



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015.

School Committee Members present at the meeting were Nate Jerome, Vice Chair; Kristen Feifert Clark, Secretary; Jesse Limanek, Esquire and Paul Brennan (late arrival).

School Committee Member absent from the meeting was Liisa Locurto, Chair.

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Business Manager; Denise Harrison, Elementary School Principal; and Jessica Merriam, Simonian Center for Early Learning Principal.

Student Representatives present at the meeting were Kate Brown and Angie DeLeo.

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

Mr. Jerome called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3 – Citizen Forum

September Thompson, a Sutton business owner, addressed the topic of day care playground safety.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

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

Carried 3-0-0

(Arrival of Mr. Brennan)

Agenda Item 5 – Student Update

Students will be leaving on Thursday for the High School Band trip. The field trip to Costa Rica will take place over April vacation. Student council attended a conference in Hyannis. MCAS testing for sophomores was completed; ELA was completed as well; SATs were taken in March and will be taken again on May 2nd; AP will be working on mock exams in the beginning of May; Science mock exams were already given. The NHS started a drive for underprivileged kids in the Boston area. The new school is nice. The students are taking care of it to help keep it clean. The move went well.

Agenda Item 6 – Simonian Center for Early Learning & Elementary School Update

Ms. Merriam began her update indicating that the demands on teachers this year have been tough. They have a lot on their plates preparing for all of the new programs. Students in grades K-5 have online art portfolios that contain digital pictures of their artwork. With the

Investigations series, the students take math problems, make them into equations and then act it out. This results in great conversations and manipulatives. The children are able to show you how to arrive at the answer using coins, diagrams, grids and charts. The “bucket fillers” are students that are nominated by their teacher for doing kind things. Ms. Lajoie put a twist on this concept and is allowing the students in her class to nominate other students. Foundations is going great. There are many upcoming events, which include opening day for baseball; Earth Day; Arbor Day; Field Day.

Ms. Harrison confirmed that extra efforts have been made by all staff and teachers. Students in grades 4 and 8 were selected to participate in NAP testing. The testing went well even though it was quite involved. MCAS testing for grade 5 has just finished, as well as English Language Arts MCAS for grades 3, 4 and 5. In May testing for Math will be given to grades 3, 4 and 5 and Science for grade 5. Michelle Babin, along with the cafeteria staff, put on a breakfast for the students. Grade 4 had a visit from Dr. Peterson who spoke about dental health. A poster contest was held. The students enjoyed a field trip from Habitats and Adaptions that came to our school. The fifth graders took a field trip to the Senior Center. Claudia Linsley’s spectacular artwork is warming the walls within the school. It receives so much excitement from the students, teachers and parents. The second session of Enrichment is completed. The Scholastic Book Fair was a success. Common planning for teachers is going well. A group of teachers met after school to align standard based report card to ELA. Once this has been completed, they will move onto Social Studies and Science. Officer Green offered A.L.I.C.E. training to staff. Mrs. Toomey was nominated by her students and awarded Teacher of the Month by WSRS and Unibank. The fourth and fifth grade chorus was invited to sing at the Sharks game on April 19. Report cards will be sent home on April 16. A shout out was given to the PTO for working tirelessly to raise money to purchase so many things for our school. Bingo nights and spaghetti suppers were successful. A few upcoming events are Field Day, State Fair, and Science Fair.

Agenda Item 7 – FY15 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided a review of the current budget.

Agenda Item 8 – Update on Day Care

A second PowerPoint presentation on the proposed day care was given by Mr. Friend.

Agenda Item 9 – Approve Date Change on Calendar

Mr. Friend reviewed a few changes to the 2015-2016 school calendar, which only affected the Simonian Center for Early Learning and Elementary School. The start and end time of the school year was not affected.

Ms. Feifert Clark moved, and Mr. Limanek seconded, to approve the changes to the 2015-2016 School Calendar as presented.

Carried 4-0-0

Agenda Item 10 – Review Policy re: Concussions

The new law indicates the school’s concussion policy must be reviewed every two years. Accordingly, the policy was reviewed by our Athletic Director and school nurses and it was determined that no changes to policy were needed.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to continue with the current policy as presented.

Carried 4-0-0

Agenda Item 11 – Review School Choice and Decide on Number of Open Seats

Due to class sizes, Mr. Friend recommended opening only one seat for a School Choice entry of a Grade K student who currently has a sibling enrolled in the Sutton Public Schools in Grade 4.

Mr. Limanek moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the recommendation of opening one School Choice seat as presented.

Carried 4-0-0

Agenda Item 12 – Superintendent’s Update

We need to work on resolving the issue relating to what banners should be hung in the Romasco Gymnasium as not all banners can be hung due to the lack of wall space. A video will be shown at a brief ceremony commemorating the rededication of the Romasco Gym on Friday, April 10 @ 7:00 p.m. The Superintendent’s evaluation is upcoming. Fees from student parking in the revolving account will be used to fix a large part of the driveway, from the access road into the first parking lot. We are in the process of getting pricing for this. Students are completely moved into their new middle school and high school. Kudos to the students, staff and administration for the smooth transaction. Every smart board, phone connections and computers were up and running on day one of the move. Having our sixth grade students and teachers in the new middle school is great! Modularity are already being taken apart. Portables should be removed off campus during April vacation. Fields cannot be used this spring or next fall. The new school has conditioned air, not air conditioned. It pulls the condensation out of the building. Principals use the word testing, it comes up a lot. The school is shut down 4-5 weeks a year for MCAS. What is the right balance? I am not opposed to MCAS, just to the length of time.

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

None.

Agenda Item 14 – Adjournment

At 9:00 p.m., Ms. Feifert Clark moved, and Mr. Limanek seconded, to adjourn.

Carried 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary

Documents:

Agenda
Briefing Sheet
Minutes (03-16-15)
Bill Schedules (03-19-15 & 04-02-15)
Year-To-Date Budget Report
Updated 2015-2016 School Calendar