



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent and Susan Rothermich, Business Manager.

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

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

Ms. Locurto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

(Arrival of Mr. Brennan)

Agenda Item 3 – Citizen Forum

Suzanne Dame and Susan Wildman (both music teachers at the Sutton Public Schools); Mark Smith (former music and band director); Julie Maloney Manley (teacher at Sutton Public Schools), as well as 14 others (including citizens, students and former students) shared their thoughts about the proposed budget cut of 1 FTE music teacher position. Testimony was in opposition of this cut. The individuals expressed how important music is to young children, deeply impacting those with special needs. If this position is cut, it would create a “bump” for those learning music. Students would lack developmentally and may even fall through the cracks by not being involved in such a program.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

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

Carried 4-0-1 (Locurto)

Agenda Item 5 – Student Update

The Juniors finished SATs last Saturday in Northbridge. Progress reports will be out on May 22nd. AP testing began today. Math MCAS for Sophomores is scheduled for next week. The NHS Induction went well. The Mini Olympics was held in the new gym and went well. The Junior class held a dodgeball tournament and raised over \$200. The Day for Change was a success. Students had a lot of fun on the Costa Rica trip. Prom is on May 15th. The Freshmen will be going to New York City on May 21st to visit the 9-1-1 Memorial. Sports are going well.

Agenda Item 6 – FY15 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided a review of the current budget. The only account that is concerning is electricity. We need to get a handle on what the Middle School and High School is using.

Agenda Item 7 – FY16 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided a review of FY16 budget.

Agenda Item 8 – Make Decision on Opening Day Care

Mr. Limanek moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to open a day care as presented.

Failed 1(Limanek)-4-0

Agenda Item 9 – Vote to Open One Extra School Choice Seat in Grade K

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the decision to open one extra School Choice seat in Grade K as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to suspend School Choice Policy.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 10 – Superintendent’s Update

Even with the list of proposed budget cuts, Mr. Friend remains optimistic and encourages the teachers, staff and parents to stay positive. The class sizes are rounding into good shape. Students have MCAS and AP testing in May. There is more AP testing taking place as a result of the MMSI grant. Supreme Judicial Court ruled that Massachusetts did not comply with the ELL requirements. Principals requested that Instructional Assistants be available on the full Professional Development days. This will not have an impact on the budget. There are many upcoming music events, which will be posted on the front page of the website. The DLT is looking into creating “satellite” centers where adults will be available to help students with their homework. Assisting adults will need to have CORI and fingerprinting background check completed. Kudos to Margo Austein who leads the DLT agenda! The Annual Town Meeting is on May 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. During vacation, an Active Shooter Training Drill was conducted. Mr. Friend, along with 10 volunteers, participated in this event. Information gained will be used to improve staff training.

Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent’s Evaluation

The School Committee conducted an evaluation of the Superintendent using the new evaluation system.

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

Town Meeting is on May 11th. Town Election is on May 26th. The School Committee needs to think about dates for the Summer Retreat. Thank you to Mr. Falvo and the band for participating in Opening Day.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment

At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Feifert Clark moved, and Mr. Limanek seconded, to adjourn.

Carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary

Documents:

Agenda

Briefing Sheet

Minutes (04-16-15)

Bill Schedules (04-08-15, 04-15-15, 04-29-15)

Year-To-Date Budget Report

FY16 Budget Update