

## Regular Session Meetings

March 11, 2020

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Roxbury, MA commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Gargi Cooper, School Committee, Ms. Suzanne Wright, Mr. 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, and Max McDonough, Student Rep. Ms. Amy OConnor, School Committee member, Martha Sybert, Business Administrator, and Greg Vinitser, Student Rep were absent.

### **Public Comment:** None

Each member of the committee and faculty present gave an introduction of themselves.

### **Community Announcements:**

Max McDonough discussed Robotics and the band concert. The robot is completed and named Chanimal, the competition last weekend was canceled but there are summer competitions they may attend.

Mr. Delano discussed the evolving Coronavirus information.

Ms. Cooper mentioned she was happy to be in Boston. She stated as more information comes out on the virus decisions will be made.

Ms. Wright provided a brief update on the School Building plan and replacing Hadley school and that all elementary buildings need replacing.

Ms. Marshall echoed that the more voices and input for the school building committee creates a better project.

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

Ms. Angelakis' report revolved around the Coronavirus. There is a new webpage on the SPS District site that provides school updates. The page may be accessed from the District Homepage. She went over the layout of the page and the documents, resources and district actions currently on the page (i.e. canceling field trips, events postponed, etc.).

Ms. Angelakis reviewed the District Contingency Plan which consists of four levels (we are currently at level 1). She highlighted the actions at the various levels such as the use of Google Classroom and Screencast. She discussed using half days to Professionally train teachers for various levels of action.

Ms. Marshall asked about the required number of school days. Ms. Angelakis discussed the new absence recording and accountability as well as not going past June 30th.

**METCO Inc, CEO:** Ms. Arbaje-Thomas, president CEO of METCO Boston reviewed the history of METCO which was created by parents. She discussed the movement changing mind and diversity, and what METCO brings to the district with shared experiences.

Ms. Arbaje-Thomas spoke about learning together and being conscious of curriculum decisions. She reviewed the Racial Imbalance Act and METCO programs' impact on bridging imbalance gaps, the demographics of the 33 cities/towns in the METCO program, the meaning of being a marginal seat program, MBTA passes, funding and annual appropriations and MA Law chapter 76 S12A. She reviewed their strategic plans and organizational structure.

METCO Advocacy Virtual day is March 28.

**METCO Advisory Update:** Ms. Laytoya Ogunbona provided an update on the METCO goals. She discussed the collaboration with METCO student leaders, and Swampscott and METCO HQ leadership in Fall 2019. Ms. Ogunbona mentioned the Friends and Family Potluck in November.

There are fifty-four students in the program, with 50% of them at the high school level. She discussed the academic academic achievements, Social Emotional Learning and the Affinity Group Cultivation.

Ms. Ogunbona talked about creating a space for students to come together. She reviewed the Students of Color Advisory (SOCA) and Restorative Circles. Ms. Ogunbona introduced Ms. Paige Kenendy, SOCA member. Paige highlighted some of the SOCA events such as the cultural events fair, hispanic heritage and black history months. She discussed students being able to express themselves safely, the increase in racial incidents/slurs, and restorative circles. Ms. Ogunbona inquired how people could better support the students. Paige responded that people could attend a SOCA meeting (Wednesdays during the first lunch).

A parent asked if the students felt there was an open door policy with administration. Paige felt that the students were able to go to administration with issues. Mr. Delano asked if the incidents were verbal and about consequences. Ms. Ogunbona stated that METCO students come to her but there are students outside of METCO impacted. She stated that incidents were mostly Social Media related and penalties differentiate based on the action. Mr. Delano inquired about incident tracking. Ms. Raymond responded that they are tracked in Google forms.

Parents discussed zero tolerance, appreciation for the work being done, changing the stigma of a METCO parent, and reminding students to advocate for themselves.

**SHS Program of Studies:** Mr. Dennis Kohut reviewed the HS program of Studies including the minimum graduation course requirements and credits per year. He discussed the new Personal Financial Literacy requirement and elimination of Writing Across the Curriculum.

He highlighted the new courses such as Credit Recovery: Humanities & STEM, Foreign Language course, Math-Integrated Algebra/Geometry, Intro to Probability & Statistics, and Social Media Marketing.

Course selection evening is March 26th but maybe broadcast only.

Ms. Wright inquired whether they should be talking further on the 1st read of the policy change around Writing Across the Curriculum and Personal Financial Literacy. Ms. Cooper stated the vote would take place March 25th.

Ms. Wright questioned the alternative ways to earn credit. Ms. Angelakis advised that the alternative credits would be operational with Dr. Bacon and Mr. Kohut.

Ms. Cooper asked about Writing Across the Curriculum in relation to 9th and 10th grade students. A parent asked about credits for the course. Mr. Kohut stated that the current 9th graders were grandfathered and would be all set. The requirements will impact new 9th graders fall of 2020. He stated a 10th grader that had not yet taken Writing Across the Curriculum may choose another elective.

Mr. Delano stated that he has been hearing a lot of positive feedback on Financial Literacy.

Ms. Wright asked that they revisit eliminating the Grade 11 Honors English. A parent inquired about Mr. Kohut's comment regarding encouraging more students of color to apply for Honors and AP classes and the process to apply. Mr. Kohut explained teacher recommendations and the parent's right to request a change in placement.

### **Director of Teaching & Learning:**

**Student Opportunity Act (SOA):** Dr. Jean Bacon reviewed SOA and the requirements for school districts. She reviewed Swampscott's SOA Plan: Support educators to implement high quality, aligned curriculum, enhance inclusion/co-teaching for students with disabilities and English Learners, and Expand opportunities for career/technical education.

Dr. Bacon discussed implementing an "After Dark" or "Innovation Pathway" program at SHS.

### **Chair:**

**A. Updates:** Ms. Cooper tabled this item for the next meeting.

### **Sub Committee:**

**School Building Committee (SBC) Updates:** Ms. Cooper tabled this item for the next meeting.

The next community meeting is scheduled for March 26th at SHS in B129 from 7-9pm. The topic will be site selection and traffic.

**Policy IFK-Swampscott High School Graduation Requirements (1st read):** Ms. Wright discussed the first read of the document and highlighted the two policy changes discussed under the Program of Studies.

## Consent Agenda

Ms. Cooper read the purpose of the consent agenda and the items on the agenda. Ms. Cooper removed items A-C from the Consent agenda for this vote.

- A. Regular Session Minutes – February 12, 2020
- B. Fieldtrip: The Ecology School Saco Maine: Lisa Rapisarda
- C. Donation Swampscott Yacht Club-SHS Special Ed Desks
- D. Warrant 20-33& 20-35

**Motion:** It was moved by Ms. Marshall to accept Item D on the agenda & seconded by Mr. Delano.

**Vote on Motion:** The motion passed 4 to 0.

**Next meeting to be held on March 25, 2020**

## Adjournment

**Motion:** At 9:40 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Delano to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Ms. Wright.

**Vote on Motion:** The motion passed 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date: 3-Apr-2020

Superintendent of Schools

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	SOA - Student Opportunity Act
	20-21 POS presentation .pdf 
	2019-2020 METCO REPORT.pdf 
	Donation - Swampscott Yacht Club - SHS Special Education Desks.pdf 
	February 12, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final.pdf 
	Field Trip-Ecology School, Saco, Maine - Ms. Rapisarda.pdf 
	FINAL SMS-FCA 02-10-20 Final Report.pdf 
	Master 2020-2021 PROGRAM OF STUDIES DRAFT .pdf 
	Policy IKF - Swampscott High School Graduation Requirements updated.pdf 
	Updated Agenda March 11, 2020, School Committee Meeting.pdf 
	SOA for SPS- Short Form DRAFT.pdf 
	SOA Needs Assessment.pdf 
	SOA Plan Overview - V2.pdf 

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