

Sutton School Committee **Sutton, Massachusetts 01590**

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Meeting Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, January 24, 2011.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Mr. Ted Friend, Superintendent, Ms. Lucille DiLeo, and Ms. Susan Rothermich, Business Manager.

Others present – Mr. Michael Whittier, President, Sutton Teacher’s Association.

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

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 4 – Recognition of Superintendent’s Scholar

Mr. Friend recognized Ms. Stephanie Gonthier, a Sutton High School Senior, as this year’s Superintendent’s Scholar. She has ranked first in her class since her sophomore year and is the current president of the National Honor Society. She is actively involved in community service, has been a dancer for most of her life, and has taken several Advanced Placement classes.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearing on FY2012 Budget

A public hearing was held on the FY2012 budget.

Agenda Item 6 – Adjourn Public Hearing

At 7:02 p.m., Ms. Feifert Clark moved and Mr. Jerome seconded to adjourn the public hearing.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 7 – Discuss/Adopt FY2012 Budget

Mr. Friend and Ms. Rothermich presented the FY2012 Budget. The level-funded budget increases by \$71,979 from the FY2011 operating budget. However, with the loss in Federal Stimulus funds, there is a \$353,322k shortfall, which already includes a cut in five teaching positions. Other areas of concern for FY2012 include a loss of State Chapter 70 funds, potential increase in special education costs, and an anticipated increase in heating cost. The amount of revenue to the Town for FY2012 is not yet known.

At 7:53 p.m., the public hearing was re-opened. Mr. Michael Whittier addressed the Committee with comments on the impact of the potential cuts to the budget.

Ms. Feifert Clark moved and Mr. Jerome seconded to adopt the FY2012, as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 8 – Superintendent’s Update

Mr. Friend provided the following:

- The Literacy Challenge Committee and the District Learning Team will be meeting Wednesday, January 26th at 3:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. respectively, in the middle/high school library. These are public meetings and all are welcome to attend. There are some good ideas evolving for the Literacy Challenge, which will promote both literacy and fitness, and will combine those efforts, and involve the community. The District Learning Team is working on developing their mission statement.
- Sixty-nine students from Sutton were part of a random sampling of grade 4 students who were chosen to participate in state testing. Results will be compared to students from other states and to students from other countries.
- Contract negotiations are underway with the Sutton Teachers’ Association; there have been three meetings so far, with three additional meetings scheduled.
- The Building Committee met last week; consensus was reached on a number of design items, and the modular classrooms will be bid as a separate bid item, as these must be on site and set up sooner than other bid items.

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

- Mr. Smith, Town Manger, has presented a letter noting that as part of the Green Community initiative the Town is adopting, and the School Committee must adopt a policy to adhere to environmental standards, when purchasing new vehicles. The committee conducted a first reading of the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy, which, when accepted, will be incorporated into the Policy Manual. A second reading will take place at the next meeting.
- Ms. Feifert Clark moved and Mr. Jerome seconded to entertain a request, not on the agenda, by a parent, to have her two children remain in Sutton Public Schools, even though unfortunate circumstances have forced them to move out of the Sutton. While the Committee sympathized with the situation, it denied the request, noting that it would be a violation of Massachusetts General Laws and School Committee policy to allow the students to attend Sutton Public Schools, when they do not reside in Sutton.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8: 19 p.m., Mr. Jerome moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena
Recording Secretary