

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1B of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, October 5th, 2009.

School Committee Members present at the meeting were Ms. Liisa Locurto, Chairperson, Ms. Tracey Zuliani, Vice-chair, Ms. Kristen Feifert Clark, Secretary, Ms. Wendy Mead, and Mr. Paul Brennan (at 7:04 p.m.).

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 – Citizen Forum – no one wished to speak.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 19th, March 23rd, and April 27th, 2009.

Carried 3/0, with Ms. Feifert-Clark abstaining.

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Feifert-Clark seconded to approve the Minutes of the September 14th, 2009 meeting and the Bill Schedule of October 5th, 2009.

Carried 4/0

Mr. Brennan arrived.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the March 5th, 2009.

Carried 2/3, with Ms. Mead, Ms. Zuliani and Ms. Feifert-Clark abstaining.

Ms. Zuliani moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 4th and May 18th, 2009.

Carried 3/2, with Ms. Mead and Ms. Feifert-Clark abstaining.

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update – no student representatives present to provide an update.

Agenda Item 5 – Field Trip Requests

Mr. Mark Bailey presented his field trip request to travel by bus to Wilmington, Delaware with approximately 30 art students to visit four attractions in the area from April 8-10, 2010, with one chaperone for every ten students. Mr. Bailey presented a detailed educational framework for the trip. Ms. Mead moved and Mr. Brennan seconded a motion to approve Mr. Bailey's field trip to Pennsylvania.

Carried 5/0

Ms. Christiano presented a request to return to Camp Sunshine in Maine with 4-5 students from November 12-15, using one of the school district's vans. Camp Sunshine is a year-round camp located in Casco, Maine for children with life threatening illnesses and their families. Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Zuliani seconded a motion to approve Ms. Christiano's field trip request.

Carried 5/0

Mr. Delongchamp presented his field trip request to travel by bus to Quebec City, Canada with approximately 40 students in February, with one chaperone for every ten students. Mr. Delongchamp also presented a detailed educational framework for the trip.

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve Mr. Delongchamp's overnight field trip to Quebec City, Canada.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 6 – Review 2009 MCAS Scores

Ms. DiLeo presented an analysis of the Sutton School District's 2009 MCAS scores, as compared to the State data, to the Committee, which is also available on the Sutton Public Schools website (www.suttonschools.net). Specific item analysis has not yet been done. Overall, as students move through the system Sutton students continue to perform very well.

Agenda Item 7 – Review School Committee Goals and Retreat Topics

Ms. Locurto presented the six goals of the School Committee, as developed during the two summer retreats. The second goal, to refine indicators of success developed by the District Learning Team, will be discussed in detail at a future meeting. Ms. Locurto then highlighted areas of concern raised by the many respondents in last spring's Survey Monkey. The Committee noted that it was grateful for the high response rate and will work to address the issues.

Agenda Item 8 – Review Changes to Open Meeting Law

Ms. Mead identified the now finalized changes to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law as they pertain to the School Committee.

Agenda Item 9 – Update on Superintendent Search

The search committee has developed a brochure to market the position to potential candidates, highlighting the attributes of both the position and the Town of Sutton. The Committee agreed to the 'Option 1' wording as is currently presented in brochure. This will be printed and distributed and made available online by NESDEC.

Agenda Item 10 – Update on School Building Committee

Ms. Mead provided an update on this project which, while now fast-moving with an aggressive timeline, has been six years in the making. At the next Building Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 7th at 7pm, our OPM will unveil various building options. This meeting will be followed by a public forum about the process to date and the building options on Thursday, October 15th at 7pm in the middle school auditorium, which all town residents are strongly encouraged to attend. An important point of note is that the plan is not designed to add additional staff or classrooms; rather, it is to improve the current classrooms to be more modern and educationally appropriate.

Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent’s Update

- Reminder that there is no school on either Columbus Day, Monday, October 12th or Tuesday, October 13th, for the second Professional Development day of the school year.
- The official enrollment for the school has been released, which shows a total of 1,591 students, 33 fewer than last year. This decrease can be attributed to a decrease in school choice students as well as expanded enrollment in Blackstone Valley Tech. Other than these decreases, the enrollment numbers are stable, if not slightly higher than in the 2008-9 school year.
- At the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen two weeks ago, the Town Administrator reviewed the town-wide budget cuts, which included \$110,000 in cuts from the school budget. The school budget was able to absorb this cut by not filling the open position of assistant principal and through some savings in transportation costs. He did touch briefly on the FY 2011 budget, noting that the due date for submission of the FY 2011 budget is February 2, 2010.
- The joint MASS/MASC conference will be held from November 18th-21st in Hyannis. Any school committee members able to attend should let Linda know.
- At the next meeting, on November 9th, Ms. Rothermich will give a fiscal update, to include a cost analysis in terms of the school district’s vehicles.
- Regarding the H1N1 virus, the school district is working very closely with the town to remain on top of this and to coordinate the vaccination efforts. Informational material has been ordered and will be distributed when available. Vaccinations, which are voluntary, will be administered at the schools. Students in grades 8-12 will be given the shot during the school day. Afternoon school flu clinics will be held for students in grades K-7 who must be accompanied by a parent. All students must have a signed parental consent form to receive a vaccination. If a student is sent home ill, the student must be excluded from school and may not return until s/he is fever-free for at least 24 hours. Parents are reminded that they should be thinking of contingency plans now for the care of that ill child.

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

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 9:10 p.m., Ms. Mead moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and not to return to open session.

Carried 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary