

Regular Session Meetings

April 10, 2019

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B129 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Amy OConnor, Ms. Gargi Cooper, Ms. Suzanne Wright, Mr. Ted Delano, and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Martha Raymond, Director of Student Services.

Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Martha Sybert, Business Administrator, Joseph Varghese and Isaac Green, student representatives, were absent.

Ms. OConnor opened with a moment of silence for Max Carbone. She mentioned his memorial service and scholarship fund.

Public Comment:

NA

Community Announcements:

Ms. Marshall and Ms. OConnor taped a candidate forum with the TV production class. Ms. Marshall is amazed by the amazing job the class is doing. The video is on YouTube on the Swampscott Education channel.

Ms. Wright gave kudos to the drama club on the performance of Sweet Charity.

Superintendent's Report:

Technology Update: L. Mackey introduced the team members: V. Akim, S. Silbert, N. Poverchuk, C. Porter-Roberts, and S. Comparato. Ms. Mackey shared the Digital Learning and Technology teams goal to ensure all teachers are armed with what they need to create a robust digital environment. Their Technology plan based on infrastructure, educators, and students. She reviewed the responsibilities, accomplishments and roles of members. Ms. Mackey summarized the projects that have been done from 2016-2019 and the plan for 2020.

Mr. Akim discussed the Technology Portal problem reporting tickets. He highlighted the Tech Ninjas, phone system upgrades, and the plan to have wireless access ports in every classroom. Mr. Silbert provided updates on Chrome, reviving obsolete computers, and the new powerful server.

Ms. Mackey mentioned the District Educators, 4 MassCue presentations, Tech Tuesdays & Thursdays, Chromebooks & Google training for all ESPs, and SPS teachers equipped with MacBook Airs.

Ms. Comparato noted the HS highlights which included MacBook Airs, wireless projectors, Apple TV, support for the guidance department, and ASPEN gradebook training.

Ms. Mackey mentioned the Tech Ninjas video series. The majority of the HS students have Chromebooks. Apple desktops and MacBook Airs are available so students have access to the platforms they will use at the next level.

Ms. Poverchuck provided the MS update which highlighted access to Chromebooks and computers, an increased variety of Tech after school programs, and software program including Go Guardian.

Ms. Porter-Roberts provided the elementary update which included new Chromebook & Ipad carts for each elementary school, BrainPop, and additional SmartBoards and projectors in 2019-2020.

Ms. Cooper questioned the Portal tickets. Mr. Akim stated that they have about 200 tickets a month district wide. Ms. Mackey noted the count doesn't include special project tickets. Ms. Wright inquired about the Tech Ninjas helping out. Ms. Mackey stated they currently have 6 Ninjas that work on projects.

Ms. Cooper expressed concern about the screen time at the elementary level. Ms. Porter-Roberts stated that a regular classroom had no more than an hour screen time every 3 days or so.

Ms. OConnor asked if it was possible to track hours spent supporting MCAS (100% online testing), and the Ninjas supporting non-school websites. Ms. Mackey stated that her team is training people to take on their own websites so it is not continuous support. Ms. OConnor questioned the need for more resources. Ms. Mackey said although they lost a Tech person they are managing with the use of the Ninjas but will eventually need an additional person.

Ms. OConnor asked Ms. Poverchuck about the value of digital citizenship based on all the problems. Ms. Poverchuck noted that some of the issues are not symptomatically digital. They are looking to build a stronger program intertwined in multiple areas. Ms. Wright inquired about the MS cell phone policy. Ms. Poverchuck responded that they are primarily kept in lockers or confiscated.

Ms. Marshall thought it was a good idea to have digital citizenship woven into classes. Mr. Delano mentioned the permanence of SM. Ms. Poverchuck said they cover 8 topics including careful identity online, and language.

Ms. Raymond mentioned teaching parents since some issues may have happened over the weekend. Ms. Mackey is aware of a couple speakers, and subscriptions we can buy and share with parents. Ms. Cooper mentioned a presentation at the HS several years ago by the Attorney General's Office.

SAT, AP, ACT Test Results/Drop Out Report: Ms. Barnum covered 5 HS reports which included the Graduate data, Non-Graduate data, SAT & ACT Data 2018, and Advanced Placement Score Reports 2018.

Ms. Barnum highlighted the college acceptance schools, the graduate plans (2 & 4-year college, Gap year, Continuing- Ed, Post-Grad, Career Ed). Ms. OConnor inquired about Gap year students. Ms. Barnum relayed that they do various activities, and some wait to apply to college as schools have different deferment policies. Mr. Delano asked where Prep schools were counted. Ms. Barnum stated they were in Continuing Ed numbers.

Ms. Barnum provided a breakdown of the Non-Graduating students (2014-2019). There was a TECCA discussion. Ms. Wright inquired where the students who withdraw went after HS? Ms. Barnum will look into.

Ms. Barnum provided an update on SAT Data, ACT Data and the Advanced Placement Score Reports. Ms. OConnor asked if there was any pushback on AP exams. The policy is that all AP students take the exam. Ms. Barnum appreciates the costs (\$95 per exam). However, since college credits are often awarded it may save on college costs. Ms. Cooper inquired about the enrollment and exam figures. Ms. Barnum indicated the numbers are typically the same though there are situations when a student is sick. Additionally, anyone may take the exams. A few students took the German exam but we did not offer a German AP course. Mr. Delano inquired on the amount of credits colleges awarded. Ms. Barnum indicated the average was 3 credits for a qualifying score.

SEPAC (Special Ed Parent Advisory Council): Ms. Lisa Julien-Hayes, SEPAC was in attendance. Ms. OConnor congratulated her on her son's recent student award. Ms. Julien-Hayes praised the excellent

SPS Special Education team. She is grateful for Ms. Raymond and her team. Ms. Raymond commented on what a great resource Ms. Julie-Hayes and the council is for parents. Ms. Julie-Hayes stated that is nice to have everyone working together. She is proud of our district but more can be brought to the workshop table with additional help. She sees the potential for more participation with 1 elementary school.

Student Services Update: Ms. Raymond presented on the Individuals with Disabilities Act, referral process, Education Disabilities, IEP services, placement, student services, and programming. She provided the historical data on IEP percentages against enrollment and Initial Evaluations which are both trending upward.

Ms. Raymond highlighted Out of District Placements including transportation data. Ms. OConnor inquired about placement of students from another state. Ms. Raymond explained the Move-In Law. There was a discussion regarding transportation costs for Foster and Homeless students, which differ. The district of origin provides the transportation to/from the school for Foster Care students. Ms. OConnor inquired about Swampscott students in Foster Care. Ms. Raymond noted they may enroll in the town where they are in foster care or their origin school.

Ms. Raymond discussed least restrictive environment, anxiety disorders, and 2 new programs (Harbor, Swift). Ms. Raymond mentioned the new issues including larger kindergarten sizes, an additional psychologist at Hadley for the Learning Academy, MS volunteer program, and alternate project-based learning at the MS/HS.

There was a discussion on Medicaid reimbursement which requires having a code for billing based on medical diagnosis. Ms. Raymond noted her concerns. Ms. Cooper asked how we are guiding the IEP if there is no medical diagnosis. Ms. Raymond stated that the IEP is not about medical. A student may be diagnosed with development delay of gross motor skills and require PT services. They identify educational disabilities not medical. Ms. Marshall asked if these are reimbursements we may not get. Ms. Raymond stated that there are a lot of complications, and other state directors are concerned as well.

19-20SY School Calendar/Early Release Days - Vote requested: Ms. OConnor requested the calendar vote.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Marshall to support the School Calendar and seconded by Ms. Cooper

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Sub Committee:

SBC Meetings Update: Ms. Wright mentioned their meeting with Mr. Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator and Treasurer. They discussed the feasibility study and the financials. The committee is in the process of crafting the OPM Request for Services.

Ms. Wright provided an update on the sub-committees. The Communication Sub Committee has posted a link to the Idea Exchange wrap-up presentation on its website. The Tour Sub Committee will be going to a school with a Marine Science Center in Groton, CT. Ms. Wright reiterated Ms. Raymond's comment that everyone is happy to provide feedback on the tours. She discussed the traffic flow, pods, school security and common areas in Milton.

Ms. Cooper questioned plans to present information at town meeting, Ms. Wright stated that there are still people that question why we need a new school. She noted it is important to show space issues. Ms. Raymond mentioned accessibility concerns. Ms. Wright noted that they are not 100% accessible even though Clarke is retrofitted with a ramp and lift. Ms. Wright discussed a video or presentation that hits the highlights within time given.

Consent Agenda

Ms. OConnor read the purpose of the consent agenda and the items on the agenda.

- A. Regular Session Minutes - March 27, 2019
- B. Field Trip - Puerto Rico - J. GahmDiaz/J. Massanari-Sapp
- C. Field Trip - Spain & France - M. Albert//A. Baralt
- D. Warrant 19-40

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wright to accept the agenda & seconded by Ms. Marshall

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Next meeting to be held on April 24, 2019

Adjournment

Motion: At 9:20 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Cooper to adjourn.
The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
/dmm

Date:

Supporting Documentation:

-  01 - April 10, 2019, School Committee M... 4/4/2019 3:24 PM
-  02 - Technology Update.pdf 4/10/2019 1:19 PM
-  03 & 04 SHS SAT, AP, ACT, Drop Out Rep... 4/10/2019 1:18 PM
-  05 - State of Student Services.pdf 4/10/2019 1:56 PM
-  07 - 19-20 School Calendar & Legend Re... 3/26/2019 3:42 PM
-  08 - March 27, 2019 Regular Session Meet... 4/4/2019 3:48 PM
-  09 - Field Trip - Puerto Rico - JGahmDiazJ... 4/4/2019 12:19 PM
-  10 - Field Trip - Spain & France - M.Alber... 4/4/2019 12:25 PM