

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, May 24, 2010.

School Committee Members present at the meeting were Ms. Liisa Locurto, Chairperson, Ms. Kristen Feifert Clark, Mr. Paul Brennan (at 7:02 p.m.), Ms. Wendy Mead, and Ms. Tracey Zuliani.

Administrators present at the meeting were Dr. Cecilia Di Bella, Superintendent, Ms. Sue Rothermich, Mr. Breault, Ms. Dubeau, Mr. Stamos, and Mr. Ted Friend.

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.

Dr. Di Bella called for a moment of silence and an offer of condolences to the family of Jennifer Treat, a member of the Class of 2010, whose father passed suddenly this morning.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

Ms. Feifert Clark moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the Bill Schedule of May 24, 2010, as presented.

Carried 4/0

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the Minutes of the April 26, 2010 meeting, as presented.

Carried 5/0

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the Minutes of the May 3, 2010 meeting, as presented.

Carried 4/0, with Ms. Mead abstaining

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update

Neither student representatives were present to provide an update.

Agenda Item 9 – Superintendent’s Update

- The Blackstone Valley’s Superintendent’s Association nominates exemplary teachers who go above and beyond in terms of developing and implementing innovative curriculum through the ‘Promising Practices Celebration’. This year, Denielle Stasa and Kyle VanDenBerghe from the Middle School, will be recipients of the honor. They were nominated for their Ancient Rome recreation project, which they have done for the past several year, which is an exuberant, creative, and multi-disciplinary project. There will be a celebratory breakfast at the Asa Waters Mansion.
- Congratulations to the Music Department for another outstanding series of spring concerts; the High School Band concert was phenomenal, particularly the Jazz group. Also, Sandy Kerr’s Chorus concert last week, which included a student-created video accompanying the ‘Song for an Unsung Hero’, was outstanding.

- Information on the legislation and the new law regarding bullying, harassment and teasing is included in the meeting packet. Sutton takes this very seriously and there will be considerable teacher development going forward.

Agenda Item 6 – Review School Improvement Plans for Simonian Center and Elementary School

First, Ms. Dubeau summarized the Simonian Center's School Improvement Plan, then Mr. Breault summarized the Elementary School's Improvement Plan, both noting the extensions, expansions and new features of the respective Improvement Plans.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the revised Student Handbooks, as presented.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 5 – Approve 2011 Senior Trip

Mr. Stamos presented the 2011 Senior Trip to Disney World, with a request for approval.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Mead seconded to approve the 2011 Senior Trip, as presented.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 7 – Review School Choice Advisory Opinion

Dr. Di Bella reviewed her memorandum in which she proposes that the School Choice cap of three students per grade be increased for the upcoming kindergarten class to normalize the class size to an overall cap of 122 students. After considerable discussion, it was determined that it is the desire of the Committee to retain the current policy of accepting three students per grade and will revisit the proposal to increase the cap for kindergarten, and perhaps all grades, at a later date.

Agenda Item 8 – Update on Building Project

Tomorrow, May 25th is the Town vote for the School Building Project, please get out and vote!

Agenda Item 10 – New Business, Agenda items, Action Items

- A very big 'thank you' to Wendy Mead for her four years of challenging and excellent service to the school committee; this is her last meeting as a member of the School Committee.
- A concern was raised about members of the track team seen out running on the roads and not wearing the bright, reflective vests, as required.
- Reminder to parents and staff to please complete the Survey Monkey questions, which will be available on the www.suttonschools.net website until the end of the month.
- Graduation will take place on Friday, June 4th.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:40 p.m., Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and not return to open session.

Carried 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary