



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015.

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

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Susan Rothermich, Business Manager; and Daniel Delongchamp, Assistant Principal of the Middle/High School.

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 – Citizen Forum

No one present.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

Mr. Brennan moved, and Ms. Green seconded, to approve the Minutes of June 29, 2015 as presented.

Carried 3-0-2 (Edwards, Jerome)

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Edwards seconded, to approve the Minutes of August 31, 2015 as presented.

Carried 4-0-1 (Green)

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Edwards seconded, to approve the Bill Schedules of September 9, 2015 and September 10, 2015 as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 5 – NEASC Presentation

George Edwards, Acting Director of NEASC, provided an informational PowerPoint presentation about NEASC.

Agenda Item 6 – High School Presentation

Mr. Delongchamp provided the following information about the high school: 445 enrolled students; 19-20 students per class; goal is transitioning from teacher centered approach to student centered approach – station based learning with multiple lessons focused on students rather than teacher.

The faculty put on the professional development day this year; eight teachers took a look at different areas; teachers picked 3 of 8 and rotated through workshops throughout the afternoon. The high school has five new course offerings; Journalism, Community Service Learning (investigate problem and work in groups to solve); History vs. Hollywood (look at history through film, pick out facts for comparison); two computer classes, Graphic Design and Computer Science, which deals with programming and coding). The results received on the AP courses were great; trying to get as many students involved in AP courses; 125 students are taking different AP electives; looking into getting AP Spanish course off the ground; would like each student to take, at least, 1 AP course; cost is approximately \$90 – it students need help with this, there is money in gifts and donations. We are offering mental health meetings; this year the high school is partnering with the middle school in activities; students in grades 9-12 had the option to participate in a youth risk behavior survey; results are being analyzed; we will meet in small groups to discuss what we see in trends and to discuss concerns and educate students as best we can. Bill Gillin and Erin Christiano took part in the Break Free from Depression program created by Children’s Hospital in Boston; this program is to help children better understand mental health. Both, Bill and Erin, will work with students in grades 9-10 to discuss how to deal with some of the teen issues. Middle school is working to come up with four parent meetings. At 6:30 p.m. on September 30th in our Middle/High School Auditorium, child psychologist, Joani Geltman, will speak about adolescent psychology and how to better relate to our teens. In October, Dr. Levy will speak about children’s mental health issues. In January, Bill Gillin and Erin Christiano will present Break Free from Depression for parents. We are hoping this will build an even better safety net for our students. Homecoming begins on Friday; the staff will cook for students.

Agenda Item 7 – Approve Bid on Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the bid on the water treatment plant as recommended by the Business Manager, Sue Rothermich.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 8 – FY16 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided a review of the current budget.

Agenda Item 9 – Second Reading of Physical Restraint of Students Policy

The second reading of Physical Restraint of Students Policy was held. The third reading and adoption of this policy is scheduled for October 5, 2015.

Agenda Item 10 – Disposal of Surplus Property Policy

The second reading of the Disposal of Surplus Property was held. The third reading and adoption of this policy is scheduled for October 5, 2015.

Agenda Item 11 – Review/Approve School Committee Goals

The goals for the School Committee were reviewed and finalized as follows:

2015-2016 Goals

1. The School Committee will support a Strategic Plan for curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

2. The School Committee will support the new Educator Evaluation system and its support of the Sutton Public School's Strategic Plan.
3. The School Committee will develop a budget which supports the academic priorities of Sutton schools and communicates to the Sutton community the implications if the approved budget does not fully support those priorities.
4. Conduct parent survey and include questions about the school calendar.

NOTE: All goals are to support optimal student learning.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the 2015-2016 School Committee Goals as presented.

Carried 4-0-1 (Edwards)

Agenda Item 12 – Superintendent's Update

The start of the school year was simply amazing! The classrooms in the Simonian Center are open – every kindergarten class has its own room. The staff is raving about what a difference it makes. The front of the classroom allows for RTI instruction and the space is good for After Care. There are some minor things that still need to be worked on such as the conditioned air in the middle school is not functioning properly and hasn't since day one. They continue to work on resolving this issue. A public budget presentation will be held in the middle/high school auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on October 14th. There will be a Q&A session immediately following. This presentation will also be given to FinCom on October 27th. The Superintendent's survey will be go out in March and the School Committee's survey will go out in May. It is the duty of the School Committee to hire the Special Education Director; however, the School Committee may grant the Superintendent the power to conduct a search and recommend candidates to the School Committee. The School Committee sets the salary range for the Assistant Superintendent and Business Manager. Vanessa Hurley received two \$2,500 awards and purchased a 3-D printer. Our School Lunch Program will be audited this year. We are still in need of an ESL teacher. Tennis courts are being taken apart and redone; anticipate it will take one month to complete; the \$200K cost for the tennis courts comes from the Town's capital account. We were hoping to do the driveway through the Simonian Center through the Building Project; however, only 1 bid was received; feedback is that everyone is so busy that no one has time to do this, so we are going to send out bid next spring. Mr. Friend reviewed the "draft" budget presentation.

Agenda Item 13 – New Business/Agenda Items/Action Items

The Opening Ceremony for the Middle/High School was nicely done. Thank you to Wendy Mead for leading the Building Committee; the Building Inspector was publicly recognized as he stepped up and was amazing. Our facility is beautiful and it was a real team effort. We need to make certain we maintain this facility.

Agenda Item 14 – Adjournment

At 10:00 p.m., Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Green seconded, to adjourn.

Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary

Documents:

Agenda
Briefing Sheet
Minutes (6/29/15, 8/31/15)
Bill Schedules (9/09/15 & 9/10/15)
Memo re: Water Treatment Plant
Year-To-Date Budget Report
Disposal of Surplus Property Policy
Physical Restraint of Students Policy
School Committee Goals 2015-2016