



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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; Denise Harrison, Elementary School Principal; Jessica Merriam, Simonian Center for Early Learning Principal; Christina Tuomala, Athletic Director; and Susan Rothermich, Business Manager.

Student Representatives present at the meeting were Katie 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 – Citizen Forum

William Donovan, a parent and resident of Sutton, came forward to voice his support of the swimming co-op with Northbridge.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the Minutes of October 5, 2015 and October 14, 2015, and the Executive Minutes of October 5, 2015 as presented.

Carried 4-0-1 (Edwards)

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the Bill Schedules as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 5 – Student Update

SATs for junior and seniors are scheduled for this Saturday; this is the last one for this year. Grades close on Friday. Yesterday was the deadline for college applications. The schools' first newspaper was sent to the printers and will be distributed at the Sutton Center Store, Tony's and the High School. There will be four papers throughout the year. All regular season games are over, other than football. Student Council is working to set up the winter dance.

Agenda Item 6 – Athletic Update

Christina Tuomala gave an overview of Athletics. This fall there were 248 students participating in 14 teams (varsity, junior varsity and middle school). In golf, sophomore Jarod Buffone qualified for the State tournament for the fourth year in a row. Cross Country had a great season. The Dual Valley Conference (DVC) Championship meet was moved to allow our team to compete in a Twilight meet at Cape Cod Fairgrounds. Varsity football is playing Bartlett this

week and Blackstone Millville on November 26th when their season will be complete. Girls Varsity Soccer won the Dual Valley Conference and will host Trivium on November 4th. Varsity Field Hockey will host St. Bernard's this Wednesday. Boys Varsity Soccer will play the Advanced Math and Science Academy (AMSA) Thursday in Marlborough. Girls Varsity Volleyball is awaiting information where and when they are going to play for districts. Meet the Coach Night is November 23rd @ 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Ms. Tuomala provided information about a co-op swimming program with Northbridge that Sutton Public Schools would like to join. There would be no cost to the District. Parents of students wishing to join would be responsible for sending a check in the amount of \$250 directly to Northbridge. Parents would also be responsible for personal costs (bathing suit, etc.) and for transporting their child.

Ms. Green moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the co-op swimming program with Northbridge in which the parents of the student swimmers will be fully responsible for all costs associated with this program as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 7 – Approve Field Trip

Ms. Tuomala summarized the overnight field trip for the Varsity Girls Basketball Team.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the Varsity Girls Basketball field trip as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 8 – SCEL/ELEM Update

The most recent testing in the Simonian Center for Early Learning was in DIBEL and MAP. There was a slight change this year in that headphones were provided to the students in grades 1 and 2. This seemed to have a positive effect as they were able to maintain and complete the testing and were more productive. 53% of Grade 2 scored proficient on MCAS. The results of the testing are being used to set up response to intervention groups. We are able to see results for individual students and assess where support is needed. Designated staff are being brought into the classrooms to assist the students rather than pulling them out. DIBEL scores are consistent with cross year data. The middle year scores tend to slide a bit because the benchmarks move up considerably; however, by year's end students bounce back up because they are able to get the skills down. This year, we are piloting DIBEL for preschool to see what we think and decide whether or not we wish to use it as a growth model. This is the last year for NEAYC. Our classrooms function very well now that we no longer have two classrooms in one room. The students have more room to play, learn and move. The amount of traffic in the classroom has decreased significantly. RTI time blocking is going very well, credit due to the teachers. The Title I grant is being utilized for two staff members to work as math coaches for grades 1 and 2. Title I reading continues. Grade K is receiving one structured recess a week to provide them with an opportunity to play games in a structured setting. SCEL adopted a no homework night on Wednesdays. Each grade has expectations associated with homework: grade K has a homework calendar that has activities for kids to do with their parents at home; grade 1 has similar homework that is sent home and grade 2 receives homework by subject.

Testing in the Elementary School showed really great things; grade 4 ELA improved significantly from the year before. Math saw a dip, but this was expected due to the new

Investigations program. We will be bringing back more chapter book reading. The next MCAS testing will be in March for English Language and May for Math. DIBEL/DIBEL NEXT is testing with regards to fluency and comprehension. Teachers completed aligning common core standards with report cards; Science and Social Studies has not been completed. Foundations in grade 3 is progressing wonderfully. The Reading teachers are teaching Wilson all day long. Grade 4 is participating in community service by running a benefit to provide money to the Child Life Center at UMass for books, toys and games for sick children. Grade 3 visited Eight Lots School and witnessed what school was like during that time period. In addition, grade 3 received a visit from a service dog. Grade 4 students are participating in the Tower of Books competition and recently visited the Sutton Public Library. Grade 5 enjoyed a concert at Mechanics Hall.

Students in grades K-3, along with their parents, enjoyed Kids Night Out. Students in grades 4 and 5 had a blast at Fun Night Out. We have been receiving positive feedback with the designation of no homework night on Wednesdays; parents relish being able to have family time. Everyday Math is gone and we are moving away from Open Court and getting back into chapter books. The public library is working with us on our Summer Reading.

Agenda Item 9 – FY16 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided an overview of the current budget. The Total Funded amount increased from \$16,137,550 to \$16,208,056.

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

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 10 – Addition of Subsidiary (Sutton Movement) to High School Activity Accounts

Ms. Rothermich explained that a subsidiary account needed to be added to the High School Activity Accounts because the Journalism class started a school newspaper. The account is like a student checkbook and will be used for selling ads for their newspaper.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Green seconded, to approve the addition of subsidiary account to High School Activity Accounts as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 11 – Addition of School Resource Officer Wording to Town of Sutton Indirect Cost Allocation Agreement

Wording for the School Resource Officer (SRO) needs to be added to the Town of Sutton Indirect Cost Allocation Agreement. This agreement speaks about costs borne by the Town, but may be allocated by the school. There is no change to cost structure as the SRO is included in the Police Department budget.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Green seconded, to approve the additional wording to the Town of Sutton Indirect Cost Allocation Agreement as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 12 – State Audit

Sutton Public Schools was provided with a District Self-Assessment Tool to assist with a state audit expected to take place in several months. Administrators, along with two parents from the District Learning Team, will be meeting on November 9th to review this assessment tool. School Committee members were asked to provide feedback on areas in which they are knowledgeable and e-mail the completed form to the Superintendent.

Agenda Item 13 – First Reading of Updated Emergency Plans Policy

The first reading of the updated Emergency Plans Policy was held.

Agenda Item 14 – Review SWCEC’s 1st Quarter Report

Mr. Friend reviewed the 1st Quarter Report of the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative.

Agenda Item 15 – Superintendent’s Update

The Fincom meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, November 10th @ 6:30 p.m. Margo Austein submitted her letter of retirement; we wish her luck. The School Committee has the responsibility of appointing the Special Education Director. It is the Superintendent’s recommendation to post this job internally as there are qualified candidates in the district who know the system and students and would do a great job. A decision on PARCC vs. MCAS testing will be made on November 17th. The Commissioner of Education has changed his tune and is talking about MCAS2.0 (more online testing protocol with PARCC questions). SSEPAC’s fundraiser was successful; raffle sales were approximately \$4,800 and we receive 40%. The proceeds will go to equipment for Special Education. Thank you to all of the volunteers and students, and especially Claudia Linsley for all of her efforts. BVT numbers increased by 13% this year (12 students), which is significant. This is going to be another big hit as the pupil expenditure is \$17,000. ACLU completed a report regarding student privacy issues and students’ rights regarding technology. There will be a series of policies that we will need to adopt over the school year to address some of these concerns. Dan Durgin will be involved with this. Over 100 people showed up for the Budget Presentation on October 14th; a lot of good questions were asked. Thank you to all those who attended. The Superintendent extended an invitation to meet with anyone interested in reviewing the budget; two people reached out to him. The Budget Presentation will be presented to Fincom on November 10th @ 6:30 p.m.

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

None.

Agenda Item 17 – Adjournment

At 9:25 p.m., Mary Green moved, and Nate Jerome seconded, to adjourn.

Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary

Documents:

Agenda

Briefing Sheet

Minutes (10-05-15 & 10-14-15)

Executive Minutes (10-05-15)

Bill Schedules (10-07-15, 10-15-15, 10-21-15, 10-21-15)

Field Trip Form

FY16 Budget Summary

FY16 Year-To-Date Budget Report

Town of Sutton Indirect Cost Allocation Agreement

District Self-Assessment Tool (State Audit)

Updated Emergency Plans Policy

SWCEC 1st Quarter Report