

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

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

**School Committee Members present** at the meeting were Mr. Paul Brennan, Ms. Liisa Locurto, Ms. Tracey Zuliani (out at 7:57 pm), Ms. Wendy Mead and newly elected member, Ms. Kristen Feifert Clark.

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

**Others present** – Ms. Barbara Wrenn, President, Sutton Teachers’ Association and Mr. Michael Whittier, High School Social Studies teacher.

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order** – Dr. Cecilia Di Bella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Agenda Item 2 – School Committee Reorganization**

Dr. Di Bella oversaw the initial reorganization of the Committee as follows:

- Mr. Brennan nominated and Ms. Mead seconded to appoint Ms. Lisa Locurto as Chairperson.

Carried 4/0 with Ms. Locurto abstaining

Dr. Di Bella then turned the meeting over to Ms. Locurto.

- Ms. Mead nominated and Mr. Brennan seconded to appoint Ms. Zuliani as Vice Chair.

Carried 4/0 with Ms. Zuliani abstaining

- Ms. Mead nominated and Mr. Brennan seconded to appoint Ms. Clark as Secretary.

Carried 4/0 with Ms. Clark abstaining

### **Agenda Item 3 – Citizens Forum**

Ms. Barbara Wrenn, president of the Sutton Teacher’s Association and Mr. Michael Whittier came before the Committee. They presented a statement of protest about the Committee’s recent decision to overturn the disciplinary actions imposed on a graduating senior in possession of alcohol on a school trip.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda**

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Zuliani seconded to approve the Minutes of the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

Ms. Mead moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session and the Minutes of the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

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

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the Bill Schedule of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Carried 5/0

### **Agenda Item 5 – Student Update**

Adam Wright and Dan Sylvia, the new student representatives, gave the following update:

- Scheduling for next years' courses is complete and any issues have been worked out with the guidance counselors.
- Several recent events have occurred, including the sports banquet, Senior Night, the annual Freshman/Sophomore dance, the Community Service Learning ice cream social, and the Senior prom. In addition, senior exams have been completed.
- On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be the Senior Reception, sponsored by the parents of the seniors. June 4<sup>th</sup> is Class Day and Graduation is on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Update on FY2010 Budget**

Dr. Di Bella noted that the district was able to close the budget gap without any changes in programming or staffing for next year. Sutton is one of a very few districts that is not cutting staff. While the district is still not out of woods with respect to the final state numbers, there is one open position; the assistant high school principal, which could remain unfilled if the numbers go lower. Ms. Mead moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the FY2010 budget as presented.

Carried 5/0

### **Agenda Item 7 – Review School Committee Goals**

Ms. Locurto reviewed the final version of the School Committee's goals as noted in the meeting packet, and addressed each individually in terms of activities related to each goal.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Update on Subcommittees**

- New Building – this project is moving along well. The selection process for the Owners Project Manager is down to three finalists, with a decision expected in the next couple of weeks.
- Policy – continuing along; only two sections left to review.
- District Learning Team – have developed an impressive document which the members are prepared to present to the Committee at any time.
- Superintendent's Evaluation – this has been done following the same process as in the past, with some minor tweaking.
- Media/Communication – will discuss this further at the summer retreat.
- Administrative Contracts – completed.
- Personnel – electronic documents irrevocably lost are being recreated.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Discuss Superintendent Search**

Ms. Locurto has arranged for two organizations; NESDEC (New England School Development Council) and MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) to present their resources for supporting the Superintendent Search at the next School Committee meeting, on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Discuss Annual Off-site Meeting**

While this meeting usually takes place during one full day in the summer, it will occur over two days this year, with items to discuss including the results of Survey Monkey, the School Committee's goals and the Superintendent's search. The two meetings will occur on July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent's Update**

Dr. Di Bella reported the following:

- Congratulations to Sandy Kerr for the excellent middle school and high school choral concerts.
- Congratulations to Middle School math teacher Kelly Whittier who will be honored at the Blackstone Valley Superintendents annual Teacher Recognition Breakfast on Friday at the Waters Mansion in Millbury. She was nominated by Gerry Goyette. She is the perfect choice.
- Congratulations to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who had a wonderful biography fair last week. There were many interesting historical figures represented. The students did a fabulous job as their characters as did the parents with the costumes and make up.
- Commendations to all gold medal winners from the Books & Beyond program at the Simonian Center and the Elementary School.
- Thank you to the citizens of Sutton for approving debt exclusion at the recent town meeting that will allow for the Simonian Center roof to be replaced. Thank you also to Jim Smith, Town Manager, for all of his efforts to support this project. It is expected that as soon as school ends on June 26<sup>th</sup>, the area will be cordoned off and work will begin.
- Graduation is Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Committee members are reminded that it is traditional for the members who are able to attend to march in the procession with Dr. Di Bella and to assist in handing out the diplomas.
- Survey Monkey has been available on the website for a couple weeks. There have been 129 responses from the faculty and staff and only 89 from the parents. This is distressing as we are very interested in the parents' responses. The survey will remain available until mid-June or possibly longer.

**Agenda Item 12 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items** – nothing to report at this time.

### **Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment to Executive Session**

At 8:01 pm, Ms. Mead moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussion contract negotiation, not to return to open session.

Carried 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,  
Recording Secretary