

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

October 14, 2020

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held virtually in Swampscott, MA commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Amy OConnor, SC Chair, Ms. Suzanne Wright, Mr. Ted Delano, Ms. Carin Marshall, Mr. John Giantis, School Committee members. Also, Present: Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools and Martha Raymond, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services, Lytania Mackey-Knowles, Director of Technology, Digital Learning, and Innovation, Martha Sybert, School Business Manager and Max Kasper, Director of Facilities and Student reps present: Myra Diaz and Tabitha Randell.

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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Wright explained that the SBC had voted to move forward with the District K-4 Option and stated she would give further information later in the agenda.

Mr. Giantis stated he was interested to hear Ms. Wright's update and that he had attended meetings and was thankful for all who gave their time to the project. He also added that he was looking forward to the District moving into the hybrid phase.

Ms. Marshall stated she recently attended a field hockey game and while it was different the kids were still happy to be playing.

Mr. Delano stated he appreciated everyone's hard work and acknowledged it was no small task moving forward to hybrid.

Ms. OConnor stated she had spoken to a number of people who were looking forward to being back in school. She also had heard from people that remote learning is going surprisingly well and gave her kudos to the District's educators.

Tabitha Randell said other students were questioning the weight of AP classes versus Honors and why they are weighted the same. Mr. Kohut explained the weighted levels and also that colleges will recalculate to their own formulas and weigh AP classes at a higher level.

Myra Diaz spoke about the weekly protest and the use of confederate flags. She stated students of color have been asking her if the town or school would do anything about it. Ms. OConnor said she appreciated the subject being brought to them and that the subject has been brought up at Tri-Chair meetings. She suggested having further conversations off-line. Ms. Angelakis agreed and added that it was not a subject that was being ignored.

Ms. OConnor stated she would hold off on Public Comment until after Ms. Angelakis' report.

SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent's Report:

Ms. Angelakis spoke about the District moving into hybrid on October 26th. She recognized the members of her team and explained it has not been an easy feat and that she was proud of sticking to the original deadline. She explained that on September 16th the District brought in high needs students and on October 5th brought in the next cohort of students. Ms. Angelakis stated a survey had gone out to families to collect data on preferences. She explained Administrators needed the survey data in order to schedule cohorts within their buildings. Ms. OConnor asked whether siblings would be kept on the same days. Mr. Calichman explained the Middle School had cross referenced with the elementary schools for siblings but that the High School could be different. Ms. Angelakis also gave an overview of the District's Reunite reopening plan. She also explained more information

was sent out to parents regarding hybrid plans. Ms. Angelakis spoke about the challenges of livestreaming classes and the restraints on technology and the Tech Department. She also reminded all that the Districts made 1.1 devices a priority for all students. Ms. Mackey-Knowles also spoke about the concerns of livestreaming and explained they were working on ways to support that technology. Mr. Delano said he appreciated all who were working toward parity across the District. Ms. Angelakis hoped this gives people more information to make decisions. Tabitha Randell mentioned the questions presented in chat. Ms. OConnor reminded that takes the Committee outside the meeting but that the questions would get to the appropriate person to answer them.

Facilities Update

Mr. Kasper reviewed the work that has been done throughout the District to update ventilation in preparation for the schools moving to hybrid learning. He further stated that they would be leasing containers for each building for items to be stored temporarily. Ms. OConnor questioned if there were any issues that were larger than expected. Mr. Kasper said there was nothing that was catastrophic.

Next Gen Personal Finance Certifications

Ms. Angelakis invited Mr. Kohut to speak about the recognition. Mr. Kohut recognized Sue Comparato and explained she had recently earned six additional certifications in financial literacy. He explained she is the only Massachusetts teacher to have earned all six and did so while preparing for the school year and doing the High School scheduling. Ms. Comparato thanked everyone and said it provides an incredible opportunity for students. Ms. Wright said it was great to be able to offer new programs to kids and something the District has needed for a long time.

Co-Recipients of Educator of the year award -- Mary Jane Spencer and Catherine Quinn

Ms. Angelakis read the speech that was given by Rebecca Bucklin at opening day convocation as well as gave background information on Ms. Spencer and Ms. Quinn.

Recognition of Professional Teacher Status:

Ms. Angelakis explained that professional status is an accomplishment and acknowledged the teachers who had achieved professional status.

Academic Excellence

Ms. Angealakis gave background and explained the credentials of the Academic Excellence award and read a biography for Mariel Fulgham.

SUBCOMMITTEE

SBC Meetings Update

Ms. Wright explained the Committee had agreed upon the K-4 district option and would be meeting to vote on one of two final plans. She gave an overview of each of the plans. Ms. Marshall thanked her for all the work she's done on the Committee and said she was impressed with how the plan has rolled out. There was discussion regarding the practicality of each plan and keeping students on site during construction. Ms. Wright said that could be discussed further once a plan was voted on. Mr. Delano also thanked Ms. Wright and the Committee for all of its work. Ms. Wright stated the School Committee would need to vote on the final plan to be able to be advanced to the MSBA. There was discussion on setting a meeting date for early next week.

Policy EBC-S Supplemental

JLCB - Inoculations of Students

EBC - FA - Face coverings and Other Personal Protective Equipment

Ms. Wright explained the changes to the policies and stated they were on for first read and could be voted on at the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Policy Subcommittee Minutes – September 9, 2020

- B. Budget Subcommittee Minutes - September 23, 2020
- C. Regular Session Minutes - September 23, 2020
- D. Warrant #21-14

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Delano to accept the agenda & seconded by Ms. Wright.

Mr. Giantis questioned the warrant item. Ms. Sybert explained the warrants were available for review in a google document. Ms. Marshall suggested Mr. Giantis sit with Ms. Sybert to review where the warrants are located. Ms. OConnor explained that Ms. Marshall is signing them currently due to the virtual meetings.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Wright stated she could take those with hands raised and allow them to speak. Ms. OConnor stated public comment would be limited to ten minutes or the first five people with hands raised. Ms. OConnor reminded all of the role of public comment and that the Committee would most likely not answer questions.

Tasia Vasiliou started by saying that she was impressed with the way the remote start of the year has been. She also spoke about her concern over the lack of communication as the District moves into hybrid. She stated she had not been notified by Principal Huntley that classes would be moved to the High School due to issues at Stanley. She added she needed more information before deciding what to do for her child. Ms. OConnor asked whether she had spoken to Ms. Huntley and Ms. Vasiliou stated she only heard about the plan earlier this evening and that it had not been communicated to her.

Elizabeth Pappalardo similarly stated she was happy with the way the remote phase has gone and was happy that she was given the opportunity to help her students at home. She further commented about the new school building and was concerned about busing students and hoped that wouldn't affect the school budget. She also hoped that throughout town the community could use this to unite the town rather than going to war over the site and design plans. Her final comment was in speaking about high needs students she hoped all would respect that kids have different schedules and people would be sensitive to that subject.

Ms. Wright stated there were no more hands raised. Ms. OConnor asked for a motion to close the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: At 9:07 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Wright to adjourn & seconded by Ms. Marshall.

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



Respectfully submitted,






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



Date: October 29, 2020


 Co-Recipients of Educator of the Year speech.docx 

 Academic Excellence - Bio - Mariel Fulghum 


 Academic Excellence-SHS-Mariel Fulghum.jpg 

 Approved September 9, 2020 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.docx 



 Approved September 23, 2020 Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.docx 

 Approved September 23th, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final 



 Copy of Professional Teacher Status List 2020-2021.pdf 

 Policy EBC-S 101420 for VOTE to update.docx 

 Professional Teacher Status List 2020-2021.xlsx 

 PTS Teacher Bio Sheet 

 Recognizing NGPF Certification - S.Comparato.pdf 

 September 9, 2020 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.docx 

 September 23, 2020 Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.docx 

 September 23th, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final 

 Superintendent's Report to SC 10.14.20.pdf 