



Sutton School Committee

Sutton, Massachusetts 01590

The Sutton School Committee met remotely on MONDAY, February 8, 2021 via Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88924859418?pwd=VU9sUU9oNnY3dklRWElEcm90OWVYUT09>; Meeting ID: 889 2485 9418; Passcode: 478642.

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; Nancy Konisky, Business Manager; Andrea Alves-Thomas, Director of Special Education; Ted McCarthy, High School Principal; Gerry Goyette, Middle School Principal; Denise Harrison, Elementary School Principal; Jessica Merriam, Simonian Center Principal; Dan Durgin, Director of Information Technology; Samantha D'Angelo, Director of Food Services; Roger Raymond, Facilities Manager; and Michelle Donovan, School Nurse.

Student Representatives present at the meeting were Sky Gorczyński and Kyle Mendoza.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the script on conducting remote open meetings.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Forum (Join by Phone: 1-929-205-6099)

Erika Osborne, a resident of Sutton, inquired as to why students from Elementary School and Middle School are not invited to attend School Committee meetings to provide updates. Only High School students are required to participate in School Committee meetings; however, this inquiry will be discussed with Administration.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Edwards, Yes
Mr. Tufts, Yes
Mr. Jerome, Yes
Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
Mr. Brennan, Yes
Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 4 – Student Update

- As Seniors preparing to enter college, having 4 longer classes better prepares you for a college schedule
- The Wednesday schedule is beneficial because it:
 - Provides a much needed break from looking at the screen
 - Allows students to complete paperwork or reading assignments for classes

- Provides students with the opportunity to participate in clubs and sports
- Allows students an opportunity to receive extra help from teachers
- Allows students to attend extra curriculars and pioneer events such as Student Council and Student Government
- An AP Work Boot Camp (every other Wednesday) is being offered next semester
 - Students will meet with first semester AP classes and review for exam
 - Extremely helpful having a review session because material hasn't been looked at in a few months
- Ms. Tuomala has been very helpful getting all of the sports teams going
- SATs
 - Due to COVID-19, SATs were repeatedly being cancelled
 - This was due to the college boards and not the schools
 - Beneficial for students to be able to take SATs on site in Sutton
 - Usually students would prepare over the summer for SATs
 - Did not have that opportunity
 - Could not prepare as well because of classes
- Civics graduation requirement
 - Due to internship program, students were only in class for 3 weeks as the requirement was new as of Sophomore year
- Advantages this year:
 - Having 4 classes in 2 semesters
 - Opportunity to take 2 classes together that normally wouldn't be taken together
- Some students prefer the longer schedule with 6 classes/day
 - Feel as though you learned more on this schedule
 - With the 4 classes in 2 semesters, there is less time (especially for AP classes) and there is a big gap from when you finish the class and take the test

Agenda Item 5 – FY21 Budget Update

- Anticipate receiving approximately \$48K in state funding from the Coronavirus Prevention Fund Distribution
 - Money received is earmarked for COVID related expenses and must be spent this year
 - Paid in 2 installments (February and April)
 - Money will be used to cover IT overages, which are listed on page 3 and page 20 of the Year-to-Date Budget Report
 - Remaining money will be applied to the two .5 nurses that went full time this year

Agenda Item 6 – Approve Five Year Capital Plan

The Capital Plan is usually presented to the School Committee in December. It is then presented to the Town, at which time a discussion occurs and changes are implemented. However, this year it is believed that the amount listed as being funded in FY22 will be the amount that will actually be funded.

The Capital Plan includes the following:

- Replace chiller
 - \$100K was set aside last year (or year prior)
 - Town was hoping to get a green energy grant, but this did not happen

- Town will put in another \$130K in to repair/replace the big chiller behind the Elementary School, which should be much more energy efficient
- Replace gym floor in the Simonian Center/Elementary School
- Replace carpeting in the Library of the Elementary School
- \$10K was allotted to Technology Replacement
- Replace 2 membranes
- Repair Floor Grate at the main entrance of the Middle School/High School
- Over the next several years, priorities were established such as:
 - Repairing the Simonian Center parking lot
 - Asbestos remediation
 - \$20K remains from the previous year that may need to be used
 - Roger meets with the Superintendent several times a year to review the order in which items should be completed based on necessity

Mr. Tufts moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to approve the Five Year Capital Plan as presented with the caveat that the items listed for repaving in 2023 and 2024 be combined to occur during the same year.

ROLL CALL VOTE
 Mr. Edwards, Yes
 Mr. Tufts, Yes
 Mr. Jerome, Yes
 Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
 Mr. Brennan, Yes
Carried 5-0-0

Mr. Jerome moved, and Mr. Tufts seconded, to open the public hearing on the FY22 School Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE
 Mr. Edwards, Yes
 Mr. Tufts, Yes
 Mr. Jerome, Yes
 Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
 Mr. Brennan, Yes
Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 7 – Public Hearing for FY22 School Budget
 Superintendent Friend presented the FY22 School Budget.

Mr. Edwards moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to close the public hearing on the FY22 School Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE
 Mr. Edwards, Yes
 Mr. Tufts, Yes
 Mr. Jerome, Yes
 Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
 Mr. Brennan, Yes
Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 8 – Adopt FY22 School Budget

Mr. Tufts moved, and Mr. Jerome seconded, to adopt the FY22 School Budget in the amount of \$19,239,568 as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Edwards, Yes

Mr. Tufts, Yes

Mr. Jerome, Yes

Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes

Mr. Brennan, Yes

Carried 5-0-0

Agenda Item 9 – COVID-19 Update

- Michelle Donovan, School Nurse, provided information on pool testing for COVID-19
 - After reviewing the pros and cons, most, if not all, seemed to agree that it did not make sense to go the route of pool testing at this time
- Town's active cases are down to 44; a significant decline
- Middle School has 3 active cases
- Educators have been pushed back in the pecking order for receiving the vaccine
 - Still no plan in place
 - Hoping staff will not have to travel to Foxboro to receive the vaccine
- Awaiting updated guidelines for buses
- Superintendent Friend has participated in several meetings with area Superintendents
 - No districts are planning to bring back all students until staff are vaccinated
- Superintendent Friend holds regular weekly meetings with Administrators and Union Presidents with the goal to bring all students back in-person this year
 - When that occurs, social distancing will decrease from 6' to 3'
 - Does not appear there will be a vaccination this spring for children, so parents will need to make a decision whether or not they want their child to attend in-person
 - Remote learning will still be an option
- Sad news to share:
 - Three teachers have been hospitalized due to COVID-19
 - One teacher remains in the hospital and has been there a couple of weeks; potentially coming home within the next day
 - One teacher and spouse were both admitted to the hospital
 - Tragically, the spouse (53 years old) succumbed to COVID-19
 - Our thoughts and prayers go out to this teacher and family

Agenda Item 10 – Superintendent's Update

- PIP Committee developed a great framework
 - Anne Corron will be invited to our first meeting in March to give details
- The next School Committee meeting on February 22 will focus on district restructuring
- Simonian Center:
 - Finished mid-year DIBELS testing
 - MAP testing will not be done this year
 - Doing normal kid things
 - Minimizing Valentine's Day celebration

- Elementary School:
 - More and more students coming back into the hybrid model from full remote model
 - Second trimester report cards will be mailed out February 12
- Middle School:
 - Newsletter will be posted on Monday
 - Staff UNO fundraiser, sponsored by PTO, is on Wednesday, February 10
- Chromebooks have arrived
 - Distribution to students has started
- Facilities:
 - Town will put a proposal on warrant to run sewer from condominiums up to town and then possibly to the school system
 - In order to do this, the Town needs all of the facts, so during February vacation the tank will be drained and an inspection will be done to see if it is possible to line the tank and get another 10-15 years of life
 - Roger is working with Principals in preparation of bringing students back in-person
 - Biggest concern is how to handle lunches
- Food Services:
 - Project Bread is looking to the state legislature to pass a campaign for universal free lunches
 - Approximately 4,000 lunches are being distributed weekly

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

- Would like the community to be aware that there is a possibility there will be a vote on running water to the school
- The notion of having students from other schools attend School Committee meetings, while not a legal requirement, is a great idea

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment to Executive Session

At 8:42 p.m., Mr. Jerome moved, and Ms. Feifert Clark seconded, to adjourn to Executive Session, pursuant to the Federal Education Rights to Privacy Act, to Discuss Individual Students and Not Reconvene in Open Session.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Edwards, Yes
 Mr. Tufts, Yes
 Mr. Jerome, Yes
 Ms. Feifert Clark, Yes
 Mr. Brennan, Yes
Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Guillen
 Recording Secretary

Documents:

Minutes (01-04-21)

Bill Schedules (01-14-21; 01-21-21; 01-28-21; 02-04-21)

FY21 YTD Budget Report

Proposed Five Year Capital Plan FY22-FY26

FY22 Budget Presentation – FINAL DRAFT