



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015.

School Committee Members present at the meeting were Liisa Locurto, Chair; Mary Green, Secretary; and Paul Brennan.

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Business Manager; Ted McCarthy, High School Principal; Denise Harrison, Elementary School Principal; and Jessica Merriam, Simonian Center for Early Learning Principal.

Student Representatives present at the meeting were Kate Brown and Angie DeLeo.

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

Ms. Locurto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3 – School Committee Reorganization

Mr. Brennan nominated, and Ms. Green seconded, to appoint Liisa Locurto as Chair.

Carried 3-0-0

Mr. Brennan nominated, and Ms. Green seconded, to appoint Nate Jerome as Vice Chair.

Carried 3-0-0

Mr. Brennan nominated, and Ms. Locurto seconded, to appoint Mary Green as Secretary.

Carried 3-0-0

Agenda Item 4 – Citizen Forum

Kim Andrade, a parent, researched and shared some of the values of being accredited by NEASC. She asked the Committee to consider all aspects of NEASC before rendering a decision not to continue with accreditation.

Agenda Item 5 – Consent Agenda

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mrs. Green seconded, to approve the Bill Schedules as presented. As we did not have a quorum to approve the Minutes of May 18, 2015, this item shall be placed on the next agenda.

Carried 3-0-0

Agenda Item 6 – Student Update

Academic awards were presented last Friday for students who exceeded the expectations of the class. Finals will begin on Thursday. SATs were taken last Saturday. APTs will be given this Saturday. Boys tennis won district, but lost today's game. Girls tennis lost first round. Graduation went well. Senior week included a trip to Six Flags, attending the Blue Man Group show and Senior Lock In.

Agenda Item 7 – Athletic Budget/Sports Fee Increase

Mr. McCarthy reviewed several different options for increasing the sports fee. Mr. Friend recommended that the sports fee be increased to \$300 with the third sport being half-price or \$150. There was concern that the increased fee would discourage some families from participating. Currently, there is no sibling discount; however, the plan does allow for "x" amount of dollars for students that are receiving free or reduced lunch, or express a hardship. It was decided to wait until the next meeting to vote on increasing the sports fee as additional budget information, which could impact this decision, is expected to be received.

Agenda Item 8 – NEASC

NEASC is a very hot button item with the Superintendents Association and is getting pushback from the Association because of its redundancy with the requirements of the State of Massachusetts. Other issues include unresponsiveness from NEASC to re-tool their program and the time it takes to complete the program, which interferes with state requirements. Additionally, it drains our internal resources. The \$35K cost to cover the program would be deducted from the budget or student programs. DESE does not list accreditation. Reading Public Schools contacted 47 colleges/universities and 44 of them responded that accreditation by NEASC would have no impact; 3 of the colleges/universities indicated that it would only have an impact if two students were equivalent then it would affect the student without the accreditation negatively. It was decided that it would be prudent to delay making a decision on NEASC accreditation until we find out what the state is going to give us. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

Agenda Item 9 – FY15 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich reviewed the FY15 Budget Update. The budget for electricity was over, due to two unexpected components: (1) the estimate was based on only half of the building being used as staff was not occupying the other side; however, the construction workers were using the whole other side; and (2) when a meter was switched over in February, it caused us to be kicked off of our competitive supply. Another incident having impact on the budget was the fact that the solar panels in the elementary school were not working the entire year due to different things being shorted and panels that were moved out of place.

Agenda Item 10 – FY16 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided an overview of the FY16 Budget.

Agenda Item 11 – Award HVAC Bid

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mrs. Green seconded, to award the HVAC Bid to MPC Services as recommended by Susan Rothermich.

Carried 3-0-0

Agenda Item 12 – SCEL/ELEM School Improvement Plan

Ms. Merriam reviewed the School Improvement Plan for the Simonian Center for Early Learning. Mrs. Harrison reviewed the School Improvement Plan for the Sutton Elementary School.

Agenda Item 13 – SCEL/ELEM Student Handbook Changes

Ms. Merriam provided a summary of the changes in the handbook for the Simonian Center for Early Learning. Mrs. Harrison provided a summary of the changes to the handbook in the Elementary School. The changes for the handbooks were not substantive, so a vote was not required.

Agenda Item 14 – SWCEC 2nd & 3rd Quarter Reports

Mr. Friend reviewed the Second and Third Quarter Reports of the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative.

Agenda Item 15 – Select Date and Venue for Retreat

As only three members were present, it was decided to take this item off the agenda.

Agenda Item 16 – Superintendent's Update

Vanessa Hurley's class won two awards for the AMP It Up video contest for their video on Mayfair Plastics. Middle School Sports Awards Night is this evening. High School Sports Recognition Dinner is at Wright's Farm on Wednesday. Class offerings at the High School are tremendous. We have lots of adults, teachers and instructional assistants at the Middle School, Elementary School and Simonian Center for Early Learning. Graduation was magnificent; it was a perfect night. Mark Bailey spoke about the history of the school district; we are in line with that history. Amy Haven's speech was reflective about the influence of Mr. Marcucci's class and an article that she was exposed to in that class. It is amazing to see the list of colleges and universities that our students will be attending next year. Mr. Friend wished to thank everyone. Though we are trying to keep it positive, we have before us three pages of substantial cuts that do have an effect on our school system. How do we solve the \$400-\$500K gap? We will need to have ongoing conversations next year.

Agenda Item 17 – New Business/Agenda Items/Action Items

The next School Committee meeting will be on June 29, 2015, unless members are not able to attend, in which case it will be June 22, 2015.

Agenda Item 17 – Adjournment

At 9:20 p.m., Mr. Brennan moved, and Mrs. Green seconded, to adjourn.

Carried 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary

Documents:

Agenda

Briefing Sheet

Minutes (5-18-15)

Bill Schedules (5-22-15, 5-28-15, 6-04-15, 6-05-15)

Documents re: NEASC

Year-To-Date Budget Report

FY16 Budget Update

Memo re: HVAC Bid

SCEL SIP

ELEM SIP

Changes to SCEL Student Handbook 2015-2016

Changes to ELEM Student Handbook 2015-2016

SWCEC 2nd & 3rd Quarter Reports