

Sutton School Committee Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, April 5, 2010.

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

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

Others present – Mr. Ted Friend, the new Superintendent of Sutton Public Schools, Ms. Ann Zimage, Ms. Robin Millea and Ms. Karen Matson, Sutton school nurses.

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 Consent Agenda, as presented.

Carried 4/1, with Mr. Brennan abstaining

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update

Dan Sylvia presented the following:

- The Art trip to Philadelphia and Brandywine Valley is coming up on April 8th- 10th, with planned visits to the Delaware Art Museum, the Brandywine River Museum and the Longwood Gardens. Students will be staying in the Wilmington, Delaware area.
- Upcoming events for the seniors include:
 - May 18th – Hypnotist Night
 - May 24th – last day of classes, followed by exams, beginning on May 25th
 - May 25th – Athletic Banquet
 - May 28th – first graduation rehearsal
 - June 4th – Graduation
- The Prom bus to the Crown Plaza in Worcester is \$10-20 per student.
- Spring sports have started off well.
- The Senior class held a meeting to discuss behavior on the upcoming Senior Trip to Florida.

Agenda Item 5 – Report on New Health Screening Law

Ann Zimage, Robin Millea, and Karen Matson presented and discussed the new state regulations that require school nurses to collect additional information to calculate student's body mass index (BMI). There was also a discussion regarding healthy food choices in the cafeteria and the district's several related initiatives such as Healthy Snack Day at the Simonian Center.

Agenda Item 6 – Update on Technology

Ms. DiLeo and Ms. Rothermich provided a review of the substantial progress in instructional and administrative technology in the school system over the past three years. Ms. Rothermich addressed the technology and hardware. Ms. DiLeo spoke to the software, both using a 2007 report on technology as a baseline to describe the updates. Dr. Di Bella acknowledged the Town's support for our technology advances though its approval of our capital plan and budget over the past four years.

Agenda Item 7 – Update on FY'11 Budget

Dr. Di Bella noted that the FY'11 budget gap has been closed slightly from just over \$700,000 to around \$651,000. The challenge is to maintain the integrity of the District's program and to maintain small class size while bridging this budget gap. One proposed method to help to close the gap is the next agenda item; the pay rate for substitute teachers. The district is still awaiting final numbers on Chapter 70 funds.

Agenda Item 8 – Discuss Rate for Substitute Teachers

Ms. Rothermich presented a summary of a survey of other district's rates versus Sutton's current rates, with discussion about the possibility of adding additional tiers to the pay schedule with the expectation of reducing costs in this area. This topic will be brought back for further discussion after consultation with the school principals.

Agenda Item 9 – Approval of Overnight Trip to Camp Sunshine

Ms. Mead moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the student trip to Camp Sunshine, as amended; to waive the student fee such that there will be no charge to the student volunteers. Rather, the gas, tolls and any other actual costs associated with the trip will be charged to the 'Field Trip' account in the general ledger.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 10 – Update on Building Committee

Ms. Mead stated that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) voted last week to approve Sutton's school building project. This means that Sutton will be funded through grant money from the state at a final reimbursement rate of 55.39%. Any part of the project that has been approved by the MSBA will be reimbursed at this rate. However, there are portions of the project that are deemed by the MBSA to be not reimbursable. These things include renovation to administrative spaces, costs associated with restoring or improving athletic fields after completion of building construction, and the cost of storage spaces. Given these non-reimbursable expenses, the ultimate cost to the town will be about 50% of the total cost of the project of \$29.5-30.5 million. Passage by a two-thirds majority at Town Meeting on May 10th will allow the question to be put to a vote on May 25th. Construction is expected to begin next March, 2011. Phasing of the project is described on the Building Committee's website. It is important to note that there is an equal, if not larger, non-reimbursable cost to the Town to not going forward with this project. These costs are associated with bringing the existing buildings up to current code, with the remaining risk of still not meeting accreditation levels as well as the many years of disruption to the schools to complete several very complex projects such as HVAC or roof systems.

Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent's Update

Dr. Di Bella offered the following:

- Reminder to parents that bus payments are due on May 1st.

- As required by the ‘No Child Left Behind’ Act, a District report card and a school report card will be included with each child’s report card, reporting on test scores and other information.
- On Friday, April 16th, the Simonian Center and the Elementary School are having a parent volunteer breakfast to thank all of the wonderful parents for all that they do during the year.
- This week, the Simonian Center and the Elementary School are celebrating science week with many great activities.
- Mrs. Keddy’s class has done a great job with their ‘outrageous organ facts’ project. The fact sheets are on display when you walk through the middle school.
- On April 30th, the Community Service Learning program is sponsoring a Campaign for Hunger – information is available on the school website.
- Within this month’s National Grid (electric) bill this month, there is a piece about solar installations in Sutton, Massachusetts; there have been a number of installations in town and mention was made of the upcoming installation at the Simonian Center.

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

Nothing for discussion at this time.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:44pm, Ms. Feifert Clark moved and Ms. Mead seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and not return to open session.

Carried 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary