

## **Regular Session Meetings**

May 13, 2020

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in virtually in Swampscott, MA commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Gargi Cooper, School Committee Chair, Ms. Suzanne Wright, Mr. Delano, Ms. Amy OConnor, and Ms. Carin Marshall, School Committee members. Also Present: Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools, Jean Bacon, Director of Teaching & Learning, Martha Raymond, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services, Martha Sybert, Business Administrator and Max McDonough, student rep. Greg Vinitsker, student rep was absent.

The School Committee was meeting in a virtual setting, fully remote via teleconferencing, practicing social distancing and in accordance with the Governor's suspension of certain open meeting laws. The meeting was being recorded and broadcast live on the local cable station.

### **Public Comment:**

Ms. Jennifer Seligson discussed a SHS 2020 graduation plan that was developed by a group of parents. They have met with Mr. Kohut and sent their powerpoint presentation to the SC. She proposed a hybrid graduation at the football field followed by a parade of cars.

Ms. Cooper appreciated Ms. Seligson presenting their proposal to the SC. They will take a look at the Powerpoint but stated that graduation was operational therefore falls under the District leadership versus the SC.

### **Community Announcements:**

Max McDonough discussed the first episode of the SHS cooking show, weekly meetings with teachers on Zoom, and that there has been a slight problem with overlap of meetings.

Mr. Delano stated that he has received a lot of questions about next year. He mentioned the Special Education Parent Council (SEPAC) meeting and encouraged people to sign-up for the group. He congratulated the 2020 graduates.

Ms. Wright attended a webinar on Education in the Age of COVID. She feels we have a good handle on technology and connections between teachers and students. Ms. Wright gave kudos to the Swampscott staff.

Ms. OConnor gave a shout out to Mackenna Lord. She is sorry we won't see her on stage at graduation. She shared her appreciation for the Digital Learning team. She mentioned following Art at Stanley on Instagram, and discussed the MA Association of SC meeting with Senator Markey.

Ms. Marshall gave kudos to the staff, teachers and leadership teams. She is aware people are feeling uncertain but it is ensuring that everyone is on top of things and information will be shared as soon as it is known and can be shared.

Ms. Cooper said her 10th grader took the AP exam remotely. She gave kudos to the teachers for their work to enable students to participate in the exam. She mentioned how proud she is of the leadership team and district.

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

Ms. Angelakis' discussed their meeting with Commissioner Riley. She stated that although it would be easier if the state provided guidance for HS graduations, the decision will be at the local level. Ms. Angelakis thanked the Graduation committee, and empathized with the situation as she is the parent of a senior as well. She has shared the draft plan with the Emergency Management Team.

**Graduation Plans 2020:** Mr. Kohut thanked the Graduation committee. He reviewed the proposed options with pros and cons. The options include a traditional graduation at a later date in August. The other options are Graduation Film Screening held on Town Green or Blocksidge Field, Graduation at Blocksidge Field (similar to what Ms. Seligson mentioned), and a Virtual/Drive-Up Hybrid followed by a Parade. Mr. Kohut discussed that Jostens would create the video for virtual viewing. Ms. Angelakis said that the Board of Health was concerned about Option 3.

Ms. OConnor has had a number of conversations with parents around teaching kids their civic obligation. She understands how important this day is but is also mindful of civic duties.

Ms. Cull-Finn discussed the student survey. She stated that the majority of the students are not saying they want an in person graduation. The majority are asking for one more time to get together whether in cars, parades, etc.

Ms. Cooper asked about the wood covering for the football field. Ms. Angelakis said that they ordered plywood the first year with the turf field but it was uneven. She does not want the school to have to be responsible for any damage to the turf field.

Mr. Delano appreciated Mr. Kohut's openness. He asked if we have anyone with disabilities that would be restricted from participating in any of the models. Mr. Kohut responded that each option would not restrict any students.

Ms. Cooper said the decision is not within SC purview. They want to be respectful of guidance from the Board of Health.

Report continued: Ms. Angelakis discussed entering Phase III Remote Learning model guidance from the state. She noted that we implemented New Learning ahead of the state guidance. Ms. Angelakis discussed remote summer learning Reopening Task force, and students picking up belongings. There is a no contact medication pickup May 21st. As soon as she has guidance from the CDC and the State she will communicate Fall plans.

Ms. Angelakis discussed the 4th grade transition to MS. SMS 101 will be taping a virtual tour. The MS team is working to make connections with the students. Every 4th grade Homeroom will meet via Zoom. She provided an update on her Tuesday Talks.

Mr. Delano mentioned the transitions from 4th into 5th grade may be uncomfortable for parents and students. He has full confidence in Mr. Calichman and his team.

METCO Follow up - Discussion - School Culture - Ms. Angelakis mentioned the SC meeting in Boston March 11th. Ms. Ogunbona discussed incidences and cultural differences. She reiterated that we are not isolated in the incidents.

Ms. Ogunbona talked about the systemic issues and work we need to do. She mentioned some ideas such as opening up the METCO Advisory group to families of color living in the area. Ms. Ogunbona shared a story about a student who was profiled. She discussed the Student Of Color Advocacy (SOCA) group and the need to feel heard, validated and advocate for themselves.

Ms. Ogunbona discussed the need for healing when victimized, not shouldering added responsibility, handbook updating, anti-racism work, community meetings, potential opportunity to partner with Swampscott Unites Respects Embraces (SURE), ownership of actions, race enmity and affinity groups. She mentioned working with Ms. Beck Shooster, Assistant Superintendent of Equity at Boston Public Schools on reporting, education, and cultural competency training.

Ms. Cooper mentioned having Ms. Milly Arbaje-Thomas, Metco CEO for Professional Development training. She applauded Ms. Ogunbona as a leader. She is impressed that our leadership is owning issues.

Ms. Raymond mentioned the personal connections Ms. Ogunbona and Ms. Krista Lynch (METCO tutor) formed with students. Ms. Ogunbona and Ms. Lynch went to see each of the 53 students with care packages.

Mr. Delano noted the need to do better, concern with data collection, and utilizing the SRO. Mr. Delano wants to see every child treated with respect.

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

Remote Learning Update: Dr. Bacon provided an update on Remote Learning plans related to General Education. There have been two major phases thus far and plans continue to evolve. The first was the first two weeks of closing (March 16-27th) of Optional Enrichment Activities.

The second phase (March 30-April 25), started with previously taught lessons but we also started teaching new material around April 6th ahead of guidance from DESE. Phase 2B is at least one weekly face to face engagement from General Ed teachers. DESE provided guidance for the next phase at the end of April. Phase III (May 25-June) is enhancing support to engage students (led by C. Norkum), refine and enhance curriculum delivery and develop curriculum (led J. Bacon).

Dr. Bacon discussed face to face learning numbers by school and grade level. She provided a breakdown of the face to face events with percentages of each event (i.e live lessons, recorded lessons, office hours, etc).

Ms. OConnor asked about the number of students attending the live events. Dr. Bacon felt the Elementary participation (65-70%) was good. She mentioned the flexibility to view the lessons at other times. Secondary level students are more independent and may not

need to attend a live event.

Ms. OConnor asked how we keep track of students falling behind. Dr. Bacon responded that each building has a reporting system. Mr. Norkum's committee will look at standardizing reporting. Ms. OConnor asked if they were worried about higher dropout rates. Dr. Bacon discussed the new DESE guidance which includes student engagement as important as curriculum instruction.

Ms. Cooper brought up the Google guardian sign-on. Ms. Cooper feels the MS communication has been great.

**Chair:**

**A. Updates:** Ms. Cooper mentioned the meeting on Friday with Tri-chair. She discussed the follow-up on Capital Improvement and the MS roof repair. Town elections have been postponed to June 30th.

Town meeting will remain as scheduled via Zoom meeting,

**Sub Committee:**

**School Building Committee (SBC) Updates:** Ms. Wright noted site selections have been narrowed down from five to three. The DPW and Phillips Park sites have been removed. She explained the decision. Additionally, she discussed the rationale for the removal of the option of a half district K-5 school.

The Design team will be analyzing three sites and five school configurations.

The next community meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 19th at 7p.m. The forum will be on sustainability.

Ms. Marshall asked if Ms. Cooper was staying chair until election day. Ms. Cooper will stay as chair until the election.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Policy Sub Committee Meeting Minutes- March 11, 2020
- B. Regular Session Minutes – April 30, 2020
- C. Warrant W20-41, 20-43, 20-45 & 20-46

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

**Vote on Motion:** The motion passed 4 to 0 via roll call vote.

*Next meeting to be held on May 27, 2020*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** At 8:55 p.m. It was moved by Ms. OConnor to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Ms. Wright.

**Vote on Motion:** The motion passed 4 to 0 via roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Superintendent of Schools

/dmm

Date: May 27, 2020