

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in Room 1A of the Sutton Municipal Center on Tuesday, June 22 2010.

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

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

Others present at the meeting were Mr. Michael Whittier, representing the Sutton Teacher's Association, and Ms. Elaine Valk, representing the Sutton Education Support Association.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Ms. Locurto called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, with the intent to return to open session.

Carried 5/0

The Committee returned to Open Session at 7:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Citizen Forum

No one wished to speak.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 4 – Ratify 2010-2011 Contract with Sutton Teacher's Association

Mr. Michael Whittier presented and Dr. Di Bella reviewed the six items noted in the one-year Memorandum of Agreement between the Sutton School Committee and the Sutton Teacher's Association, effective September 1, 2010.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, as presented.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 5 – Ratify 2010-2011 Contract with Sutton Education Support Association

Ms. Elaine Volk presented and Dr. Di Bella read the summary of the major agreements noted in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Sutton School Committee and the Sutton Education Support Association, a three-year agreement, effective July 1, 2010.

Dr. Di Bella read the highlights of the agreement

Ms. Feifert Clark moved and Mr. Brennan seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, as presented.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 6 – Finalize Calendar for 2010-2011 School Year

The calendar has been altered slightly to reflect the fewer Professional Development Days, as agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding. Professional Development (PD) days will be on October 8, 2010, and March 18, 2011. The other three days that were PD days, would be ‘no school’ days.

A proposal was made to eliminate the ‘no school’ days on January 18, 2011 and February 28, 2011, with the 180th day being June 8th, 2011, and the 185th day being June 15th.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the 2010-2011 School Calendar, as amended, with school in session on January 18th and February 28th, and the 180th day on June 8, 2011 and the 185th day on June 15, 2011.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 7 – Award Bids for Cafeteria and School Supplies

Ms. Rothermich presented the results of the bidding for the contracts for the cafeteria and the school supplies.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to award the bid for the cafeteria and school supplies to the French River Association.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 8 – Award Bid for Management of Wastewater Treatment Plant

Ms. Rothermich presented the results of the bidding for the contract to manage the wastewater treatment plant. In Ms. Rothermich’s analysis of the four bid packages received, the recommendation is for Whitewater, the vendor. This is a 1-year contract, with a two year extension option.

Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to award the contract for the management of the wastewater treatment plant to Whitewater.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 9 – Finalize FY’11 School Department Budget

Ms. Rothermich presented the most current budget, as of today, June 22, 2010, with the most significant changes in the Special Education costs.

Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Limanek seconded to approve the FY’11 Budget with the recommended changes outlined in today’s handout, including an increase to the School Choice encumbrance from \$480,000 to \$645, 070.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 10 – Develop Agenda Items for School Committee Retreat

A list of agenda items was suggested for the July 20th School Committee Retreat. The agenda will be finalized in the next several weeks. Any additional ideas should be sent to Ms. Locurto.

Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent’s Update

- There have been a number of wonderful end-of-year events in the last couple of weeks, including graduation, move-up ceremonies.
- Congratulations to the Boys tennis team, which had a great season and went very, very far. Congratulation to the coach, Dennis Stamos.
- The Sutton Teacher’s Association has an annual event in which they honor the retirees. This year, three ‘legends’ of the teaching staff in the Simonian center are retiring; Susan Halacy, Grade One Teacher, Deborah Metzger, Grade Two Teacher, and Susan Penterson, Grade One Teacher. Between the three of them, they represent just about 100 years of service to Sutton Schools. Best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement!
- In a ceremony on June 11th, State Treasurer and Massachusetts School Building Authority (MBSA) Chairman, Tim Cahill and Katherine Craven, MBSA Executive Director presented Jim Smith, Town Administrator, with a check in the amount of \$29,843,511, made out to the Town of Sutton, for the school building project. It was a very exciting and wonderful morning!
- Thank you to the committee and the people of Sutton for a very good five years! They have been very productive. The school system is stable in the face of difficult budgetary and financial times and is facing a busy time, with the upcoming new building project. Overall, the district is in better shape than it was in five years ago.

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

The wording for the current School Choice Policy must be revised to reflect the one year agreement with the Sutton Teacher’s Association, which allowed, for this upcoming school year only, that all requests, as of May 1, 2010, with the exception of the incoming 4th grade class, be accepted. In total, 31 seats were opened up, across the grades (20 in kindergarten, due to a very small incoming kindergarten class, and 11 more across the other grades), with the exception of grade 4.

Ms. Zuliani moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to revise the School Choice Policy for this one year only, to accept all of the 31 requests, as of May 1, 2010, for school choice, with the exception of the requests for incoming grade 4.

Carried 5/0

Michael Whittier and Elaine Volk, on behalf of the entire staff, presented a gift to Dr. Di Bella as a token of appreciation for all of her efforts and the tremendous amount of work that she has done for the children of Sutton during the five years of her time as the Superintendent of the Sutton Schools.

The School Committee presented Dr. Di Bella with a framed print of the future Sutton School Complex, as a token of their deep gratitude for all of her hard work and dedication to Sutton.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:50 p.m., Mr. Brennan moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to adjourn.

Carried 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary