

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

March 8, 2017

Amended

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. Carin Marshall, Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Mr. Ted Delano, and Ms. Gargi Cooper. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Evan Katz, School Business Administrator, Anne Marie Condikey, Director of Curriculum and Student Representatives Tenley Seidel and Gabby LaRiviere. Ms. Suzanne Wright was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Andrade, a SMS 8th grade teacher, came forward to speak about a recent training for the 8th grade computer based MCAS exam. He expressed his frustration in all of the hours taken away from learning curriculum that will need to be devoted on teaching students to take MCAS on the computer. He spoke about the disruption of the school year for all subject contents, as well as the anxiety of the students surrounding test taking. He further spoke about the computer resources which teachers and students will not have access to during testing. He added that he was not placing the blame on the Administration or the Committee, just voicing his frustration with the process. Mr. Andrade stated he felt he was committing educational malpractice by not doing what he was hired to do which is teach students. He further stated he was recommending the Committee form a Task Force to look at the affect of the true impact on the school system and students. He added that again his frustration is not directed to Administration and the Committee, but he felt it has reached a point where something needs to change and that he was fighting for his students. Ms. Marshall thanked Mr. Andrade for speaking.

Martha Agnew, an ESP at Stanley, came forward to speak about the value placed on teachers and referred to a study done in Finland and she spoke about how it is one thing to say that teachers are valued and another to believe it. She stated it becomes a level of awareness and consciousness. She explained her role as an ESP in dealing with the emotional needs of children, as well as academic, and spoke about how those affect time on learning especially in connection with what Mr. Andrade spoke about. She referred to the Finland study and stated it wasn't just looking at one piece of the whole system that makes it successful.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Cooper reminded the community that the Swampscott Police is hosting the showing of "If Only" tomorrow night at SHS at 7:00 p.m. She hoped everyone would come out and see it.

Ms. OConnor stated she was happy to see a full house of people again at the meeting and encouraged all to sit through the meeting and hear the budget presentation which will take place later in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Marshall read a list of the items contained in the Consent Agenda.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. OConnor to accept Consent Agenda. The motion was approved 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

SOI

Mr. Delano requested the March 8, 2017 minutes be amended to reflect that Senator McGee and Representative Ehrlich receive the SOI with respect to the school building process. Ms. Angelakis stated it was her understanding that they be involved in the process. It was agreed to amend the minutes to reflect that Senator McGee and Representative Ehrlich be made a part of the process.

Polar Plunge

Ms. Angelakis announced that she was grateful that the District received a check for \$3479.00 in proceeds from the Polar Plunge for start-up costs for Swift and Harbor programs at the Middle School.

Adopt SMS Program of Studies – J. Calichman

Ms. Angelakis stated the Program of Studies was before the Committee for its endorsement. Mr. Calichman stated they were hoping to finalize in April for next year. Ms. O'Connor stated that Mr. Calichman did receive exhaustive comments at the last meeting. Ms. Cooper questioned the status of the flow chart in terms of the pathway to Math beginning in the 7th grade. Mr. Calichman felt that there needed to be further discussion on whether it was appropriate for that to be added. Ms. Angelakis added they have not had a final discussion on whether that will occur. Mr. Calichman added that they have posted the requirements for Algebra on the webpages for different departments to get that information out there. Ms. Angelakis added that it sounded completed and requested it be forwarded to her office before it was finalized.

SAT, AP & ACT Test Results – B. Murphy

Ms. Angelakis requested Mr. Murphy come forward to present the data. Mr. Murphy prefaced his presentation by reminding that each year reports data for a different cohort of students. Mr. Murphy reviewed the AP test results and explained it is utilized as a predictor to college success and that a 3 or higher is a successful score and that some colleges will give credit for those classes taken. Mr. Murphy also compared the scores to the state as well as globally. He further reviewed the offerings of AP classes at SHS.

Drop-Out Report – B. Murphy

Mr. Murphy reviewed the 2015-2016 drop-out statistics and compared them with prior years. He explained the steps that the school goes through in reaching out to families to encourage attendance and offer services.

Mentor Update – Ann Marie Condikey

Ms. Condikey gave the Committee an overview of the District's mentoring program and explained how teachers work as mentors with teachers new to the District. She thanked Mary Powers, New Teacher Programs Coordinator, for all of her hard work in coordinating the mentoring program.

First read of 17-18 School Year Calendar

Ms. Condikey spoke about the work of the calendar committee and presented a draft for first read. She explained the change of moving the opening day convocation to the first day with professional development on the second day of school. She also explained a request to move the ½ professional development days from Tuesday to Thursday. She reviewed the elementary school conference dates as well as early release days. Ms. O'Connor asked who was on the calendar committee. Ms. Condikey stated Joanna Ganci, Brian O'Donnell, Ann MacFarlane and Rebecca Bucklin. Ms. Marshall reminded it was a first read. Mr. Delano requested it be on the next agenda for approval.

CHAIR REPORT

Updates

Ms. Marshall updated on contract negotiations with Nahant and stated they have come to a tentative agreement. She believed that the proposal represents the true value of a Swampscott education and is in line with what tax payers are paying, but keeps the best interests of all students in mind as well as a positive arrangement with Nahant.

Ms. Marshall stated there is a scheduled mediation with the teachers' union on March 20th.

Ms. Marshall stated the K8 Task Force would be visiting newly built schools in surrounding communities to see what has been accomplished and what those buildings have to offer. She also updated on the Statement of Interest. Ms. Angelakis said the statement would be going before the Board of Selectmen at its next meeting and then back before this Committee for its approval. Ms. Angelakis thanked those who have worked on the Task Force as well as her Leadership Team for all of their hard work on the project.

Tri Chair Report

Ms. Marshall updated on the recent Tri-Chair meeting. She stated it was discussed on ways to get the word out to the public about the Statement of Interest. Ms. Angelakis added a lot was learned since the last failed vote and they hoped to get more information out to the community. Ms. Marshall stated they would be having building tours for the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen and hoped to do so for the public as well. Ms. Marshall stated they also discussed improving business functions between the Town and Committee.

Ms. Marshall also addressed Mr. Andrade's comments and recommendation. She stated she would be in favor of investigating it further. Ms. Angelakis agreed that she didn't feel that his frustration was far off from how others were feeling regarding demands and mandates on classroom teachers. Mr. Delano stated he would volunteer as a representative from the Committee. Ms. Marshall stated they would talk on how to move forward.

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

FY18 School Budget Update

Mr. Katz stated it was a team effort with the Leadership Team, the Superintendent and Committee to work to get to a point where the budget could be presented for vote this evening. Mr. Katz presented a PowerPoint and reviewed the timeline as well as budget highlights. He further announced that the Town had added an additional increase to its portion of the budget. Mr. Katz explained the process of closing the deficit which was presented at the January 11th meeting. He spoke about the steps taken which brought the deficit from \$1.7 million to the zero deficit budget presented. He reviewed the salary reductions, program reductions and expense reductions. Mr. Katz also spoke about Sped Ed tuition costs and working with the town on ways to handle potential increases in that area. He also stated there was a recommendation to increase athletic fees by \$75 per sport to increase revenue.

Mr. Delano questioned the \$75 athletic fee increase and whether that is included in the presented budget. He added that increase was not something he was in favor of. Ms. O'Connor agreed and added she didn't feel they had enough information regarding the increase. Ms. Angelakis stated she disagreed and that \$80,000 included in the budget comes from the fee increase. She added that it had been previously discussed as well as vetted by the Athletic Counsel. She further explained that the Athletic Counsel would be looking at a tiered system in the future and did a comparative analysis on the current fee as well as looked at the fact the fee hasn't been increased in nine years. Ms. Cooper stated the Committee was waiting to hear Mrs. Farley's recommendations on a tiered system. Ms. Angelakis stated she is suggesting it be increased to help close this year's deficit and stated it would continue to be discussed as well as looking at the tiered system. Ms. O'Connor felt it was important that the discussions continued. Ms. Angelakis stated it was a solution for this fiscal year, but that the Athletic Counsel would continue to explore the tiered solution. Mr. Delano stated he has stated for years he was against raising fees, but if it was a step that needed to be taken it would, and that the tiered program needed to happen.

Ms. O'Connor requested clarification on the fourth slide on budget highlights. Mr. Katz clarified the increases and decreases, as well as the percentage of town contribution to the budget. Mr. Delano questioned whether there was a way to set money aside for Kindergarten for next year similar to prepaids for special education. Ms. O'Connor suggested that could be a discussion outside of the budget vote. Mr. Katz added that next year's budget is a long way off with many factors that can't be predicted yet. Ms. Cooper questioned the plan for the Mandarin program at the High School. Mr. Murphy explained a few of the options which they are currently looking at. Ms. Cooper also questioned the health proposal at the elementary level. Ms. Angelakis stated they have not yet determined the model that will be used.

Ms. Marshall requested a motion for approval of the budget.

MOTION:


It was moved by Ms. O'Connor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve the FY 18 budget in the amount of \$30,417,586. The motion was approved 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:44 p.m. it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to adjourn. The motion was approved 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,


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


Date:

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Supporting Documents:

-  Approved 8-Feb-2017 SC Meeting Minutes.pdf
-  FY18 Budget - Mar. 8 2.pdf
-  FY17 Projection - Mar. 6 .pdf
-  FY18 Line Item Mar. 8 SC .pdf
-  Dropout Data for 2016.pdf
-  SAT Data for 2016.pdf
-  AP Data for 2016.pdf
-  ACT Data for 2016.pdf
-  17-18SY Calendar Monthly Rev 0 - 6-Mar-2017.pdf
-  17-18SY School Legend Rev 0 DRAFT - 6-Mar-2017.pdf
-  17-18 School Calendar Rev 0 DRAFT - 6-Mar-2017.pdf
-  28-Feb-2017 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.pdf
-  8-Feb-2017 SC Meeting Minutes.pdf
-  Agenda 8-Mar-2017 School Committee Meeting.pdf
-  B129Upgrade-January2017.pdf