



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Board Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent.

Student Representative present at the meeting was Michael Coles.

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

No one present wished to speak.

Agenda Item 4 - Consent Agenda

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

Carried 3-0

Mr. Limanek arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Agenda Item 5 – Student Update

Our student representative indicated that there were a lot of events that were planned in March. The prom is scheduled for May 16th at Wachusett Country Club; new members for NHS were introduced; spring sports officially began; sophomores and freshmen had MCAS testing; the scouper bowl for the Jimmy Fund is happening; and Fast for Hunger is scheduled for May 6. The seniors had an open mic night at Barnes & Noble.

Agenda Item 6 – FY14 Budget Update

Mr. Friend provided the Committee with an update of this year's budget. We are tracking perfectly at this time of year and there are no unforeseen issues at this time. We are within budget. Hopefully, we will not have to spend down as much school choice at end of year.

Agenda Item 7 – Review 2014-2015 School Calendar

Mr. Friend provided different calendar options for the 2014-2015 school year. Discussion ensued about the different possibilities and it was decided that a motion to adjust the school calendar would be made at the next School Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Review School Choice and Decide on Number of Open Seats

Due to class size and the need to save seats for potential new residents, it was decided that we would opt out of School Choice for the 2014-2015 school year.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Limanek seconded, to opt out of School Choice for the 2014-2015 school year as presented.

Carried 4-0

Agenda Item 9 – Building Update

Mr. Friend provided the Committee with an update of the construction. The front of the high school is torn down. By the first week of May, the entire high school will be down. Over summer vacation, the middle school will be closed so the contractor can correct the deficiencies of the previous contractor. The students will not be allowed to return into the building until the work has been completed. A new central office will be built from four classrooms in the back of the elementary school, which will house the Superintendent, Business Office, Technology Department, and Special Education Department. The general contractor should be substantially complete with the buildings by April 1st of next year, at which time the middle school will move out of the modular and into the high school. High school will move into the new high school so modular can be taken down and contractors can do site work. We will not offer a sports camp this summer due to the lack of space.

Agenda Item 10 – Superintendent’s Update

Mr. Friend congratulated Mike Elster, our Athletic Director and soccer coach. Mr. Elster was recognized as Massachusetts Soccer Coach of the Year.

The new educator evaluation system is a fantastic system. This is something that is being forced upon us at the state level. However, there are a lot of things that Sutton had in place already. The software provides a summative of walkthroughs and is a coaching model that improves teaching. It is making quite a difference.

A tentative agreement was reached with the Sutton Teachers Association. We used interest based bargaining, a process that was invaluable. There were only three negotiations and we arrived at a fair contract.

Ted and Dianne will be updating all of the job descriptions that we have for the district.

There is a new law mandating that all employees be fingerprinted. It is currently being rolled out and we are meeting this week to go through and make sure we have process in place. There is a fee of \$35 for nonprofessionals and \$55 for professionals associated with the fingerprinting. Newly hired staff (hired July 1, 2013 or later) must be fingerprinted by June 30, 2014. All other staff will be phased-in at a later date.

Since 2012, there has been a new law implemented regarding student suspension and exclusion from school. The two significant changes are: (1) the need for an informal hearing with parents and school administration; and (2) students need to be provided with homework and classwork during this time so he/she doesn’t fall behind. We already do the latter in Sutton, but we need to put this in the handbook.

Last week drug sniffing dogs were brought to school. Marijuana was found in one car. Other than that, we were clean. We are not going to allow drugs to be a part of our school culture. Our job is to keep students safe and maintain a drug free environment. We will continue with periodic checks.

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

It was suggested that, when time allows in the summer, we should see how our school is collecting data on students and staff and ensure that the information that is collected is protected and not being used without our knowledge.

A friendly reminder was given that tick season has arrived and to protect yourself from Lyme disease.

Agenda Item 12 - Adjournment to Executive Session

At 7:52 p.m., Mr. Jerome motioned to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Feifert Clark moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations and not reconvene in Open Session.

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

Carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary