

Sutton School Committee **Sutton, Massachusetts 01590**

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, March 9th, 2009.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Dr. Cecilia Di Bella, Superintendent, and Ms. Margo Austein, Director of Special Education.

Others present – no others present.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting and the Bill Schedule of March 9th, 2009 as presented.

Carries 4/0 with Ms. Beaton Graves abstaining

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update – in lieu of a student present, Dr. Di Bella presented the following written update submitted to the Committee on behalf of the students:

- A recent Red Cross blood drive sponsored by the high school yielded 59 donors for the day; bigger than last year!
- The upcoming school play is a presentation of ‘Our Town’, which will be performed on March 26th, 28th and in the afternoon on the 29th. The poster advertising the show depicts Sutton as ‘our town’. It promised to be a great show. More details are available on the website.
- The Student Council recently held ‘Sammie Hawkins’ Day. Several members of the Student Council will be attending a conference in Hyannis. Elections were recently held for Student Representative. Student candidates prepared videos of why they should be elected and the other students voted for the best presentations.
- In the recently held Destination Imagination contest, Sutton students did very well.
- There will be College Planning Night on March 30th for parents of students who are juniors.
- At a canned food drive held recently at school, more than 500 cans were collected and delivered to the Senior Center.
- Congratulations to all of the student athletes and their coaches, who have played so well and whose teams have just completed a wonderful season; Girls and Boys Basketball, Track, Cheerleading!

Agenda Item 5 – Review DESE Coordinated Program Review Mid-cycle Report

Ms. Margo Austein, Director of Special Education reviewed the process, results and recommendations of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Mid-cycle Report based on the recent review of selected special education criteria. The review, which took place on January 28th involved staff interviews, review of student records, examination of documentation and classroom observation. Four of the five criteria that were previously not completely in compliance have now been successfully completed. The fifth, involving having a bathroom in full compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), remains only 'partially implemented'. The district must, by April 24, 2009, submit a plan for having the bathroom for the life-skills students comply fully with the ADA standards. This plan is in progress and compliance should be attainable by making small changes, at little cost.

Agenda Item 6 – Approve Calendar for 2009-2010 School Year

As there are many outstanding issues that affect this decision, this agenda item will be tabled until such time as all of the pieces are in place. It will be on the meeting agenda at a future date.

Agenda Item 7 – Update on FY2010 School Department Budget

Dr. Di Bella presented the school administrator's 'first pass' attempt at reducing the \$773,709 gap between the Town allocation and the FY 2010 school budget. These initial proposed reduction do not even close half of the gap. There are still several unknowns that will impact the final budget, including the Federal stimulus package funds and discussions with the union bargaining units. A letter arrived tonight from the Superintendent's Association offering some information on the use of the stimulus funds and a meeting took place with two of the unions last week in which the budget numbers were reviewed in detail. A second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12th. The School Committee proposed and tentatively scheduled an additional meeting for next week with administrators, in advance of the formal public hearing on the school budget on March 23rd. It will take place on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Brennan will confirm after checking room availability.

Agenda Item 8 – Mid-year Review of Superintendent's Update

Dr. Di Bella reviewed the evaluation instrument in the packet. The Progress Report is intended as an overview, rather than a review of all of the goals. The review sheet and tools will be distributed to the Committee in advance of the review in May.

Agenda Item 9 – Superintendent's Update

- 'Trashologist' Dr. T. (a.k.a. Jack Gordon), self-described 'wizard of waste' who claims that 'garbage is my bag' visited and entertained the students at the Elementary School and Simonian Center last Friday, teaching the students about recycling and eliminating waste. The children were enthralled and it was a great event
- Last week was the first 'Family Story Night' which was cosponsored by Title 1 staff Lila Holmes and Tina Schirner and the Elementary School. It was held in the gymnasium for an hour and was a lot of fun. Mrs. Dubeau and Mr. Breault read and staff gave out free books. There was a special visit from the Cat-in-the-Hat, who also read. Thanks to Bernadette King for arranging the visit. Hope to have this event again to encourage reading.
- On Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., the Elementary School PTO is sponsoring an update on the progress of standards-based report card. This will take place in the library for about an hour. Parents are encouraged to attend this session.
- The Sutton Education Foundation is sponsoring the annual fundraiser dinner dance on April 4th at the Pleasant Valley Country Club. They are also hosting an online auction with many fabulous items. The auction began today and will culminate with a silent auction at the dinner on

April 4th. The auction can be accessed through the website (<http://www.suttonedfoundation.org/>).

- Received word today that the MSBA will be on site for a tour on March 19th for a first-hand look at the Simonian Center roof. This project fall under their ‘major repair’ category.
- Results of the Mass Tells survey conducted last year have now been released to public and area available at www.masstells.org. Click on ‘Sutton’ and view feedback from faculty in each of schools and district-wide.
- Finally, in terms of the proposed hockey program, Dan Delongchamp, Athletic Director, has been meeting with other communities and will be attending a Coaches meeting in two weeks. One important consideration, especially in light of current economic situation, is the cost and fee structure for this program. Charges will likely be based on actual costs. Dan will bring a specific proposal to the Committee following the Coaches meeting in 2 weeks. Thanks to all of the parents for all the information they have provide to Dan and for being so engaged in making this happen.

Agenda Item 10 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items

- All parents whose children are affected by the new standards-based report card system are encouraged to attend the upcoming informational meeting on March 11th at 7p.m in the library at the Early Learning Center. An AlertNow message will be sent to remind parents.
- The Policy subcommittee continues to work to develop a policy requiring students attending school dances to be subject to a Breathalyzer test. The goal is to have this policy finalized in sufficient time to have it included in next year’s Student Handbook.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:28p.m., Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to adjourn to Executive Session, not to return, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

Carried 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary