

Regular Session Meetings

December 11, 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. Gargi Cooper, School Committee, Ms. Suzanne Wright, Mr. Ted Delano, and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools, Jean Bacon, Director of Teaching & Learning, Martha Raymond, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services, Greg Vinitsker, and Max McDonough, Student Reps. Ms. Amy OConnor, School Committee and Ms. Martha Sybert, Business Administrator were absent.

Public Comment:

Ms. Cooper reviewed the process for public comments.

Tristan Smith, a 2014 graduate of SHS, former coach, and employee spoke in support of the teachers. He discussed his time as a student and employee as overwhelmingly positive. Mr. Smith emphasized that the one constant was the teachers even during significant administrative turnover. He stated that quality buildings are important but not at the cost of teachers who are the heart and soul of the district.

Melissa Albert, a SHS world language teacher and recipient of the AATF French educator of the year spoke about being a Blue Ribbon school, the sense of pride, and the growth of the French program. She discussed bigger classes, more college recommendations, staying later, making themselves available to students before & after school, and colleagues feeling demoralized. Ms. Albert mentioned the message sent with their salary needs being called unsustainable. She stated that this morale is unsustainable. Ms. Albert asked the SC to provide a fair and reasonable contract.

Community Announcements

Max McDonough discussed the peer leaders sixteen days of activism. He mentioned the orange stickers to acknowledge gender based violence, the French club hosting a contest, art show at HS, and the upcoming band/chorus show.

Greg Vinitsker mentioned the ADL club has grown tremendously, and gave a shout out to the prep rally committee.

Ms. Marshall congratulated the Big Blue football team on their Super Bowl win.

Mr. Delano thanked the staff members present. He noted the difficulty of contract negotiations but that their comments are heard and absorbed. He congratulated the HS Football team and Coach Serino. He noted the dedication of coaches, the cheerleaders, and band.

Ms. Cooper congratulated the Big Blue football team on their Super Bowl win.

Ms. Wright also congratulated the football team.

Superintendent's Report: Ms. Angelakis' report will be posted on the Superintendent's Page under the Swampscott Public School's web page.

State Seal of Biliteracy (Jessica Gahm-Diaz)

Ms. Gahm-Diaz, SHS Foreign Language Content Leader discussed the State Seal of Biliteracy Program. The State Seal of Biliteracy is a key element of the Act Relative to Language Opportunity for Our Kids, (LOOK Act), Chapter 138 of the Acts signed into law November 2017. On June 26, 2018, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted regulations that describe the criteria that school districts must use to award the State Seal of Biliteracy.

Participation in the State Seal of Biliteracy Program is voluntary but DESE is encouraging school participation. MA DOE has developed an insignia that must affix the unaltered seal to the diploma and or transcript of a student who has been awarded the State Seal of Biliteracy.

Students must be proficient in English and one other language. Ms. Gahm-Diaz discussed the requirements and testing options. She provided the English Language criteria, World Language criteria, and criteria for the State Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction.

She discussed utilizing AP exam scores. There are online testing options in numerous languages. She discussed the Portfolio-Based Alternative Evidence Method for World Language Assessments.

Ms. Gahm-Diaz suggests that we pilot this year. She noted that participation helps embrace and celebrate diversity, encourages students to master languages, and provides the opportunity to stand out above others. She discussed some of the next steps which include notice of intent to DESE, required letter to parents, and registering for testing.

Ms. Angelakis stated she was in support. She inquired about the deadlines. Ms. Gahm-Diaz stated that we may test any date. An early test date would permit seniors time to retake a section if needed.

Ms. Wright asked about the AP exams versus other test options. Ms. Gahm Diaz noted that juniors scoring a 4 on the AP test have met the requirement. However, seniors taking the AP exams might take another test since the AP scores are not received until July. Ms. Wright noted that the seal helps celebrate the heritage and native non-English language students.

Ms. Marshall asked about the intent date to DESE. Ms. Gahm-Diaz said there was a suggested 10/31 but no firm deadlines. Ms. Cooper inquired where testing would occur. Testing would be at SHS. Mr. Delano inquired about students taking the test on a 504 plan. Ms. Raymond responded that time is usually the main accommodation which may need to be approved similar to the SATs.

Ms. Angelakis thanked Ms. Gahm-Diaz. She recommended the committee vote to support in implementing the program.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Marshall to accept the motion & seconded by Mr. Delano.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 4 to 0.

2019 National Commended Status:

Ms. Angelakis read about the National Scholarship Program and commended students. She congratulated the two SHS students (Ian McRae, Sarah Zanger) that received commended status. The students were present.

American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) - Teacher of the Year - Ms. Albert:

Ms. Angelakis recognized Ms. Albert for being awarded the AATF teacher of the year award. The award included \$500 in prize money to attend PD, travel, conferences, and one year free AATF membership.

Superintendent Report

Ms. Angelakis spoke about the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Ms. Angelakis, Ms. Wright, and Mackey presented Leveraging Technology for Data Collection, Collaboration, and Effective Meetings. Ms. Angelakis noted the session on Google by Laura Tilton, Marshfield PS. Ms. Tilton came to the district and trained the Leadership team on data dashboard.

Ms. Angelakis discussed the Professional Development she attended on Understanding Addiction at the district attorney's office. Jessica Hulsey Nickel was the presenter and a potential partner with the district.

Ms. Angelakis provided an update on the FY21 Budget Work which included analyzing Special Education programming and staffing, meetings with each principal to review FTEs, and analyzing current English Learners and potential associated staffing needs.

Mr. Delano asked about the school calendar for next year. Ms. Angelakis stated that a draft has been reviewed by the leadership team. It appears it will be ready for vote in February.

Chair:

Updates: Ms. Cooper thanked Ms. Knowles for providing communication training. Communication platforms were discussed and tweaking the communication information coming out from the districts to include SC information.

The budget sub-committee will meet with the finance committee next week.

The SC Committee is planning to hold the March 11th meeting in Boston with METCO parents.

Sub Committee:

SBC Updates: Ms. Wright discussed the kickoff meeting with the Design Team today. The sub-committee, Ms. Angelakis and Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed their top three recommendations with the MSBA. All three were moved to the next level for December 3rd. The majority chose the LBA architects as the design team. The firm will present Tuesday from 6 to 8.

There will be community forums on January 9th from 6 to 8, and January 11th from 9 to 11.

Wellness Sub Committee: Ms. Cooper stated there was a lot of energy around the great ideas (ie. health fair) at their November meeting. The purpose of the committee is to guide policies that keep students safe. They are working on nutritional guidelines and consistency on refreshments especially at the elementary level. The group has another meeting scheduled in January.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Budget Subcommittee - October 16, 2019 & November 20, 2019
- B. Executive Session Minutes – October 23, 2019
- C. Regular Session Minutes – October 23, 2019
- D. Executive Session Minutes – October 30, 2019 & November 20, 2019
- E. Field Trips & Donations - HS Robotics-JD Software, Inc.
- F. Donation SHS Film, & TV Club -Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation
- G. WARRANT # 20-17 & W20-19, 20-21,& 20-23 (remove as not in presence)

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

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 4 to 0.

Next meeting to be held on January 8 , 2020

Adjournment

Motion: At 8:00p.m. It was moved by Mr. Delano to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Ms. Marshall.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,






























Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.

Date: January 9, 2020

Superintendent of Schools

/dmm

Supporting Documentation:

	Updated Agenda December 11, 2019, School Committee Meeting.pdf	
	Updated Agenda December 11, 2019, School Committee Meeting	
	Superintendent's Report to SC 12.11.19.pdf	
	October 30, 2019 Exec Session Meeting Minutes.pdf	
	October 23, 2019 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final.pdf	
	October 23, 2019 Exec Session Meeting Minutes.pdf	
	October 16, 2019 Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.pdf	
	November 20, 2019 Exec Session Meeting Minutes.pdf	
	November 20, 2019 Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.pdf	
	National Merit Commendation Press Release.pdf	
	MAAlbert AATF Award.pdf	
	Guidelines for Implementing the State Seal of Biliteracy.docx	
	Donation-SHS Film & TV Club-Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation.pdf	
	Donation-HS Robotics-JD Software, Inc..pdf	