

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

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, February 8, 2010.

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

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

**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**

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Carried 4/0

**Agenda Item 4 – Student Update**

Neither student representatives were present to provide an update.

**Agenda Item 5 – Discuss 2010-2011 School Calendar**

Dr. Di Bella presented the draft version of the calendar as discussed and approved by the administration. Discussion ensued and the Committee made a suggestion, which Dr. Di Bella will review and bring back to the Committee at the next meeting. Ms. Mead, as in the past, went on record opposing the Good Friday holiday as a day off, as it is a religious designation, which is inappropriate in a public school.

**Agenda Item 6 – Update on Superintendent Search**

All four candidates were interviewed last week. The meeting scheduled for this Wednesday will possibly be rescheduled for Friday at the same time, given the current forecast for bad weather on Wednesday. Site visits are scheduled over the course of three days (with the two candidate's schools that are geographically close to each other occurring in the same day). All candidates have submitted writing samples.

**Agenda Item 7 – Update on Building Committee**

Last Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> was the second Building Forum, in which a presentation was made of the chronology and evolution of the project. The process, cost, design and timeline were discussed. The second major topic of discussion was what happens if the project is not approved. There is a likely cost

of approximately \$35 million to bring the existing buildings up to code. It is highly unlikely that MSBA will share these costs. In addition, if the new building project is not approved, accreditation issues will remain. The alternative is an approximate building cost of \$32 million to go forward with the new building project. A substantial amount of documentation is due by this Friday to the MBSA. The schematic design is on website. The MBSA will make a decision in five weeks, which puts the project on track for a vote at the May town meeting. Kudos to those members of the building committee, particularly those who have been on this committee for many years now!

### **Agenda Item 8 – Superintendent’s Update**

Dr. Di Bella offered the following:

- Congratulations to Cameron Loss and the High School Drama Group on last week’s wonderful presentation of ‘The Curious Savage’; it was a fabulous play. This is the Clubs’ 3<sup>rd</sup> year and the level of expertise and quality in every aspect of performance has risen steadily each year. The play will be rebroadcast on cable for anyone who missed it.
- Sutton Education Foundation Trust (SEFT) annual dinner dance will be held on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Pleasant Valley Country Club. SEFT does much to fill in the financial gaps with grants to support the teachers and their work. This event is its primary fundraiser. The online auction is active already at <http://www.biddingforgood.com/seft>.
- Last week, the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school occurred, complete with much celebration. The younger students found many fun ways to portray ‘100 days’.
- The budget numbers for FY2011 have been released by the State House; between Chapter 70 and Town numbers, it is looking like a level-funded budget, which means an appropriation from the State and the Town equal to the FY2010 budget. The School Committee adopted a budget that is over \$700,000 higher. The school department will be working closely with the Town Administrator to find a way to align the numbers. Once again, it will be difficult.

### **Agenda Item 9 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items**

The next School Committee meeting will be on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It will begin early, at 6pm, to come to a decision about the new superintendent. Once the decision has been made, the Committee will take a short break to contact the successful candidate, after which, the regular meeting will resume.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment to Executive Session**

At 7:37 p.m., Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Carried 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,  
Recording Secretary