

Sutton School Committee
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Meeting Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on Monday, April 11, 2011.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Mr. Ted Friend, Superintendent, Mr. Gerry Goyette, Middle School Principal, Ms. Lucille DiLeo, High School Principal, Mr. Dan Delongchamp, Athletic Director, and Ms. Susan Rothermich, Business Manager.

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

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 8 – Athletic Update

Mr. Delongchamp provided an explanation about middle school athletes playing on Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. The Athletic Directors from the Dual Valley Conference vote each Spring, to allow (or not) 7th and 8th grade athletes on high school teams, according to a set of rules.

He summed up the highlights of the Fall and Winter sports, noting that Sutton had strong and exciting seasons in many sports.

Medical/FirstAid Kits have been purchased by the Boosters for the athletic teams. All of the coaches will undergo First Response medical training, including a concussion course, prior to the start of the next school year.

Spring sports are underway with many, many students involved in the various sports.

The Cooperative Agreement with Oxford Football is due for renewal. This will be included on the Agenda at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Discuss Chorus Field Trip to New York City

Mr. Jerome moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the April 29-30 Chorus Field Trip to New York City, as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 5 – Updates on High School and Middle School

Ms. DiLeo and Mr. Goyette highlighted numerous recent activities in the High School and Middle School, respectively. In particular, the District recently submitted a required Progress Report to NEASC on the four recommendations noted in last July’s letter to the District. The next NEASC site visit will take place in 2014, with a 2-year self-evaluation to begin in 2012. Graduation is Tuesday, May 24th.

Mr. Goyette submitted a request for the Committee to approve an 8th grade field trip to Howe Caverns and the Herkimer Diamond Mine in upstate New York Mine on October 6, 2011.

Mr. Jerome moved and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded to approve the 8th grade field trip, as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 6 – Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided an update on the status of the current budget.

Agenda Item 7 – Update on Building Project

Mr. Friend noted that a bid has been accepted for the modular classrooms and the installation of them will begin in next couple of weeks. Seventeen sections will be built, transported, in place and ready for occupancy by August 3rd. The baseball field will become a construction zone over the next several weeks. Bids for the overall project are due by late May.

Agenda Item 9 – Approve SWCEC Agreement Amendment

The Agreement Amendment to the Southern Worcester Educational Collaborative will allow Mr. Friend to remain as the School Committee representative year after year, during the period for which he is the Superintendent of Sutton Schools.

Ms. Feifert Clark moved and Mr. Jerome seconded to adopt the amendment to the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Agreement, as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 10 – Third Reading and Adoption of School Committee Policies K and L

With no additional comments, Ms Feifert Clark moved and Mr. Limanek seconded to adopt School Committee Policies K and L, as presented.

Carried 4/0

Agenda Item 11 – First Reading of Animals in School Policy, IMG

No additional comments at this time.

Agenda Item 12 – Superintendent’s Update

- To clarify a question from a previous meeting about insurance coverage, on the rare occasion when a student drives a student to a school activity in his/her personal vehicle; the student’s insurance will cover the claim, until the coverage is exhausted, at which point, the District’s supplemental coverage will kick in.
- Mr. Friend and Mr. Limanek recently attended an event at the State House in which there was considerable discussion among school committee members from around the state to not eliminate the federal requirements for ‘No Child Left Behind’ and ‘Adequate Yearly Progress’ provisions, but to put the fines for not complying, in abeyance, until the financial outlook improves, and districts are able to address concerns.
- Mr. Friend noted that he has not held to his initial plan to not make any changes in his first year. There has been restructuring in the Middle School, which is allowing three Elementary School positions to be saved. Based on his 25 years of educational experience, Mr. Friend has developed and posted a Vision and Instructional Leadership Plan, which he believes is possible to accomplish in Sutton’s small learning community. It ties into the Curriculum Committee and the District Learning Team and is posted on the website.
- Dan Durgan, Technology Director, and Ms. Rothermich are working to set up an online payment system for next year, to allow for online payments for bus payments, athletic fees, preschool, before and after care, etc.
- In response to an inquiry at a prior meeting, there will be the opportunity to charge fees to outside organizations for daily use of the new gymnasium or auditorium.

Agenda Item 13 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items

The community is reminded that tick season has begun, and children should be checked regularly.

Agenda Item 14 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:39 p.m. Ms. Feifert Clark moved and Mr. Jerome seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and not to return to Open Session.

Mrs. Feifert-Clark – Yes

Mr. Jerome – Yes

Mr. Limanek – Yes

Mrs. Locurto – Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol S. Colena
Recording Secretary