

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1B of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, September 14th, 2009.

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

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

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 – Student Update – Adam Wright, one of this year’s Student Representatives, provided an update on recent student activities.

Agenda Item 3 – Adjourn to Executive Session – at 7:03 p.m., Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Feifert-Clark seconded to adjourn to Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, with the intent to return to open session.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 4 – Executive Session

Agenda Item 5 – Return to Open Session at 8:29 p.m.

Agenda Item 6 – Citizen Forum – no one wished to speak.

Agenda Item 7 – Consent Agenda

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Fiefert-Clark seconded to approve the Bill Schedule of September 14th, 2009 as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 8 – Review School Committee Goals and Retreat Topics – this item was tabled until the next meeting (October 4th, 2009).

Agenda Item 9 – Review Time Line for Superintendent Search – NESDEC has been retained to assist with the search for a superintendent to replace Dr. Di Bella upon her retirement at the end of the current school year. The Committee will next develop a brochure to be distributed to all superintendents throughout New England and other areas that where there might be candidates interested in coming to Sutton. A 13-member search committee will be established, to include representation from the Board of

Selectmen, the teachers, school staff and administration and the community. Anyone interested in serving on the search committee should send a letter of interest to the Office of the Superintendent. A training session will be held on January 9th, 2010, with interviews scheduled to take place during the week following. Interested parties must be able to attend the training and all interviews. In addition, there will be three different focus groups, to include administrators, teachers, parents and community members, tentatively planned for mid-November, to identify what attributes are desired in the next superintendent. The goal is to name a new superintendent by March, with an ideal start date of June 15th, 2010. Monthly progress updates will be given.

Agenda Item 10 – Update on Building Project – Ms. Mead and Dr. Di Bella provided an update on the very exciting progress on this project, which is now on an aggressive schedule; there is a very qualified project manager (OPM), Jon Winikur, who is the liaison with the architect, the town, and the state. The plan is to bring this project to the May 2010 town meeting. Two or three design options will be submitted to the MSBA by mid-November. This is looking like a mixed project; new construction and renovation. The OPM will give a presentation to the BOS next Tuesday, which will be the beginning of the public information campaign. The current thinking is to keep the core building, which is in good condition and can be renovated, but demolish and construct a new middle school/high school, as very little of those two buildings is salvageable. Agreement has been reached with the state on demographic projections which have allowed the project to move forward with the design, using the architect who had already conducted an earlier feasibility study.

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Feifert-Clark seconded to approve the Enrollment Projections Correspondence as prepared by the MSBA.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent’s Update

- It was a wonderful school opening, with everything going smoothly. With the exception of a few early glitches, the bus routes are going well. This is the first full week of school and the students are in the swing of things.
- The Simonian Center roof project is almost complete, with the final clean-up going on outside. A few skylight issues are being resolved.
- The Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State College is conducting an assembly for elementary students on bullying and teasing later this week. It will also air on the local cable channel and will be followed by a parent coffee later in the month.
- There will be a presentation to high school students later this week on alcohol and drugs and offering students a way to make responsible choices in this regard. The presenter is an award-winning speaker on these issues,. Parents are encouraged to view it on tape.
- The Board of Selectmen and the School Committee will be holding a joint meeting next Tuesday, September 21st, to look at the FY '10 budget and how it is being balanced at the October Town Meeting in light of reductions to local aid in late June. There will also be a very preliminary discussion about the FY 2011 budget. Jon Winikur will present a status report on the Building Project.
- Finally, parents’ attention is called to the district website, where there is the most current material on the H1N1 influenza virus, including an important and updated memorandum and guidelines. There is a back-to-school update provided by the Department of Health. Parents are urged to read and follow it. The school will be a vaccination site and will be looking for volunteers in health care profession to help to administer the vaccines.

Agenda Item 12 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items –

- The School Committee’s Goals and a summary of last summer’s Retreat will be discussed at the next meeting.
- There will be a joint meeting with the Selectmen at 7:30 p.m. next Tuesday, which the public is invited to attend.
- At the October 4th School Committee meeting, members of the Art Department will come before the Committee for review and approval of their planned out-of-state trip.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:58 p.m., Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Feifert-Clark seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Carried 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary