

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, June 15th, 2009.

School Committee Members present at the meeting were Ms. Liisa Locurto, Chairperson, Ms. Tracey Zuliani, Vice-chair, Ms. Kristen Feifert Clark, Secretary, Mr. Paul Brennan and Ms. Wendy Mead.

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

Others present – none present.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order – Ms. Locurto 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. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the Minutes of the June 1st, 2009 meeting and the Bill Schedule of June 15, 2009.

Carried 3/2 with Ms. Locurto and Mr.
Brennan abstaining

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update

None present to provide an update.

Agenda Item 5 – Presentation by MASC Regarding Superintendent Search

Ms. Patricia Correia, Field Director/Search Consultant, Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc. presented MASC's proposal for conducting a search for a superintendent to the Committee and answered questions about the search process.

Agenda Item 6 – Presentation by NESDEC Regarding Superintendent Search

Dr. Arthur Bettencourt and Dr. Charles 'Bud' Ferris, from New England School Development Council presented their proposal for conducting a comprehensive search for a superintendent to the Committee and answered questions about the search process.

Agenda Item 7 – Finalize 2009-2010 School Calendar

After the Committee approved the 2009-2010 calendar in March, it was discovered that there were two conflicts with the MCAS schedule for the March 5th and March 22nd Professional Development (PD) days. Thus, the administrators are proposing February 5th and February 8th, 2010 as the fourth and fifth PD days.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar as revised.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 8 – Approve Administrative Salary Increases for FY2010

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve a 2.5% increase to the base salaries for the administrators for FY 2010 as presented, which includes an exception for high school Principal Paul Daigle, whose compensation is restricted because of state retirement restrictions and excluding the Superintendent whose FY 2010 salary is under negotiation.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 9 – Superintendent’s Update

Dr. Di Bella reported the following:

- Recognition was given to two retirees from this year; Barbara Wrenn and Jan Boule who together have given nearly sixty years of service to Sutton schools. There was a good crowd at their retirement gathering last week; faculty, staff and both recent and not-so-recent alums came back to speak on their behalf. Best wishes to both for a long, happy and healthy retirement!
- ‘Survey Monkey’ will close on Friday, June 19th. Thus far, there have been 336 responses from parents and 127 from staff members; this is far beyond previous years!
- Congratulations to Jeff Padre and Dan Hall, members of the Class of 2009, who were runner’s up in the state Men’s Doubles tennis tournament.
- Thank you to the faculty, staff and parent volunteers for today’s Field Day, which was held indoors due to the weather. It was well-organized and lively, with no bugs or mud, just lots of fun for everyone.
- Congratulations to the 5th grade teachers and students for a wonderful science fair last Friday. The students spoke very well about their experiments and it was evident that they understand the scientific method. There were some fascinating projects, including one involving moldy bread; homemade bread was proven without a doubt to grow mold faster than store-bought bread, and teeth were shown to rot undeniably faster in soft and sports drinks rather than in water.

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

- Ms. Rothermich presented proposed end-of-year budget transfers. The \$578,013. FY ’09 federal stimulus grant has changed the way districts must spend out local monies at year-end. For Sutton it means that local and revolving account funds must be expended before the stimulus grant can be applied. The grant is designed to back-fill the reduction in fourth quarter FY ’09 Chapter 70 funds. As a result, the year-end budget wrap-up is very different and more complicated than previous years. There will be final budget transfers at the July 13th meeting.
Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the budget transfers as presented.

Carried 5/0

- The Committee’s summer retreat will take place over two days this year; on Friday, July 17th and Wednesday, August 19th at Unibank on Church Street in Whitinsville.
- The next meeting is on Monday, July 13th at 7pm.
- The Committee will make a decision about which search firm to retain at the next meeting on July 13th.
- Mr. Brennan noted that this year’s graduation was an excellent event and everyone at school did a terrific job and put on a great graduation event! The Band and Chorus did a great job.

Compliments to the high school staff, class advisors, to Terri Senecal as Marshall and to Mark Bailey for leading the group – it was very nicely done.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:46 pm, Ms. Mead moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, not to return to open session.

Carried 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary