

Sutton School Committee **Sutton, Massachusetts 01590**

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, December 7th, 2009.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Dr. Cecilia Di Bella, Superintendent, Ms. Susan Rothermich, Business Manager, Mr. Gerry Goyette, Middle School Principal, Mr. Paul Daigle, High School Principal, Ms. Lucille DiLeo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Others present

No others 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

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Fiefert-Clark seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update

Adam Wright provided a student update as follows:

- Practices have begun for the winter sports, with the first games taking place this weekend.
- The Drama Club presented three excellent performances of the play “Arsenic and Old Lace” at the end of November.
- MEFA gave a presentation to senior students and their parents on November 16th about financial aid available for college.
- Parent night took place on November 19th, with afternoon and evening meetings with the teachers.
- On November 20th, University of Rhode Island drama students presented the play “A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream” to the students in the Shakespeare classes and all of the sophomores.
- Meet the Coaches night, an opportunity for the students and parents to meet the winter sports coaches, took place on November 23rd.
- There will be a High School Band concert on Wednesday, December 9th for the students, with the regular concert in the evening on Thursday, December 10th in the Early Learning Center.
- Progress Reports will be issues on December 11th.

- The High School Chorus concert will take place in the Early Learning Center at 7 pm on December 17th.
- H1N1 flu shots were administered at the school today to students who were pre-registered.
- Ms. Locurto noted that the new hockey cooperative with Northbridge will be launched with a jamboree this Sunday.

Agenda Item 5 – Report on Superintendent Search Focus Group

Dr. “Bud” Ferris of NESDEC, the organization retained to assist with the search for new superintendent, gave a profile summary of the results of the recent focus sessions. They were attended by approximately 25 people, in which attendees were asked what attributes a superintendent should possess and what activities should a new superintendent focus on. This profile will serve as the basis for evaluation as the search committee reviews resumes and interviews candidates. It will be available on the school website with a copy in the superintendent’s office. Dr. Ferris also indicated that there have been several inquiries about the position. Applications are due December 28th.

Agenda Item 6 – Update on Middle School and High School Improvement Plans and AYP Status

Mr. Gerry Goyette provided an update on the Middle School Improvement Plan and explained the school’s AYP status and current interventions to address the needs of the students identified.

Mr. Paul Daigle provided an update on the High School Improvement Plan and outlined proposed changes in the graduation requirements for the Class of 2011.

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to change the graduation requirement to include two years of the same foreign language with individual exemptions based on guidance counselor/principal’s discretion.

Mr. Brennan and Ms. Feifert-Clark opposed the motion; the motion was tied at 2/2 and thus did not pass.

Agenda Item 7 – Approve FY’11 Capital Plan

Sue Rothermich presented the FY 2011 Capital Plan which will be submitted to the Town Manager later in the week.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Locurto seconded to approve the FY’11 Capital Plan as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 8 – Discuss FY’11 Budget Priorities

Mrs. Rothermich reviewed the preliminary FY ’11 budget estimates. There are substantial increases in SPED tuition and transportation and modest increases in fuel oil and the transportation contract. With the increase of projected contractual salary increases, it appears from these early sketches that the school department will need at least a 6% budget increase for FY ’11. At the next meeting Mrs. Rothermich will present a preliminary budget.

Agenda Item 9 – Update on School Building Project

All materials for the MSBA’s deadline have been submitted on time; now awaiting feedback from the MSBA regarding the submittals.

The Environmental Protection Agency has significantly reduced the ‘no touch’ zone around the well heads (to 163 feet from 250 feet), which gives more flexibility for the building design – this is very good news.

Public information regarding the building project is available both through a link on the Sutton School website and link on the school website to the town’s website. All members of the community are encouraged to stay informed about this important Town project.

Agenda Item 10 – Superintendent’s Update

Dr. Di Bella offered the following:

- There have been a number of H1N1 flu clinics in last few weeks and over 500 students have been inoculated. Thank you to the nurses and student volunteers for helping out! There will be a follow-up clinic on December 16th for youngest students to receive their second vaccination. In addition, the Sutton Board of Health will be conducting community clinics after the holidays. All pertinent school information will be transmitted via ‘Alert Now’.
- From 6-8 pm on Wednesday, December 9th, Paul Reville, Massachusetts Secretary of Education, will be conducting a community forum on FY ‘11 budget. The forum will take place in the Sutton Middle School auditorium and is open to faculty, staff and the public from communities in the Blackstone Valley.
- Hats off to Liisa Locurto and Kathy Lorkiewicz for another fabulous and very successful Chain of Lights! School events were very well attended and the middle school PTO served food this year, which was a nice addition. And hats off to the band for playing in the snow on Saturday evening!
- This is ‘concert season’ which is always a delight. The high school band concert will be this Thursday evening at 7pm. The high school chorus concert will be on December 17th at 7pm, the middle school 6th grade band concert will take place tomorrow, December 8th, the 7th and 8th grade band concert will be this Wednesday and finally, the middle school chorus concert will be on December 16th.
- Reminder to parents that there will be a full day of school on 12/23.
- There are two fundraisers going on for the Sutton Teachers Association Scholarship Fund; next Wednesday only, on December 16th, both Pizza Uno and Barnes and Noble in Millbury will donate 20% of all net sales to the Sutton Teachers Association Scholarship Fund.

Agenda Item 11 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items – nothing at this time.

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:52 p.m., Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Zuliani seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, not to return to open session.

Carried 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary