



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Board Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014.

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

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

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

A citizen expressed her concerns with having school on Good Friday.

Agenda Item 4 - Consent Agenda

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

Carried 4-0

Agenda Item 5 – Student Update

Our student representatives informed us that the Humanities Scholar Program, directed by Mr. Stamos, placed first in the competition. Students visited colleges and spoke about pressing issues such as abortion, women's rights, and the constitution. Each school gave a PowerPoint presentation and the best presentation won. All the teams for the spring sports are doing well. There was a fast for hunger on May 6. Students also sought money and food donations from their neighbors for the food pantry. A cookout was held at the end of the day for all participating students. Ice cream sales to benefit the Jimmy Fund are still being held two Fridays a month. A "scooper bowl" is scheduled for early June in Boston. AP Exams started today. Student Council participated in "Spread the Word to End the Word". The school took a pact to stop using the "R" word. Representatives from the Special Olympics spoke to students about the importance of this program and asked students to be aware and not use this word. MCAS for freshmen and sophomores began; juniors took SATs. Several events have been planned for the upcoming Seniors' Week, which includes a hypnotist, Six Flags, dinner boat cruise, white water rafting, and medieval manor. Graduation is less than a month away. Mr. Friend reported that, on May 4th, 15 members from the middle school Student Council and 7 former Student Council members participated in a 20 mile Walk for Hunger raising \$10,729.75 for Project Bread!

Agenda Item 6 – FY14 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided a review of the current budget. There are no issues at this time with the budget.

Agenda Item 7 – Review 2014-2015 School Calendar

It was decided that limited changes to the 2014-2015 School Calendar should be made this evening. Mr. Friend recommended that we eliminate two Professional Development days (January 16 and May 22) in accordance with the STA Agreement and build Good Friday back in as a holiday due to low attendance of staff and students.

After further discussion, it was suggested that January 16 be a half day for Professional Development; that the April 2 half day for Professional Development be removed; that Good Friday (April 3) be added as a holiday; and that the May 22 Professional Development day be removed.

Ms. Locurto moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to approve the 204-2015 School Calendar as presented.

Carried 4-0

Agenda Item 8 – Superintendent's Update

Mr. Friend thanked the Sutton Teachers Association and the School Committee for their efforts in contract negotiations. The agreement was ratified and will be reviewed at our next School Committee meeting. The National Honor Society inducted 21 new students who were honored at the inductions ceremony. High school principal, Ted McCarthy, was presented with the Donald G. Schwab Chapter Service Award. Mr. McCarthy has made quite an impression on the student body in his first year. A town meeting is scheduled for next Monday evening. Bus fees were due on May 1st for students in grades 7-12. As bus routes will be made during the next week or so, and are based on payments received, it is important that we receive payment as soon as possible. A Building Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday. There will be an open house beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the community to visit and ask questions. Also, a time capsule from 1949 will be opened at 6:45 p.m. Concert season is upon us. This Thursday the high school band will perform its last concert in the Simonian Center for Early Learning. The School Committee will be seeing changes in our policy and handbook pertaining to Chapter 71 37H 1/2 and 37H 3/4 due to new legislation pertaining to students charged or convicted of a felony. MCAS for math and science started this week. As this is Teacher Appreciation Week – and should be Educator Appreciation Week - A shout out to all of our teachers and staff who go above and beyond every day for our children! Many states adopted the common core. Our Commissioner seems to be pushing PARCC. PARCC began with 21 or 22 states and has dwindled down to 18. The data coming out of MCAS is not as accurate as it has been in the past due to the shifting of curriculum. At this point, it is better for our district if we keep MCAS because it will give us better data. This year PARCC is a field test.

Agenda Item 9 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items

None.

Agenda Item 10 - Adjournment to Executive Session

At 7:47 p.m., Mr. Jerome motioned to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Locurto moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations and not reconvene in Open Session.

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

Carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary