



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Board Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Margo Austein, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Special Projects; Susan Rothermich, Business Manager; Gerard Goyette, Principal of Middle School; Ted McCarthy, Principal of High School.

Student Representative present at the meeting was Olivia Robertson.

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

Mr. Friend called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – School Committee Reorganization

Mr. Jerome nominated, and Mr. Brennan seconded, Ms. Locurto as Chair.

Carried 4-0

Mr. Brennan nominated, and Kristen Feifert Clark seconded, Nate Jerome as Vice Chair.

Carried 4-0

Mr. Jerome nominated, and Mr. Brennan seconded, Kristen Feifert Clark as Secretary.

Carried 4-0

Agenda Item 3 - Citizen Forum

No one present wished to speak.

Agenda Item 4 - Consent Agenda

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

Carried 4-0

Agenda Item 5 – Student Update

The student representative reported that the graduation ceremony and class day went very well. Seniors took their finals; Freshmen had Science MCAS; underclassmen prepped for finals; and students finalized their schedules for next year. A guest speaker, who was a Vietnam Veteran, will be at the school on Thursday. In sports, the girls tennis and baseball went to district finals; track qualified at state finals.

Agenda Item 6 – Middle School’s Presentation of 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan and Changes to Student/Parent Handbook

Mr. Goyette provided an overview of the modifications to the 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan and Student/Parent Handbook.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Kristen Feifert Clark seconded, to approve the 2014-2015 Middle School Student/Parent Handbook as presented.

Carried 4-0

Mr. Limanek arrived.

Agenda Item 7 – High School’s Presentation of Changes to 2014-2015 Student/Parent Handbook

Mr. McCarthy provided an overview of the modifications to the 2014-2015 Student/Parent Handbook.

It was decided that, under the section titled, Attendance Policy, the following verbiage (shown in bold below) be added:

1. Parents/guardians will contact the school to report a student absence so that school officials know that the parent/guardian is aware of a student’s absence from school. **If parents are aware of an extended long term absence, they should contact the school well in advance.**

It was decided that, under the section titled, Attendance Policy Appeals Process, the following verbiage (shown in bold below) be added as the last paragraph:

Final appeal of the principal’s decision rests with the superintendent.

Ms. Locurto moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the 2014-2015 High School Student/Parent Handbook as amended.

Carried 5-0

Agenda Item 8 – FY14 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided a review of the current budget.

Agenda Item 9 – Revote FY15 Fiscal Budget

Ms. Rothermich reviewed the FY15 school budget.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the FY15 school budget in the amount of \$15,617,244 as presented.

Carried 5-0

Agenda Item 10 – Second Reading of Amended Student Discipline Policy

A second reading of the Amended Student Discipline Policy was held.

Agenda Item 11 – First Reading of Background Checks and DCJIS Model CORI Policy

A first reading of the policy on Background Checks and DCJIS Model CORI Policy was held. This policy will replace the current policy regarding CORI requirements.

Agenda Item 12– First Reading of Conservation of Energy Policy Revision

A first reading of the revision to the Conservation of Energy Policy was held.

Agenda Item 13 – Vote PARCC vs. MCAS

Mr. Friend indicated that Michael Long, Attorney for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, has recommended that, to be on the safe side, School Committees should vote in support of using MCAS. It is also Mr. Friend’s recommendation.

Ms. Feifert Clark moved, and Mr. Limanek seconded, to support the use of MCAS as presented.

Carried 5-0

Agenda Item 14 – Select Agenda Items for Retreat

The following agenda items were chosen for discussion at the School Committee’s Retreat scheduled for July 11, 2014:

- Review Superintendent’s Evaluation Process;
- Set School Committee Goals;
- Discuss School Calendar options;
- Discuss Schooling by Design/Overview of Components;
- Second Reading of Background Checks Policy; and
- Second Reading of Conservation of Energy Policy

Agenda Item 15 – Announce Superintendent’s Contract

Ms. Locurto announced that Mr. Friend signed a five year contract as Superintendent for the Sutton Public Schools. Committee members praised Mr. Friend for the wonderful job he has done over the past four years, emphasizing that his role in leadership is a vital part of the district.

Agenda Item 16 – Superintendent’s Update

Graduation was spectacular; Mr. Friend recommends using Mechanics Hall as our permanent location for graduation. End of year is rapidly approaching and Mr. Friend thanked the administrators and educators for all of their hard work marking the first year of the new evaluation system a great success. This Thursday evening is the underclassmen’s Academic Awards Night; it will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Congratulations to the baseball team that made it to the districts! Boys and girls track had an exceptional year as well. Mr. Friend thanked Mr. Breault for dedicating 7 years of service to the Sutton Public Schools and wished him well in his new role as Principal of the Middleborough Elementary School. The last day of school is June 24th, which will be a half-day. Lastly, Mr. Friend announced that he soundly defeated Mr. Goyette in their first (and last) sumo wrestling match held last Friday evening during midnight madness.

School Committee members also thanked Mr. Breault for his years of service and wished him the best.

Agenda Item 17 – New Business, Agenda Items, Action Items
None.

Agenda Item 18 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:58 p.m., Ms. Feifert Clark moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential student information and personnel and not reconvene in Open Session.

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

Carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary