



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met in the Wally Johnson Room of the Sutton Municipal Center on MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2015.

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

School Committee Member not present at the meeting was Mary Green.

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent and Susan Rothermich, Business Manager.

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 – Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was had in honor of two of our students, Violet Ahearn and Timothy Ellsessar, who passed.

Agenda Item 4 – Citizen Forum

No one present.

Agenda Item 5 – Consent Agenda

Mr. Brennan moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the Minutes of May 18, 2015 as presented.

Carried 3-0-1 (Edwards)

Mr. Edwards moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the Minutes of August 7, 2015 and the Bill Schedules as presented.

Carried 3-0-1 (Brennan)

Agenda Item 6 – Approve Vehicle Replacement

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Edwards seconded, to approve the vehicle replacement as presented.

Carried 4-0-0

Agenda Item 7 – First Reading of Policies

The first reading of the Disposal of Surplus Property and updated Physical Restraint Policy was held. The second reading of these policies is scheduled for September 14, 2015.

Agenda Item 8 – Establish Subcommittees

The following subcommittees were established:

Budget: Liisa Locurto and Bruce Edwards

District Learning Team: Nathan Jerome and Bruce Edwards

Negotiations (w/SESA): Liisa Locurto and possibly Mary Green

Agenda Item 9 – Discuss School Choice Openings

The possibility of opening School Choice seats in high school for 2016-2017 school year was discussed.

Agenda Item 10 – Review/Approve School Committee Goals

The goals for the School Committee were reviewed. A final draft of the goals will be presented and approved at the next meeting (September 14, 2015).

Agenda Item 11 – Appointment of Superintendent to Serve on SWCEC Board

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to appoint the Superintendent to serve on the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board as presented.

Carried 4-0-0

Agenda Item 12 – Building Use Guidelines & Fee Structure

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to approve the changes to the building use guidelines and fee structure as presented.

Carried 4-0-0

Agenda Item 13 – Superintendent's Update

We will have an interactive discussion regarding the budget presentation at our meeting on September 14, 2015. All School Committee members are encouraged to attend the meeting on October 14, 2015 when this information will be provided to the public. Liisa spoke to staff on Opening Day with a message that our group is committed to the budget. The Superintendent did things a little different for Opening Day. The staff enjoyed watching the movie, To Sir With Love, which highlighted the human element that is important to remember while doing the work we do.

The Simonian Center for Early Learning had an open house this afternoon. Riverside Mental Health (grief counseling) was invited and were available to parents seeking knowledge of how to discuss the loss of a student with their child. An in depth session for staff who worked closely with Violet will be held tomorrow.

A new charter school application has been submitted to the Town of Shrewsbury and we are part of the catch basin. You will be kept abreast of developments as they progress.

On August 24, 2015, we were notified that the DESE would be conducting a target district review of our school system. This is an extensive audit that will take most of the year to complete, which is why superintendents are questioning the need for NAYAC and NEASC.

SEFT is looking for ways to generate interest. This summer we took two fieldtrips to UMass/Amherst and Foxborough Public Schools to gain information on opening a greenhouse and creating an aeroponics garden. There has been a lot of interest by many staff members, including our cafeteria manager. We are hoping to start a new program that will benefit students.

The Town of Sutton does not qualify for the universal free lunch program because we do not meet the threshold percentage of free and reduced lunch students.

Agenda Item 14 – New Business/Agenda Items/Action Items

None.

Agenda Item 15 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:28 p.m., Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Brennan seconded, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issue and contract negotiations with Sutton Education Support Association (SESA).

Mr. Jerome, Yes
Mr. Brennan, Yes
Ms. Locurto, Yes
Mr. Edwards, Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
Recording Secretary

Documents:

Agenda
Briefing Sheet
Minutes (5/18/15, 6/29/15, 8/07/15)
Bill Schedules (8/27/15)
Vehicle Replacement Estimate
Disposal of Surplus Property Policy
Physical Restraint of Students Policy
School Committee Goals 2015-2016
Changes to Building Use Guidelines & Fee Structure
MOAs re: Summer Nurse & Cafeteria Staff