



# 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, NOVEMBER 3, 2014.

**School Committee Members present** at the meeting were Nate Jerome, Vice Chair; Kristen Feifert Clark, Secretary; and Paul Brennan.

**School Committee Members not present** were Liisa Locurto, Chair and Jesse Limanek.

**Administrators present** at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Business Manager; Gerry Goyette, Principal; Ted McCarthy, Principal.

**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 2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Agenda 3 – Citizen Forum**

No one present wished to speak.

## **Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda**

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

Carried 3-0

## **Agenda Item 5 – Student Update**

Semi-finals for PSATs were administered to juniors and sophomores. Representatives from MMSI provided extra help for exams during AP English Saturday. It was really fun and the students enjoyed it. Mr. Wandes invited people to speak about college and life in general, which gave students insight to the real world. The Haunted House for Hunger was successful. A Halloween Dress Up Day was held. Students had to bring in money or a canned good. All of the money was donated to familyaware.org in honor of Chris Peltier. The Student Council Central District Conference is being held on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Unibank came in to speak to select seniors about budgeting and preparing for college. Seniors are applying to colleges.

## **Agenda Item 6 – FY15 Budget Update**

Ms. Rothermich provided a review of the current budget. Everything is going along and keeping within budget.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Middle School Update**

Students were informed what was happening at the high school. Letters were sent home to parents offering counseling groups for students. Students who wished to participate in creating cards to send to Chris' aunt did so. Our Emergency Response Team checks with each other to keep updated. We are going to be vigilant in focusing on our children and making school as normal as possible for them. MCAS scores were good. ELA continues to be an upward trend. Math scores are not where they should be. However, we are now using a textbook that is more aligned with the common core. Each teacher is required to have two District Determined Measures (DDM). The outcome is to be able to measure student progress and see how effective teachers were. MCAS is one type of DDM. We will be using a pre-test and post-test to compare progress. Staff was given a challenge to see that all students make proficient or higher on MCAS and no failures. We are encouraging students to retake tests and quizzes below 80% and have arranged for extra help days. We have a monthly newsletter that is posted to the website for parents to access.

### **Agenda Item 8 – High School Update**

It has been a tremendously difficult time for the high school students and staff due to Chris' passing. Mr. McCarthy thanked the counseling staff for going above and beyond in supporting our students and staff. Information about Chris was scripted and given to teachers to read to students so they were receiving the same information at the same time. Counseling staff from Riverside came in to offer their services to parents. They provided information on how to speak to their children. Riverside also offered a coping group for approximately 8 of Chris' friends. Chris' aunt has been very helpful in allowing us to talk about the circumstances surrounding Chris' passing. A candlelight vigil was held this past Saturday. Going forward, we will talk to the students about suicide prevention and awareness and funnel their energy into these types of things. The community was very interactive; we had a number of parents calling and asking what they could do to help. MCAS, SAT, and AP scores were good. Teachers have done great work on developing District Determined Measures. A professional workshop was held for staff for GLBT. Representatives from UMass came in to talk about people with identity issues and gave students a chance to be heard.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Third Reading and Adoption of Updated Policies re: Gender Identity**

The third reading of the updated policies regarding gender identity was held.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to adopt the updated policies regarding gender identity as presented.

Carried 3-0

### **Agenda Item 10 – Second Reading of Student Absences and Excuses Policy**

A second reading of the Student Absences and Excuses Policy was held.

### **Agenda Item 11 – Second Reading of Student Discipline Policy**

A second reading of the Student Discipline Policy was held.

### **Agenda Item 12 – Second Reading of Student Complaints and Grievances Policy**

A second reading of the Student Complaints and Grievances Policy was held.

**Agenda Item 13 – Second Reading of Student Conduct Policy**

A second reading of the Student Conduct Policy was held.

**Agenda Item 14 – Discuss Options to School Calendar**

Staff will be provided with a copy of the proposed draft 2015-2016 school calendar, which will also be posted to the website.

**Agenda Item 15 – Superintendent’s Update**

Information on the Girls Annual Varsity Basketball field trip to Bristol, Connecticut was provided.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark, seconded, to approve the Field trip as presented.

Carried 3-0

It is very important that the School Committee attend the Finance Committee and Finance Board meeting on November 12. Topics discussed will include the difficulty with budgeting, specifically Special Education. We will meet in Open Session and then adjourn to Executive Session to discuss individual cases. Public education talks about the whole child, yet it seems that we only hear about using the common core curriculum as a baseline and the tests that measure its progress. The issue of mental health needs to be addressed. Accordingly, the District Learning Team will focus exclusively on how we may improve and provide additional support for all students, especially in the area of mental health and suicide prevention. It is to the benefit of all students that the culture in the school system looks at the whole child.

**Agenda Item 16 – New Business/Agenda Items/Action Items**

None.

**Agenda Item 17 – Adjournment to Executive Session**

At 8:31 p.m., Ms. Feifert Clark moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing student issues.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen  
Recording Secretary