

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Meeting Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, September 13, 2010.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Mr. Ted Friend, Superintendent, Mrs. Lauren Dubeau, Simonian Center Principal, Mrs. Margo Austein, Special Education Director, Mr. Michael Breault, Principal, Elementary School Principal, Ms. Susan Rothermich, Business Administrator.

Others present – no others were present at the meeting.

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 Mr. Limanek seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, with a clarification to the Minutes from the August 30th meeting; clarifying that the school-wide Open House on September 16th, noted in the ‘Student Update’, will be an Open House for the High School, rather than the entire school system.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update

Neither of the Student Representatives was present to provide an update.

Agenda Item 5 – Update from the Simonian Center and Elementary School

Ms. Lauren Dubeau and Mr. Michael Breault provided a recap of the beginning of the school year activities to date, and a summary of the events to come at the Simonian Center and the Elementary School, respectively, for the remainder of September.

Agenda Item 6 – Update from the Special Education Director

Ms. Margo Austein provided an update on the district-wide Special Education program, and gave an update on district placements; both in and out of the district, as well as other initiatives in the district.

Agenda Item 7 – Approve Purchase of Two Floor Machines

It is an inefficient use of the custodian's time to use a mop and bucket to strip the large number of square feet of uncarpeted, tile flooring throughout the Simonian Center and the Elementary schools. Mr. Friend proposed the purchase of two floor-cleaning machines; one for each of the two buildings, through School Choice funds.

Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Limanek seconded to approve the purchase of two Clark 20" Boost Auto Scrubber floor cleaning machines, at the cost of \$5,397.00 each.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 8 – Budget Review

Ms. Rothermich provided a financial update and review of the FY2011 School Budget, as of September 9, 2010.

Agenda Item 9 – Second Reading Sections A-F of Policy Manual

Led by Ms. Locurto and Mr. Brennan, who serve on the Policy subcommittee, the Committee conducted a second reading of Sections A-F of the Policy Manual. A few changes were noted, which will be incorporated. These sections will be revised accordingly, prior to the third reading of these sections at the next meeting, on September 27th.

Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Limanek seconded to allow the Superintendent to insert 'homelessness' to the eight protected categories, as applicable.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 10 – Superintendent's Update

- It is important that the community be aware that when the Teachers' Association agreed to forgo steps and lane increases, so that no positions would be lost in the latest contract, there was a caveat that if the federal government put through the stimulus money for teacher retention, the contract must be re-opened for negotiation. As that is now the case, the contract will be reopened for negotiations. There will be a meeting with the Teachers' Association next Monday.
- Mr. Friend will be working with Susan Howard, the Chair of the Sutton Education Foundation Trust, to recruit to fill the positions on the board that will be open next year – all of the positions will be open. This organization raises money, which it provides to teachers, through grants, to cover expenses for programs/projects not covered by the budget.
- Mr. Friend is continuing to meet and develop relationships with members of the community, including the senior center. One idea that has been put forth is to create a 'time capsule project' with the students to be part of the school building project.
- The District Learning Team will have its first meeting on Wednesday, October 13th at 6 pm. There is an opening for 1-3 community members, who do not have students in schools. Anyone interested can contact the Superintendent's office.
- As part of the initiative to improve the nutrition in the schools, two snack machines were removed from the cafeteria last week. Overall, the district appears to be farther along than people might

realize. Mr. Friend is working with the cafeteria managers and will have more information for the Committee in the near future.

- Mr. Friend noted that his personal goals for the year are the District Learning Team, the budget, the Teacher's contract, and the building project.
- In observing the kindergarteners and speaking with their teachers, there is much to be very pleased about in terms of the philosophy of learning at the kindergarten level, especially in looking forward to how well the 10th graders do on their test scores.
- The School Building Committee is asking to have the 2011-2012 school year calendar approved by December.
- With respect to the bus issues mentioned at the last meeting, Sue Rothermich worked with the bus company and many of the concerns that parents had have now been alleviated.
- Much is being covered in the Sutton school district to address bullying. However, in terms of how to meet the requirements of the new anti-bullying law, the district is seeking guidance on specifically how to meet the law.
- MCAS results will be out next week. The data allows the district to assess and make informed instructional decisions.

Agenda Item 11 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items

There is a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen at 7 p.m., next Tuesday, September 21st, with the candidate who has applied for the open position on the School Committee.

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment

At 9:42 p.m., Mr. Brennan moved and Mr. Limanek seconded to adjourn.

Carried 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena,
Recording Secretary