

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

March 22, 2017

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B129 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Carin Marshall, Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Mr. Ted Delano, Ms. Suzanne Wright 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 Representative Gabby LaRiviere. Student Representative Tenley Siedel was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Angelakis stated she attended her first Robotics competition and that it was exciting and inspired her to have conversations on building and sustaining the program.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Marshall read the list of consent agenda items. Ms. Wright reminded she was not present at the March 8th meeting and would not be voting on the minutes.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Wright to accept Consent Agenda Items A, B, D and E.

Ms. Angelakis requested Mr. Murphy to speak regarding the DECA out of state field trip. Mr. Murphy explained that two students were invited to participate at the national level after the recent local Boston competition. He stated it was a wonderful opportunity for the students.

VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed unanimously.

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.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve the meeting minutes of March 8, 2017 as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Demonstration of upgrades to B129

Ms. Angelakis spoke about the recent upgrades to room B129 and invited Mr. Douillette forward to give a presentation on the upgrades. Mr. Douillette explained that B129 could now project live meetings independent of the control room. He gave an overview of the upgrades that were made within the room. Ms. Cooper questioned funding of the project. Mr. Douillette explained that he worked with Michele Karas at Town Hall and explained funding came from those who subscribe to cable within the town which funds the TV program. Ms. Marshall stated it was a huge upgrade from the days of changing tapes during meetings.

Statement of Interest Hadley & MS – vote requested

Ms. Angelakis explained that the Statement of Interest needed to be approved by the Committee as well as the Board of Selectmen for submittal by April 7th. She gave an overview of the process and presented information relating to the current process and steps taken since the failed vote in October of 2014. She explained the Task Force compiled subgroups as well as created a survey for follow-up. Ms. Angelakis stated that a lot of information came from the survey, and results were compiled as well as expert groups formed to look at each result category. She further stated that building tours were conducted which many found eye-opening. Ms. Angelakis then reviewed the next steps to follow the submission of the SOI which included outreach and providing regular updates

to the community. She further hoped to have public tours of the schools for the community to see the current buildings as well as smaller public forums to take people through the process which the Task Force has taken. Ms. Cooper questioned the timeline after submittal of the SOI. Ms. Angelakis stated they wouldn't hear back until November but that work would continue with community involvement. She added if the District is accepted a Project Team would need to be compiled and felt they would be looking at Town Meeting in May of 2018 for funding. Jaren Landen spoke and stated she felt it was important to learn from the failed vote and that one of the things they learned was the community did not want consolidated schools and felt it was important to use different terminology. Ms. Angelakis stated she agreed it was important to educate the community and that she looked forward to the next phase of work to be done. Selectman Naomi Dreeben stated she was pleased to attend the meeting and was delighted to be brought in on the planning stages. She added they wished to express their support in moving forward with the SOI process. She stated she has received questions that the SOI doesn't define where the building would be or how it would be configured. Ms. Angelakis stated she hesitated to answer at this time as she did want to bring the community through the entire process. She added that it was an interactive process with many thoughts still being entertained. Liz Pappalardo, a member of the Task Force added that she was a strong voice for the no vote but has learned a lot through the process and thought that the building tours helped understand the building deficiencies and thought that might help convince people there was a need for grade level buildings.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Mr. Delano to accept the following resolution: "Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Swampscott, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 9, 2017, for the Hadley Elementary School located at 24 Redington Street, Swampscott, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. The Hadley School was built in 1911 and does not currently meet the educational needs of students; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority." The motion to submit the Statement of Interest was unanimous.

Ms. Angelakis clarified that there would be two votes, one for Hadley and one for the Middle School.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Wright to accept the following resolution: "Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Swampscott, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 9, 2017, for the Swampscott Middle School located at 207 Forest Avenue, Swampscott, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. The Swampscott Middle School with the current configuration of middle school students, central office, and preschool classroom has overcrowded conditions and there is not significant education spaces to deliver

instruction; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The motion to submit the Statement of Interest was unanimous.

Ms. Marshall thanked the Board of Selectmen for attending the meeting and stated they would be voting at their April 5, 2017 meeting.

The Board of Selectmen entertained a matter unrelated to the District.

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald stated it was an honor to be at the meeting and was excited to be working along with the Superintendent.

Last day of school for 16-17SY

Ms. Angelakis stated that, provided there were no more snow days, the last day of school would be Friday, June 23, 2017.

MS & HS Principal Update

Ms. Angelakis announced that she would be removing the "interim" titles from High School Principal Murphy and Middle School Principal Calichman. She read a statement in regards to her decision and stated she firmly believed it was in the best interest of both the High School and Middle School as well as the District. She added that their performance in the interim capacity has convinced her that they should be leading these schools. Mr. Calichman thanked Ms. Angelakis and stated he was honored and proud to be part of the district. Mr. Murphy stated he was flattered and thanked Ms. Angelakis for entrusting him with the flagship school of town. Mr. Delano added that this a great example of what the School Committee is trying to do. Ms. OConnor added it was important to note that with the hiring of both that it shows a commitment to professional staff in the District and people who are a part of our community. Ms. Wright applauded the hires and added that Ms. Angelakis' words justified not opening up a search. Ms. Marshall added that it can't be discounted when people understand the town and have roots to the community.

Capital Project Update

Ms. Angelakis brought forward Michael Scola to give an update. Mr. Scola stated he was tasked to compile a list of capital improvements for FY18. He reviewed the projects which he believed were listed in order of priority including items within the school buildings as well as the library and town hall. Ms. Cooper questioned the repairs at the High School given the relative new age of the building and whether they were related to air quality. Mr. Scola explained that the building was built in 2006 and things do start to fail over time. Ms. Cooper questioned the fan belt issue at Hadley. Mr. Scola explained the school nurse brought the issue to their attention and the roof fans were checked and it was determined that 9 of 11 were not working. He explained an air quality test was performed as well. Ms. Cooper questioned whether carbon monoxide detectors should be in the buildings. Ms. Scola stated there already were and new ones had been installed as of the boiler project. Ms. Angelakis added that the issue fell in line with not having preventative maintenance as it wasn't known how long the fans weren't working. Ms. Cooper questioned what could be done to be more proactive. Mr. Scola spoke about expanding the maintenance portal and being proactive that way. Mr. Delano questioned why carbon dioxide meters can't be added in and Mrs. Phelan stated it wasn't a carbon dioxide problem but more of an air circulation problem.

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

FY 17 Budget Update

Mr. Katz reviewed the budget update and summary as of the end of February. He explained there were still some uncertainties with facilities, heating and snow removal. He further spoke about legal expenses, special education and the substitute budget. He added he would give another update at the end of March, but expected to have a good handle on where the budget is going. Mr. Delano thanked Mr. Katz for transparency with the budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

17-18SY School Calendar – vote requested

Ms. Marshall reminded that the calendar was a first read at the last meeting and added that depending on the ratification of the teachers' contract there might be some minor changes, but asked for any questions or comments on the current calendars. Ms. Wright stated she was happy to see no half-days in September.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve the SY 17-18 calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:42 p.m. it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Mr. Delano to adjourn. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Date:

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