



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Board Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Scott Kennedy, Physical Education Teacher; Michael Whittier, President of Sutton Teachers Association; Jean Poulin, Vice President of Sutton Teachers Association.

Student Representatives present at the meeting were Michael Coles and Olivia Robertson.

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

Michael Whittier, President of the Sutton Teachers Association, and Jean Poulin, Vice President of the Sutton Teachers Association, voiced their concerns about the budget and the restructuring of the Simonian Center for Early Learning and Elementary School under the direction of one principal.

Agenda Item 4 - Consent Agenda

Mr. Limanek moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to approve consent agenda as presented.

Carried 4/Abstain 1

Agenda Item 5 – Student Update

The students provided an overview for athletics announcing that Sutton won the DVC Cheerleading championship. Bring your own device (BYOD) into the classroom for use is working well. A weight room was created for Mr. Kennedy's P.E. Room. CSL hosted Senior Breakfast, which was a success. Approximately 311 students attended school on Saturday to makeup time. Ice Cream is being sold at lunch for the Jimmy Fund Sundae. This is working out well for CSL. There are two boxes for nonperishable food set up in the cafeteria. If students do not eat their food, they may donate it rather than throw it away. The performances of the Glass Menagerie and Romeo & Juliet were very good. Student Council will be going to a leadership conference in Hyannis. There will be a male pageant competition for Mr. Sutton High School. Peer advocates are planning a day for change to bring the class closer together. The junior class sold carnations for St. Valentine's Day.

Mr. Friend acknowledged that Eve Goulet was recognized as Gatorade Player of the Year for Girls Soccer.

Agenda Item 6 – Approval of Baseball Field Trip to Cape Cod

Mr. Kennedy sought permission to take the baseball team to Hyannis, MA during the weekend of March 29, 2014. The team would be playing Barnstable High School and Sandwich on Sunday. The team is fortunate to be able to stay at a private house free of charge as a father of one of our students is friends with the owner. Transportation will be provided by the coaching staff.

Ms. Locurto moved, and Mr. Limanek seconded, to approve the baseball field trip to Cape Cod as presented.

Carried 4/Opposed 1

Agenda Item 7 – Approval of Date for 1/2 Day Professional Development

Mr. Friend requested that we schedule a half day for Professional Development on Thursday, March 13, 2014. February 5, 2014 was scheduled to be a half day for Professional Development, but school was closed on this day due to inclement weather.

Ms. Locurto moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the date for 1/2 day professional development as presented.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 8 – Revote on Capital Plan

Mr. Friend explained that a revote on the Capital Plan was needed because a line was added for the purchase of the new math series.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Limanek seconded, to revote on the Capital Plan as presented.

Carried 5/0

Agenda Item 9 – FY14 Budget Update

Mr. Friend provided the Committee with an update of this year’s budget. We are in good shape this year although there is little money that can be rolled into School Choice. We are in a “red light” mode as to buying. Our main concern is not losing any more personnel.

Agenda Item 10 – Superintendent’s Update

Mr. Friend reported that we need to look at our policies and procedures and find ways to educate our youth about the dangers of technology. As an example, the Town of Walpole was in the news because about a dozen girls sent naked pictures of themselves to their boyfriends and the photos are everywhere on the web. This is a federal violation and is child pornography.

The Sutton Education Foundation Trust (SEFT) is trying a new strategy to jump start the program and attract volunteers to raise money for this important organization. SEFT is offering two \$5,000 grants for innovative programs for the next school year.

We received the letter of agreement for the MMSI Grant. We are looking forward to the next three years of increasing the number of students taking AP courses and increasing the number of teachers trained to teach AP courses.

FINCOM public hearing is scheduled for March 20th @ 6:30 p.m.

The new construction company was on site last week clearing snow. They will be tearing down portions of the core building within the next 2-3 weeks. The building should be completed by April 1, 2015.

We need adequate administration for the Simonian Center for Early Learning and Elementary School and having one Principal to oversee PreK-5 is the most appropriate approach. We need to keep the people closest to the children (teachers) in their jobs. We need to commit that when we get in front of FINCOM the last thing we want to do is cut any personnel going forward.

Mr. Friend attended the NEASC meeting. The cost of their report is \$22,000. The Town of Sutton cannot afford it. Many other districts are saying that it is costly and they do not care about this accreditation.

Teachers were thanked for voicing their concerns.

Students were thanked for the information that they provided.

Agenda Item 11 - New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items

There was a question as to whether or not there was an override effort at Blackstone Valley Tech that would impact Sutton. Town Managers met with Michael Fitzpatrick regarding an expansion adding new programs and slots.

Agenda Item 12 - Adjournment to Executive Session

At 7:50 p.m., Mr. Jerome motioned to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Feifert Clark moved, and Ms. Locurto seconded, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations and not reconvene in Open Session.

Ms. Locurto, Yes
Mr. Brennan, Yes
Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
Mr. Limanek, Yes
Mr. Jerome, Yes

Carried 5/0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary