

## **Sutton School Committee** **Sutton, Massachusetts 01590**

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**School Committee Members present** at the meeting were Mr. Paul Brennan, Ms. Liisa Locurto, Vice-chair, Ms. Tracey Zuliani, Secretary, Ms. Pam Beaton Graves (at 7:05 p.m.) and Ms. Wendy Mead.

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

**Others present** – several parents with an interest in the hockey program were present as well as Ms. Susan Hebert and Scott Kennedy, high school teachers in charge of the annual senior class trip, and Mr. Delongchamp, Athletic Director.

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order** – Mr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2 – Citizens Forum** – no one wished to speak.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda**

Ms. Locurto moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the Minutes of the March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 meeting and the Bill Schedule of April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, as presented.

Carried 3/2, with Mr. Brennan and Ms.  
Beaton Graves abstaining

### **Agenda Item 4 – Student Update**

Susan Brennan, a member of the senior class, acting as a ‘student representative’, provided the following update:

- Advanced Placement (AP) testing will begin on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The prom is on May 8<sup>th</sup>, with a pre-prom program on May 6<sup>th</sup> by the district attorney’s office to hear about appropriate behavior and the potential consequences of inappropriate behavior. The prom will once again be held at the Biltmore Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island. At \$20 per person, the ‘prom bus’ is a less expensive transportation option than a limousine. This is a coach bus, with parent chaperones.
- Spring sports are in full gear.
- The student council is going to the regional Central Massachusetts conference. There is a wiffle ball tournament and a dance-a-thon in the planning stages, aimed at getting other kids involved. ‘Selectman Day’, in which there will be a mock town office is also in the planning stages.
- The seniors are just back from their trip to Florida, where a great time was had by all and the pilot and flight attendants made a special point of noting that the group was very polite on the plane.
- Finally, graduation is on June 5<sup>th</sup>!

### **Agenda Item 5 – Approve 2010 Senior Class Trip**

Ms. Susan Hebert, high school math teacher and senior class trip chaperone, presented next year's senior class trip proposal. The request is to again go to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. This year's juniors have been fundraising for this trip since their freshman year. There is a payment plan available. Arrangements are through Young's Travel. The dates of the trip are from April 15 – April 20, 2010, with students missing one day of school. Approximately 90 students are expected to participate, with a 10:1 ratio of students to chaperones.

One Committee member expressed disapproval of this trip as unnecessarily excessive and would like to see the senior trip be scaled down in favor of something much smaller and more local. With so many expenses in the senior year, this trip places an undue financial burden on families. Discussion ensued about how best to transition to a different trip; it would have to begin with the incoming freshman class as the planning begins at the freshman level for the senior class trip.

Ms. Locurto moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the 2010 Senior Class Trip as presented.

Carried 4/1, with Ms. Zuliani opposing the motion.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Discuss Proposed Ice Hockey Program**

Mr. DeLongchamp, Athletic Director, presented a packet of materials associated with the proposed cooperative agreement with the Northbridge Ice Hockey Program, including the MIAA Agreement and Parent Release Form for Transportation. Sutton students will be part of the Northbridge team. This provides an opportunity for Sutton students to play hockey. This agreement is for two years.

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Zuliani seconded to approve the cooperative agreement with Northbridge Ice Hockey Program contingent on the approval of Dr. Di Bella reviewing the final contract and the inclusion of the April 27<sup>th</sup> letter from the Northbridge athletic director.

Carried 4/1 with Ms. Locurto abstaining

### **Agenda Item 7 – FY '09 Budget Update**

As is noted in the memo in the meeting packet, Massachusetts General Law 30B, section 12(b) imposes a 3-year restriction on contracts. The district is seeking an exemption to this to extend, and spread the costs, for some equipment, transportation, and servers/hardware. The request is specific to those items listed on the attached memo.

Ms. Beaton Graves moved and Ms. Zuliani seconded to approve the memo as presented.

Carried 5/0

Ms. Rothermich then provided a 'budget to actual' update for the current FY '09 budget, highlighting certain accounts.

### **Agenda Item 8 – FY 2010 Budget Update**

A designer has been selected for the Simonian Center roof replacement that has put together an initial estimate. Two different materials are still being evaluated and will probably go with PVC, which is a lighter color and will have benefits to the solar panels with uplighting. There are some advantages in terms of the seams as well with PVC. \$869,000 will be on the Town Warrant for the roof replacement, with the understanding that intent is to go with solar. The solar part can be done after completion of the roof and the district plans to pursue a grant application, which is due at the end of May for solar, which

will result in a net cost to Sutton of \$309,350. Work on the roof is slated to begin as soon as school is over. The construction will have an impact on the accessibility of the area over the summer, including the summer care program and the fields surrounding the area.

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Mead seconded to amend the FY 2010 Textbook and Technology Capital Articles to be funded at \$80,000 for technology and \$60,000 for textbooks.

Carried 5/0

Ms. Rothermich noted that with the current budget, there is a funding gap of \$49,135, which may mean a layoff. Things may change, but likely not for the better.

Town meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup>. After Town Meeting, there will be work to do to balance the budget.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Superintendent’s Update**

Dr. Di Bella announced her intent to retire as Superintendent of the Suttons schools at the end of the 2009-2010 school year, 14 months hence. She affirmed her full commitment and devotion to her duties and the school district for the remainder of her time and will continue to pursue the goals set forth when she began in this role.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Superintendent Evaluation Planning**

This will be done at the next School Committee meeting, scheduled for next week.

#### **Agenda Item 11 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items**

- The School Building Committee will be holding interviews for OPM for the middle school/high school project for next three nights of the five that scored the highest from the SCBA worksheet. There will be presentations followed by a Q & A. This will be followed by a meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> to make a final decision, which will be announced on May 15<sup>th</sup> and submitted to the MSBA for approval.
- The Survey Monkey questionnaire will be on the next meeting agenda.
- The District Learning Team is wrapping up its work on the “definable measures of success” and will present to the full Committee soon.
- Will begin to develop a timeframe for the Superintendent search and transition.

#### **Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment to Executive Session**

At 8:14 p.m., Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiation, not to return to open session.

Carried 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,  
Recording Secretary