



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 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; Margo Austein, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Special Projects; Susan Rothermich, Business Manager; Gerry Goyette, Middle School Principal; Ted McCarthy, High School Principal; and Christina Tuomala, Athletic Director.

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 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3 – Citizen Forum

No one present wished to speak.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Green seconded, to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2015 as presented.

Carried 3-0-2 (Locurto, Brennan)

Ms. Green moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the Bill Schedules of November 19, 2015 and December 2, 2015 as presented.

Carried 4-0-1 (Edwards)

Agenda Item 5 – Student Update

Progress reports come out next week. Fall sports ended and winter sports have begun. The Seniors collected canned goods for the food pantry. The winter variety show will be on December 18th and there are 24 acts.

Agenda Item 6 – Revision to Dress Code in HS Student Handbook

Noelle Stockwell and Maeve Pond from the Gender Studies Club explained that the club felt revisions to the Dress Code were necessary to create a positive change in school. One specific change requested was to take out the phrase “distraction” that was thought to be hostile as it seemed to only be directed towards girls. It was also discussed that, in the paragraph regarding “Pants”, the word “should” would be replaced with the word “shall”.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Edwards seconded, to approve the revision to Dress Code in the High School Student Handbook as amended.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 7 – Middle School and High School Update

Mr. Goyette provided an update of the Middle School. The Middle School Newsletter comes out every month on the website; he encourages parents to check it out; Operation Gratitude will be sharing care packages to the veterans' shelter; 6th grade participated in an amazing race on higher order thinking activities; 7th grade raised \$450 which they donated to the T&G Santa Fund; 8th grade held a Veterans' Day assembly honoring veterans; October 30th was the Day of the Dead Celebration – used Town resources and found out who was in cemetery and that a famous gentleman lived near an alpaca farm - kids learned a lot; Clubs are in full swing; Volleyball tournament was amazing – over 120 kids involved and raising money for food pantry; Winter cookout is December 10th; Butter Braid Fundraiser was very successful; Announcements may now be found on our school's website – simply click the green tab titled Morning Announcements; Band Concert is December 9th; Choral Concert is December 16.

Mr. McCarthy provided an update of the High School. The 8th Grade Parent Information Night was not as well attended as hoped, although positive feedback was received from those that attended. We have a Facebook page and Twitter account – we will continue to put messages out to the community on what is happening. Our school newspaper, The Movement, will be available at the center store and town hall. The content is from the students with no oversight from administrators. Mass Insight is a big success. Insight is a big success. We currently have 50 seniors that expressed interest in the Senior Internship Program. In April, students will be placed in internships. In May, we will be having a Science Fair where interns will display information regarding their internship. We entered into a partnership with the Zeni Foundation and are on a mission to help promote successful young adults. All students are able to apply for a \$30K scholarship to the school of their choice to defray cost of tuition and fees.

Agenda Item 8 – FY17 Budget Presentation for the Middle and High Schools

Mr. Friend reviewed how the budget process will unfold. The Middle School budget was reviewed line by line with Mr. Goyette providing detailed explanations when requested. The budget for the High School was reviewed line by line with Mr. McCarthy providing detailed explanations as needed. Christina Tuomala, Athletic Director, provided information for the Athletics budget.

Agenda Item 9 – Transfer of Funds from Instructional Software Account to General Supplies

As there is no need for instructional software this year, Mr. McCarthy requested that \$4,500 be transferred into classroom supplies to cover over expenditure.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Ms. Green seconded, to approve the transfer of funds from the Instructional Software Account to General Supplies as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 10 – Transfer of Funds to Professional Development Account

Mr. McCarthy requested that money be transferred from Saturday detention, as Saturday detention will not be utilized, to Professional Development.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Green seconded, to approve the transfer of funds from Student Account Salaries (Saturday Detention) to Professional Development as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 11 – FY16 Budget Update

Ms. Rothermich provided a review of the FY16 Budget.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the recommendation of the Business Manager to use the School Use Revolving Account (not to exceed \$19,000) for the installation of hand dryers as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 12 – FY17 Fuel Oil Bid

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the recommendation of the Business Manager to award the FY17 Fuel Oil Bid to Peterson Oil as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 13 – Third Reading and Adoption of Updated Emergency Plans Policy

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

Ms. Green moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to adopt the updated Emergency Plans Policy as presented.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 14 – Second Reading of Security Cameras in School Policy

The second reading of Security Cameras in School Policy was held.

Agenda Item 15 – Second Reading of Access to Digital Resources Policy

The second reading of Access to Digital Resources Policy was held.

Agenda Item 16 – Second Reading of Empowered Digital Use Policy

The second reading of Empowered Digital Use Policy was held.

Agenda Item 17 – Second Reading of Internet Publication Policy

The second reading of Internet Publication Policy was held.

Agenda Item 18 – PARCC vs. MCAS

The Superintendent made the recommendation that we move to PARCC this year. MCAS 2.0 is going to be PARCC. We will be held harmless for the next two years as far as the rating. This move will allow students to have two years to sample the PARCC questions and also provides teachers with a chance to review how students are doing. Testing online will eliminate the need of booklets. We may have to look at buying another 30-40 laptops or tablets for testing. Testing

would only be for grades 3-8. High School students need to take MCAS. Students in grades 5 and 8 will also need to take MCAS for Science. PARCC testing is for ELA and Math.

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to move to PARCC this year.

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 19 – Superintendent’s Update

Mr. Friend was granted permission from the School Committee to meet informally with the Union for interest based bargaining with SESA. A request was made by a member of the select board and student to build a public ice skating rink on the basketball court or some other area; this would be covered by our liability policy. We would also like to support a community garden between the Elementary and Middle Schools. The Chain of Lights was wonderful this year.

Agenda Item 20 – New Business/Agenda Items/Action Items

The School Committee would like to raise the issue of cell service at the school to the Board of Selectmen through Jim Smith. A couple of weeks ago, a student fell and broke his arm. What if someone has an allergic reaction or heart attack and there isn’t time to run into school to use a phone? We need to look into getting some type of signal booster or small antenna that can be placed on buildings to improve cell phone service. For the short term, it will be the practice of the custodian to open the gym and provide phone access. Mr. Smith has already been contacted about this incident and is diligent in going back and forth with the cell phone provider.

Agenda Item 21 – Adjournment

At 10:15 p.m., Ms. Green moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to adjourn.

Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary

Documents:

Agenda
Briefing Sheet
Minutes (11-16-15)
Bill Schedule (11-19-15 & 12-02-15)
Revision to Dress Code in HS Student Handbook
MS FY17 Budget Comparison
MS FY17 Budget Detail Report
HS FY17 Budget Comparison
HS FY17 Budget Detail Report
Memo re: Transfer of Funds to General Supplies
Memo re: Transfer of Funds to Professional
FY16 Year-to-Date Budget Report
Memo re: Installation of Hand Dryers

Memo re: Fuel Oil Bid Award
Emergency Plans Policy (updated)
Security Cameras in School Policy
Access to Digital Resources Policy
Empowered Digital Use Policy
Internet Publication Policy