet how the stimulus package money can be spent. Sutton is one town where the funding has gone below the foundation level, so it qualifies for the stabilization component of the stimulus package to bring the School Department budget up to Foundation. Nonetheless, there is a gap of \$723,709 between the budget the School Committee

approved and the Town Administrator's number. There will be meetings with the staff and with the unions to go over numbers and answer any questions, even though the numbers are still not yet clear. The quality of schools is a real magnet drawing families into Sutton and we want to preserve the reputation and quality of schools in Sutton; the hope is to preserve as much as possible. All material in the budget package will be on the web tomorrow and more details should be available in the next couple of weeks. There will be a meeting with administrators present on March 9th and an open forum meeting on March 23rd and will try to meet with Fin. Com in between on March 16th.

Agenda Item 7 – Superintendent's Update

- Today was the 100th day of school! It is at the latest point in the school year in memory. There were many activities incorporating this milestone and the youngsters had a lot of fun.
- Congratulations to the athletic teams, including Basketball and Track. Recently in Track, one youngster jumped over six feet for the 6th highest jump in the NATION! Girls Basketball plays a big game on Wednesday night.
- Sandy Kerr is continuing her program at Tony's Pizza this Wednesday night. Students perform downstairs in an informal setting.
- A practice lock-down is in the planning stages in conjunction with Police Chief Towle. Parents will receive an Alert Now message when it occurs.
- Reminder that the policy subcommittee group is meeting Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- Regarding the Owners Project Manager for the Middle/High School renovation project, there will be a mandatory walk-through on Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. The Town Administrator who is the Procurement Officer received 29 requests for bid packages.

Agenda Item 8 – Discuss Policy Manual

This agenda item will be deferred for full committee discussion following the budget season.

Agenda Item 9 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items

- Condolences to the Town of Uxbridge on the recent and sudden passing of Daniel Stefanilo, Superintendent and Principal of Uxbridge Public schools.
- A suggestion was made about beginning to look at the "survey monkey" questions and further that the Principals review them with their councils.
- A suggestion was made to dedicate half of the day during the Summer Retreat to Policy discussions.
- School Committee informational updates are broadcast on channels 11, 12 and 13 through Charter Communications and on channels 31 and 33 through FIOS.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 7:50 p.m., Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Beaton Graves seconded to adjourn to Executive Session, not to return, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Carried 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary