



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met remotely on MONDAY, July 13, 2020 via Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85344895623?pwd=NFdtRVJFbzhnemZlUFN3RkpDY1RRZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85344895623?pwd=NFdtRVJFbzhnemZlUFN3RkpDY1RRZz09;); Meeting ID: 853 4489 5623.

School Committee Members present at the meeting were Paul Brennan, Chair; Peter Tufts, Vice Chair; Bruce Edwards, Secretary; Kristen Feifert Clark; and Nathan Jerome.

Administrators present at the meeting were Theodore Friend, Superintendent and Nancy Konisky, Business Manager.

Guest present at the meeting was Michael Whittier, President of Sutton Teachers Association.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Friend called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – School Committee Reorganization

Mr. Jerome nominated, and Mr. Edwards seconded, to appoint Paul Brennan as Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Edwards, Yes

Mr. Tufts, Yes

Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes

Mr. Jerome, Yes

Carried 4-0-1 (Brennan)

Mr. Edwards nominated, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to appoint Peter Tufts as Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Jerome, Yes

Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes

Mr. Edwards, Yes

Mr. Brennan, Yes

Carried 4-0-1 (Tufts)

Mr. Jerome nominated, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to appoint Bruce Edwards as Secretary.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Jerome, Yes

Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes

Mr. Tufts, Yes

Mr. Brennan, Yes

Carried 4-0-1 (Edwards)

Mr. Brennan reviewed the script on conducting remote open meetings.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Forum (Join by Phone: 1-929-205-6099)

Mr. Whittier acknowledged that he was present to discuss the language change for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This topic is listed as Agenda Item #9 below and a discussion will occur at that time. No one else wished to speak in public forum.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Edwards seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Jerome, Yes
Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
Mr. Edwards, Yes
Mr. Tufts, Yes
Mr. Brennan, Yes

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 5 – Approve Private School

Laura Katragjini, co-owner of Country Montessori, a private school, is seeking approval from the School Committee pursuant to M.G.L. c.76 §1. Superintendent Friend will work with Ms. Katragjini during the first year, meeting on a monthly basis, to help her through the process and assist with curriculum, if needed.

Mr. Tufts moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve Country Montessori, a private school as presented.

Vote not taken.

School Committee members would like to receive input from Jess Merriam, Principal of Simonian Center and Denise Harrison, Principal of Sutton Elementary School. A vote will be taken at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Budget Update

- Approximately \$500K will be rolled over
- A budget update will be provided when closing has been completed
- Multiple custodian lines appear to be over
 - This is due to movement of custodians
 - The total balance for all four schools is not over budget
- Salaries for the Middle and High School Principals are inclusive (50% each) of the Assistant Principal's salary

Agenda Item 7 – Approve Out of Budget Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Purchase

PPE materials purchased for the year would come out of the school budget. This money would then be recovered from grants issued to the town. Sutton Public Schools will coordinate with the Town whether funds come from FEMA or the CARES Act grant. The CARES Act grant

reimburses 100% for technology. For all other eligible items, Sutton must first apply to FEMA for 75% reimbursement. If approved, the CARES Act grant will cover the remaining 25%.

The town received approval from the state to deficit spend up to \$110K, which was the budget that was put together for 2020 expenditures. If these items were part of the \$110K budget, those invoices can be submitted to the town for payment out of deficit spending. The town has already received the request for \$30K for laptops. The \$30K for PPE for Facilities, disinfecting machines, and antibacterial products should be submitted to the Town to be paid from deficit spending.

Over the next 6 months or longer, Sutton Public Schools will need to purchase different items due to COVID-19. The town has a pocket of money. Sutton Public Schools is waiting to receive an entitlement grant, the parameters of which are unknown. If we are able, some of the money from this grant may be used to purchase supplies needed for this pandemic. During the summer, we will need to pull this money from somewhere and then backfill it in. There are other miscellaneous items that the schools are going to need that are not able to go through the town. Hopefully, we will be able to use one of the grants for these items.

A motion is not needed for this agenda item. It was recommended by the Chair that Sutton Public Schools stay with the current policy and that an email would be sent to members to make them aware of additional spending.

Agenda Item 8 – Award Bids for 2020-2021

Mr. Edwards moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to award bids to French River Collaborative and The Education Cooperative as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Jerome, Yes
Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
Mr. Edwards, Yes
Mr. Tufts, Yes
Mr. Brennan, Yes

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 9 – MOU re: Sutton Teachers Association

At the School Committee meeting on July 13, 2020, members approved the amended language (removal of two words) to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Mr. Whittier, President of Sutton Teachers Association (STA), explained that the two words that were removed were part of the original STA contract and that, by removing those two words, steps and lanes were essentially being froze. The MOU, as originally presented, was modified to include an effective date of August 20, 2020 (for this year only due to leap year) to spread the payments from 26 pay periods to 27 pay periods.

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Edwards seconded, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sutton Teachers Association as originally presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Jerome, Yes
Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes

Mr. Edwards, Yes
Mr. Tufts, Yes
Mr. Brennan, Yes

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 10 – Superintendent's Update

- General guidance was received from the state at the end of June
 - There are still some unknowns
- School Districts must submit a plan to DESE, which includes 3 learning models (in-person, hybrid and remote)
- Social distancing requirements for students taking appropriate safety measures (wearing masks) is 3'; other students in grades PreK – grade 1 who are encouraged (but not required) to wear masks must have 6' of social distancing
- Remote learning would be graded
- Administrators met to review plan
 - Each school is developing its own plan
 - Teams are being created for each school
- Plan is due to DESE by August
 - Asked not to choose what model we will use for fall school reopening until after the plan has been submitted
- Initial survey sent to families to get a baseline
 - MS/HS - 90% plan on sending students back to school
 - ES/SCEL - 89% plan on sending students back
 - Bus Transportation – 60-65% of parents will transport their child
- Secured PPE supplies; waiting on hand sanitizer
- Expect to receive a one-time grant of \$225 per student in COVID related costs
 - 70K could be used for supplies for manipulatives at home
 - Money could be used to hire additional one-year IAs so we could split one classroom into two classrooms to socially distance students
 - Money could also be used to offset existing costs
- Do not know how much we will receive from c.70 or Circuit Breaker
- Do not know what the Federal Government will do
 - There was talk of relief for states and local municipalities
- Do not know about fall or winter sports
- Unsure how to handle Band and Chorus
- How do we do we address staff that cannot return to school district because of pre-existing condition?
- Remote learning will be provided for students who have health concerns
- We will be developing our plan over the next three weeks
- Will be incorporating grant funding once we know how we are able to use it
- Health teacher for younger grades was removed from budget in the spring because we were not ready to move forward with proposal
 - Concern for social/emotional wellbeing of students
 - Hoping to use money received (\$225/pupil) to bring in a counselor (maybe Carol McMahon because she knows the students) to assist in this regard
- Safety of students and staff is paramount; first priority

- The second important thing is knowing when to pull the trigger and send students home
 - Team, including Cheryl Rawinski and Michelle Donovan, is working on plans
- State requires parents to buy cloth mask for their child
- Parents should encourage student to practice wearing mask at home so they can get used to it and will be prepared for wearing it during the school day
- If we do not have fall sports, the Athletic Director, Christina Tuomala, will be teaching Spanish
- Check with MASC regarding potential policies
- School Committee meetings will be held on July 27 and August 10
- August 6th High School Graduation has been cancelled

Agenda Item 11 – New Business/Agenda Items/Action Items

- School Committee Retreated will be scheduled two weeks before school begins
- Will come back in August with a proposed fee for E-sports
- Curriculum will more than likely need to be condensed due to shortening of day for handwashing, mask breaks, etc.
- Samantha, Food Services Director, continues to do an amazing job

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment

At 8:38 p.m., Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Jerome, Yes
 Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
 Mr. Edwards, Yes
 Mr. Tufts, Yes
 Mr. Brennan, Yes

Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
 Recording Secretary

Documents:

Minutes (06-15-20)
 Bill Schedules (06-15-20; 06-22-20; 06-29-20; 07-01-20)
 Information re: Country Montessori
 Memorandum re: Bids
 MOU with Sutton Teachers Association