

Regular Session Meetings

April 30, 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 Greg Vinitsker, Max McDonough, student rep.

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: NA

Community Announcements

Max discussed students and distance learning.

Greg mentioned the structure of distance learning, and the possibility of an online talent show.

Mr. Delano reiterated Ms. OConnor's comments. He mentioned a cable newscast on a young woman singing outside the Landing and questioned if she was a SHS student.

Ms. Marshall mentioned generic thank you for all the hard work & that distance learning is working.

Ms. OConnor echoed her thanks to the teachers.

Ms. Cooper thanked the teachers for all their work with online learning. She mentioned the Class of 2020 fundraising.

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

Ms. Angelakis' stated the last day of school remains June 23rd (seniors last day May 29th). September 14th is the tentative Marathon Monday which likely will be a state holiday, which may potentially change the 2020-2021 school year calendar.

She discussed the staff return to work plan, closure impacts, reopening task force, and HS graduation. Ms. Wright asked if we are going to be able to test people and the process in the building. Ms. Cooper talked about current protocol vigilance to remain home. Mr. Delano suggested reaching out to the Board of Health. Ms. Angelakis discussed the return of items, particularly Chromebooks.

Ms. Angelakis discussed updated guidance from DESE on Remote Learning including an Elementary Content Standards document, all district webinars, and the Hadley Education Plan. We do not qualify for the MSBA accelerated roof repair due to revised roof age thresholds.

Ms. Marshall asked if the roof age was a permanent change? Ms. Sybert said they increased criteria to weed out applications due to the volume of submissions which they had done in prior years.

Athletic Update: Ms. Kelly Farley, AD stated that they are still looking into creative ways to honor spring seniors. She discussed the athletic fee and spring sport enrollment.

Ms. Cooper asked about user fees going up and if there were families that needed more assistance. Ms. Farley said the numbers were encouraging and were consistent with previous years including hardship requests. Ms. Wright mentioned the return of user fees and coaching stipends. Ms. Farley is working with the business office. Coaches do preseason work. She is also looking into what schools across the state are doing regarding coach pay.

Mr. Delano inquired if the turf fields were closed. Ms. Farley stated that no permits are being honored now. Ms. OConnor asked if

Friday night games increased attendance. Ms. Farley replied that it has increased attendance for fans on both sides. Ms. Cooper mentioned the fall sporting events and crowds and how it will affect sales. Ms. Farley said the fall season is still so fluid.

SAT, AP, ACT Test Results & DropOut Report - Mr. Kohut/Mrs. Zotto-Barnum Mr. Kohut highlighted the low drop rate, quality academics and teaching, and engagement prior to handing over to Ms. Zotto-Barnum.

Ms. Zotto-Barnum provided an update on Standardized Testing Updates And Score Reviews. She reviewed the SAT scores for writing and math in comparison to the state and nation for the past five years. Swampscott continues to be in-line or above similar NorthShore area schools. She reviewed the ACT test participation trend, the difference between ACT and SAT, and trends compared to state and national scores. SHS offered sixteen AP courses. Ms. Zotto-Barnum reviewed Advance placement test scores. The post graduation rates (98%) and college acceptances were discussed.

Mr. Delano thanked Ms. Zotto-Barnum. He inquired about the local ACT prep organization (Summit educational group-no affiliation), and about economically challenged students regarding AP test cost (here is a process for subsidized test rate). Mr. Delano asked if we could put the data on a public website. Mr. Kohut said he could look into linking the data.

Ms. Cooper asked Mr. Kohut if we knew what we were running for courses. Mr. Kohut said they do not have all the numbers yet, alternating programs, and are focusing on electives as well.

SE PAC & Student Services Update - Mrs. Raymond discussed Student Services, Special Education mandates, and the rising trend in students with disabilities, English Language Learners and Economically disadvantaged.

She reviewed the Out of District (OOD) placements and costs of programs. Ms. Raymond discussed project costs for next year for OOD, and transportation. Also reviewed were funding options including Circuit Breaker and grants. She discussed COVID-19 impacts, remote learning, Virtual IEP meetings, plans moving forward and reopening priorities.

Ms. Cooper asked about participation. Ms. Raymond said it has been strong in the pre-school. Ms. Cooper asked if we would be running pre-school summer. Ms. Raymond said that we are planning for a virtual program at this time.

School Business Administrator:

CO-VID 19 Budget Update: Ms. Sybert provided the Committee with an update of the status of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. We have spent \$21,592,610, or 72.9%, of our general fund appropriation. The forecast amount of \$7,866,019, or 26.6%, of our appropriation includes remaining salaries, projected spending assumptions and revolving fund support. At this time, we anticipate a surplus of \$161,774, or .55% of our appropriation. Ms. Sybert reviewed the numbers for each of the cost centers. The adjusted subtotal savings are \$454,000.

Ms. Cooper asked about SPED contracted services and if this was the last year for a transfer. Ms. Sybert confirmed that it is the last year. Mr. Delano asked about the negotiated NRT transportation rates. Ms. Sybert stated that they had a 95% charge initially, which was revised to 78% of the contract rate.

Mr. Delano asked how many students we were feeding a day. Ms. Sybert noted that we have served over 5,000 meals. All of our student meals will qualify for federal reimbursement. Ms. OConnor discussed prepaying what we can with the surplus money. She expressed concern to use it for technology. Ms. Sybert stated that this may be an opportunity to purchase Chromebooks. Additional discussion took place on technology and Capital Budget. Ms. Marshall discussed the one time capital request and replenishment from the operating budget. She felt it may be smart to take advantage of the surplus. Ms. Cooper mentioned the support from the Capital and Finance Committee but also mentioned the change in the roof repair costs. Ms. OConnor mentioned the need for additional conversation.

Ms. Wright asked about supplies and materials going forward. Ms. Angelakis noted that she is relying on Ms. Cilley for guidance. Ms. Marshall noted that we need to spend the money based on budget dates.

Ms. Sybert summarized the Revolving Fund Account. The June 2020 Revolving fund projected balance is \$220,972. There is a placeholder of \$10,000 to support the Food Services Revolving Fund. She discussed the breakdown of refunds which totaled \$138,276 and recommendations for refunding (i.e bus fees \$3,500, Spring User Fees \$76,726, Extended Day \$36,486, PreK Tuition \$20,000) .

Ms. Wright suggested refunding a portion of bus transportation as they rode for a portion of the year. The committee agreed.

Ms. Cooper asked if we could transfer Athletic fees to the fall. Ms. Sybert responded that they don't know what the season will look like or if it will happen. Mr. Delano asked about Driver's Ed fees. Ms. Sybert stated there has been no discussion on refunding at this time (online courses are occurring).

Ms. OConnor agreed with the recommendations for PreK and Extended Day refunding. Mr. Delano agreed. Ms. Wright asked for further clarification. Ms. Raymond presented their view on the PreK refund.

Chair:

A. Updates: Ms. Cooper's already updated on the Finance Committee and Capital Meetings. She mentioned moving the scheduled meeting dates to Thursday due to conflict with other meetings. Ms. OConnor asked if it was necessary. Ms. Wright said we need to broadcast other than Zoom. Mr. Douillette will look into broadcasting options.

B. Superintendent Evaluation: This item was tabled.

Sub Committee:

School Building Committee (SBC) Updates: Ms. Wright mentioned the two public forums on Zoom. The next meeting is May 5th (Educational Vision Information). She thanked Ms. Porter-Roberts and Ms. Mackey-Knowles. The forums are on the SBC and town website.

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

Motion: It was moved by Ms. OConnor to accept the new policy changes & seconded by Ms. Marshall.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0 via roll call vote.

Consent Agenda

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

A. Regular Session Minutes – April 2, 2020

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

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0 via roll call vote.

Next meeting to be held on May 13, 2020

Adjournment

Motion: At 10:00 p.m. It was moved by Ms. OConnor to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Ms. Wright.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0 via roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date: May 13, 2020

/dmm

Supporting Documents:

 [Approved April 2, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes .pdf](#) 


 [04.30.2020 FY20 Budget Update.doc](#) 

 [04.30.2020 FY20 Revolving Fund Update.doc](#) 

 [Superintendent's Report to SC 4.30.20.pdf](#) 

 [Updated Agenda April 30, 2020, School Committee Meeting.pdf](#) 



 [SC Meeting Dates](#) 

 [4.30.20 SC Presentation: School Counseling Reports](#) 

 [Hadley Ed Plan 2020 4.27.20.pdf](#) 

 [State of Student Services April 2020](#) 

 [April 2, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes \(1\).pdf](#) 

 [Copy of Policy IKF - Swampscott High School Graduation Requirements updated.pdf](#) 

 [Copy of Superintendent Evaluation Guide 122019.pdf](#) 
