



# Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

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The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, MAY 18, 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.

**Administrators present** at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Ted McCarthy, High School Principal and Gerry Goyette, Middle School Principal.

## **Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order**

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

## **Agenda Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Agenda Item 3 – Citizen Forum**

Suzanne Dame, a music teacher at the Sutton Public Schools, thanked the School Committee for allowing herself and others to voice their concerns about the music position being cut. She continues to work very closely with the Superintendent and Principals as they try to piece this position back together.

Jennifer Sumner, a resident of Sutton with four children enrolled in grades 1-6 at the Sutton Public Schools, suggested that a committee be formed or that someone take on the role to alert parents and the community what is going on in Sutton. If the public is better informed in a timely manner, it would allow for them to take action and be part of the resolution.

Erin Russo, the PTO Treasurer of the Simonian Center for Early Learning and Sutton Elementary School, will continue to organize fundraisers to support staff. She believes a lot of people in town would approve the day care if it would generate revenue and wanted to know if there was a possibility of re-opening this topic for discussion.

Susan Wildman, a music teacher at the Sutton Public Schools, thanked the School Committee for how hard they have been working at trying to resolve the proposed budget cut of 1 FTE music teacher position.

## **Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda**

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

Carried 5-0-0

## **Agenda Item 5 – FY16 Budget Update**

Mr. Friend reviewed the FY16 Budget and summarized the process for making budget cuts, as follows: Each principal develops his/her own budget and then meets with the Business Manager and Superintendent for an in depth discussion; together, decisions are made as to what items are cut.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Middle School and High School Update**

Mr. McCarthy informed the School Committee that both, Middle School and High School, will be on the same schedule next year. Students will take 7 classes; however, only 6 will meet per day. Six new courses are being offered to better meet the needs of our students and to retain them. In 2013, our Guidance Director contacted 44 colleges to confirm whether or not NEASC had an impact on our students getting into the college of their choice; 40 of the colleges responded that it had zero impact on our students.

### **Agenda Item 7 – School Improvement Plan Update**

Mr. McCarthy reviewed the School Improvement Plan for the High School. Mr. Goyette reviewed the School Improvement Plan for the Middle School.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Student Handbook Changes**

The following are proposed changes to the High School Student Handbook:

- (1) Under Student Parking:  
Additionally, should a student be found to have drugs or alcohol in their car, students will forfeit their right to park on campus.
- (2) Under Graduation Requirements:  
Class of 2019 and beyond: 26
- (3) Under Chemical Health:  
Please note: Possession of drug paraphernalia including pipes, “Vape Pens” and other smoking devices are expressly prohibited – and will be subject to the same rules as other drug related offenses. In addition, students who violate the chemical health policy may be required to participate in school based “Drug & Alcohol Diversion” program.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to approve the changes to the High School Student Handbook as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

No changes were made to the Middle School Student Handbook.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Graduation Requirements**

Students in the Class of 2019 and beyond will be required to take 26 courses to graduate.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Select Date and Venue for Retreat**

As the School Committee is due to undergo reorganization, it was decided that this item be placed on the Agenda for June 8, 2015.

### **Agenda Item 11 – Superintendent’s Update**

Mr. Friend wished to thank all of the people who came out to share their concerns about the budget and acknowledged that we need to get more information into the parents’ hands. MCAS testing is almost complete. MCAS testing for High School Science will take place the first week of June. Opposition is not with the MCAS testing itself, but with the 6 weeks of time consumed by it. It is a very busy time of year: Principals have to evaluate an average of 25 staff; Prom was last Friday; Celebration of the Arts is on May 19th for the High School and May 20th for the

Middle School; Senior Reception is June 1st; Graduation is June 4th; and Sports Banquet is June 10th. SEFT is looking into the possibility of opening up the grant to include field trips on a limited basis. It is also contemplating buying/building a very large greenhouse, which will be placed to the left of the walkway as you come out of the Superintendent's Office. The Special Education and Science classes may be interested in growing our own produce.

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

A reminder from Mr. Jerome that voting is open on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Limanek commented that the new memorial is beautiful. It is located in front of our school opposite the entrance of the new one way between the two pine trees. The granite came from a quarry in Vermont.

**Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment**

At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Limanek seconded, to adjourn.

Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen  
Recording Secretary

Documents:

Agenda  
Briefing Sheet  
Minutes (05-04-15)  
Bill Schedules (2) (05-06-15)  
FY16 Budget Update  
New Course Offerings 2015-2016  
Bell Schedule  
HS Student Handbook Changes 2015-2016  
HS School Improvement Plan  
MS School Improvement Plan