

## Regular Session Meetings

January 29, 2020

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

### **Public Comment:**

Ms. Lauren Skelton, Swampscott teacher, and SEA member read the list of demands which included reinstatement of Nancy Hanlon, SEA president, and SPS Speech Pathologist. She requested that leadership change their focus and work with SEA to negotiate a fair contract. Ms. Skelton stated that teachers wanted what is best for the students and themselves. She discussed Swampscott as a destination community. Ms. Skelton requested they secure a reasonable contract in-line with other performing districts.

### **Community Announcements**

Ms. Wright stated that the contract was a hot topic at the Financial Summit. She felt it was good for the finance committee, select board, and residents to hear how the school committee (SC) wrestles with contract obligations and funding. Ms. Wright understands the need to continue advocating for the budget. They look forward to continuing mediation and a fair and fast resolution.

Ms. OConnor noted that she was proud of the job done on the budget by the superintendent's team.

Max McDonough spoke about the French and Environmental clubs' fundraisers. He discussed the new motor for the robot (check their Instagram). Ms. Wright asked if the motor was part of the package from First Robotics. The motors are bought from another company.

Greg Vinitsker noted some swimming and track athletes qualified for states. He stated that one student made the All-State Choir.

Ms. Marshall stated the SHS Football team, cheerleaders and band will be honored at the HS on Wednesday, February 5th at 5:30.

**Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Angelakis' report will be posted on the Superintendent's Page under the Swampscott Public School's web page. She will be linking the Budget and Financial Summit presentation to her report.

Ms. Angelakis stated that Mr. Kohut is working with the leadership team on ideas regarding the HS library. He will be meeting with the Student Advisory E-board this week. The library position has been included in the FY21 budget.

Ms. Wright recommended looking at the demographic slides in the Financial Summit presentation. She stated that the Educational Envision group is looking for teacher volunteers. She encourages people to participate as it is the future of education as a whole.

Ms. Wright stated financial committee members Mr. Dorsey, Ms. Fletcher, Ms. Hilario, and Ms. McNerney were in attendance.

**School Business Administrator:** Ms. Sybert presented the FY21 Budget for the Administration, General Education, Special Education, School Facilities & District-Wide Programs cost centers. The 2021 budget is \$30,690,887 a 3.6% increase or \$1,070,484 over FY20 budget. Over 48% of the average taxpayers bill is spent on education.

Ms. Sybert reviewed the FY21 budget drivers which consist of salary expenditures, an increase in Special Education costs, and continued support for school security measures. She noted that over the last ten years' students with disabilities increased 31.7% and English Language Learners increased 138%.

She discussed the change to the Non-Resident Tuition Revolving fund which resulted in an increase of 2.88% from the town general fund. Ms. Angelakis emphasized that we had a 2% guidance from the town up until a few days ago. Ms. OConnor questioned the 3.61% budget change versus 2.88%. Ms. Sybert stated that the town meeting vote resulted in a change in accounting practice and change in revenue sources for the School Department Budget. Although, the increase from the town is 2.88% our overall increase is 3.6%, or \$1,070,484.

Ms. Angelakis discussed the unfunded Capital request for technology. There has been a directive to exclude technology from Capital requests. Ms. Marshall asked about the \$90,000 for Chromebook phase 1 and the Mac Lab. Ms. OConnor inquired if the budget was

being presented at the \$30,690,887. Ms. Angelakis responded that she is recommending the budget at \$30,920,887 to include the \$230,000 technology costs. Ms. OConnor asked if technology was one-time funding. Ms. Sybert stated that she intentionally presented the items separately to foster conversation.

The Administration cost center is proposed at \$1,667,507. Ms. Angelakis asked whether crossing guards and security should be under school cost centers. Ms. Marshall asked if the salaries were under Professional. Ms. Sybert replied yes. She noted a \$5,000 increase to the SC line for public forums and a \$40,000 increase to the Superintendent line to fund the MS/HS Comprehensive Schedule Study.

The General Education costs center is proposed at \$15,907,526 which includes an Elementary Math Coach. The Special Education costs center is proposed at \$9,439,463. Ms. Sybert discussed Out of District (OOD) costs associated with tuition and transportation and Circuit Breaker funding. Ms. OConnor asked about the remaining Circuit Breaker funds. Ms. Angelakis stated we are using \$200,000 from the current year funds to balance the budget. Ms. Sybert stated that having 100% of the funds in arrears is optimal but with the numbers the best case was to use some of next years' awards.

The School facilities cost center is proposed at \$2,295,202 which includes a .60 FTE increase for Director of Facilities.

Districtwide programs cost center is proposed at \$1,381,189 which includes restored funding for various IT projects, summer help and increase cost associated with software licenses.

The Grants, Revolving Funds, FTE/Staffing, and Public Hearing is February 5<sup>th</sup>. February 12<sup>th</sup> is the School Committee vote.

Ms. OConnor asked about the percentage of the taxpayers' bill spent on education (48.2%). She heard 60% at the Summit. Ms. Sybert stated that it would be around 60% with healthcare and retiree benefits. Ms. OConnor requested a more accurate number.

Ms. OConnor inquired whether we are seeing a reimbursement rate comparable to the 31% increase in students with disabilities. Ms. Sybert noted the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding. The Federal grant numbers have not changed much.

Ms. Marshall asked if we will get any relief with new laws. Ms. Raymond noted there is potential we will receive an increase with the Student Opportunity Act but it will not align with costs increase. Ms. Marshall asked if Ms. Sybert wanted questions in advance of next week's meeting. Ms. Sybert would prefer questions in advance to prepare and document responses for the budget book.

Ms. OConnor asked how they should treat the technology request. Ms. Wright and Ms. Marshall felt it was a bigger discussion.

**Director of Teaching & Learning:** Dr. Jean Bacon presented the new math AIMSWEB assessment being piloted in the Elementary school funded with Title I funding.

She discussed the comprehensiveness of the assessment. A common assessment provides equity across schools and classrooms and provides the ability to monitor growth and progress.

Dr. Bacon demonstrated test examples. Ms. Wright inquired if it was all mental math. Dr. Bacon replied that it is about mental strategies. The test measures fluency and conceptual understanding. Dr. Bacon discussed the national performance percentiles and measurement scores (Number Comparison Fluency, Mental Computation Fluency, Concepts & Applications). She demonstrated a drill down of the with an example of Concept & Applications scores broken down to fractions, decimals, problem-solving, and shape & measurement scores. Student's scores are compared to provide interventions and identify if there are any gaps.

Ms. OConnor asked about mechanics and running reports. Dr. Bacon noted the results are real-time. Ms. Porter-Roberts has been meeting with teachers to review the output.

Ms. Angelakis stated that it was impressive to see how deep we can go in a child's weaknesses and strengths. Ms. Wright questioned data entry for Grade K/1. Dr. Bacon stated that the student's answers are captured on the screen during testing. The software is designed to test up to Grade 8.

### **Sub Committee:**

**School Building Committee (SBC) Updates:** Ms. Wright stated that the SBC met last week. The OPM ranked and categorized every comment from the Community forums. The major concerns were traffic, parking, equity and sustainability. The project schedule from now until October will have dozens of meetings for community input and information sharing forums. They want to make the best building possible for the community. Information may be found online on the SBC webpage.

The MSBA kickoff meeting is January 24th.

Ms. OConnor provided an update on the mediator and contract negotiations.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Regular Session Minutes – January 8, 2020
- B. WARRANT # 20-29

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

**Vote on Motion:** The motion passed 3 to 0.

**Next meeting to be held on February 5th, 2020**

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** At 8:35 p.m. It was moved by Ms. OConnor to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Ms. Marshall.

**Vote on Motion:** The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date: February 6, 2020

Superintendent of Schools

/dmm

Supporting Documentation:

 [1.25.20 Superintendent Financial Retreat.pdf](#) 

 [Aimsweb Presentation - Jan 2020](#) 

 [Approved January 8, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final.pdf](#) 

 [January 8, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final.pdf](#) 

 [Public Comment Sheet Jan 29, 2020.pdf](#) 

 [Superintendent's Report to SC 1.29.20.pdf](#) 

 [Swampscott Public Schools 1.29.20](#) 