

## **Regular Session Meetings**

October 24, 2018

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. Amy O'Connor, Chair, Ms. Gargi Cooper, Ms. Suzanne Wright, and Mr. Ted Delano. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Anne Marie Condike, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, Ms. Martha Raymond, Director of Student Services, and student representative Isaac Green. Ms. Joanne van der Burg, School Finance & Budget Analysis, Ms. Caron Marshall and Joseph Varghese were absent.

### **Public Comment**

MacKenzie Kearney, Sarah Winters & Max McDonough members of the Amnesty International club requested the school committee endorse a yes vote on question #3.

Nicole Levy expressed disapproval with the School Committee's decision to make an agreement with former Principal Daniels. Ms. O'Connor asked if Ms. Levy would like someone to reach out to her after the meeting.

### **For the Love of Learning**

Tech Ninjas-Ms. Lytania Mackey and five students (Jake Goldman, Bradley McDonough, Jen Soucy, Diego Lacruz, Michael Kairevich, & Max Lewis) gave a presentation on the Tech Ninjas. The Tech Ninja's work the help desk and assist with many projects such as fixing devices, setting up new devices, installing software, etc. Ms. Angelakis expressed how proud she is of the team.

### **Community Announcements**

Mr. Delano spoke about how great it is to see the many aspects of students' lives. He mentioned Mr. Andrade's Go Blue drone tweet. He noted the importance of having a front row seat to all these computer tech projects.

Ms. Wright was invited to a Boy Scout troop meeting to be interviewed as a community volunteer. She gave a shout out to SHS student Michela Agresti who is on the U.S. U17 soccer team playing the World Cup in Uruguay. She also attended a webinar on zero energy schools.

Ms. Cooper attended the M.S. Curriculum Night. She noted the teacher excitement and all the awesome things happening in the classroom.

Isaac Green spoke about the viewing of ScreenAgers. He and his peers felt it was geared more toward a M.S audience. They feel it would be beneficial to hear a professional discuss the impact of phone usage on the brain.

Ms. O'Connor attended the M.S. curriculum night. She said it was exciting to hear teachers talking about growth mindset. She enjoyed hearing teachers encourage students to not give up and the example of J.K. Rowling. Ms. O'Connor expressed her appreciation to the student councils for their work. Ms. O'Connor acknowledged the agreement with Thomas Shannon Daniels after months of thoughtful discussions and concessions on each side.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Angelakis' report will be posted on Superintendent Page under the Swampscott Public School's web page. Ms. Angelakis provided an update on the Stanley 3rd Grade. Interviews continue for an Academic Tutor.

Ms. Martha Sybert, the new Business Administer will begin on November 7, 2018. Ms. Kathleen Huntley will be the interim principal at Hadley.

An update on MSBA was provided. A preliminary enrollment meeting with the MSBA Team in Boston was held on October 15th. The School Building Committee has been approved. SPS has been invited back on November 19th prior to

the next deliverable of our Enrollment Certification which is due on November 28th. Ms. Wright and Ms. Angelakis are attending an all-day seminar on Monday - *The Story of a Building*.

Ms. Angelakis discussed Tech Tuesday & Thursdays. Ms. Mackey has set up voluntary Tech Training to address Professional Development technology needs.

Ms. Angelakis discussed the MassCUE Conference. She celebrated SPS becoming leaders in technology.

### **New Business**

**Athletics, clubs and other activity fees:** Ms. O'Connor opened the Athletic Fee discussion. Ms. Farley & the Athletic Council (A.C.) were present to discuss questions created in advance by the committee.

Ms. Wright stated that it was important to note the Athletic Council is fairly new. The mission statement includes having as many kids as possible participate in sports as long as possible. Ms. Wright brought up the issue of funding user fees while cutting other items. Ms. O'Connor noted it was imperative to budget mindfully.

Ms. Farley expressed the necessity to look beyond the athletic skills. She discussed the life lessons, problem-solving skills, teamwork benefits of playing a sport and impact on college applications.

Ms. O'Connor inquired how other schools implemented fees. Ms. Farley mentioned districts that require "X" number of students in a sport or it is canceled. Ms. Farley commented on the impact to MIAA if we start dropping sports. She also referenced schools that determine the cost based on the number of participants after registration.

Ms. Cooper brought up the revenue loss associated with Middle School (M.S.) teams. Ms. Farley updated the committee on the M.S. athletic fee compared to costs. Ms. Cooper remarked that the Swampscott/Nahant basketball program was growing. Ms. Farley stated that many of the students do the school and town programs.

Ms. Cooper inquired about running programs at high capacity. Ms. Farley discussed high capacity verse being less inclusive. Ms. Farley stated that the M.S. boys' team wanted a certain number while the girls' teams were inclusive. Ms. Cooper inquired about the difference in philosophy. Ms. Farley noted there were 40 plus boys making playtime extremely difficult. Ms. Wright asked if we can set limits. Ms. Farley mentioned setting a maximum at registration or leaving it unlimited with try-outs. Ms. Wright questioned whether we want M.S. programs if there is a youth town run program. Mr. Calichman expressed that many of the kids are playing because friends play or trying for the first time while some town leagues are more competitive.

Ms. O'Connor stated this is a discussion on how can we afford all the things we want to do not about cutting programs. She expressed appreciation for the time the A.C. has spent on the issues. Ms. Farley reiterated the social-emotional well-being of students as well as the financial aspect.

Ms. O'Connor brought up having a public conversation. The council has looked at some numbers, family caps and options. Ms. O'Connor requested the council come up with 2 or 3 options to present in December.

### **Director of Curriculum**

**MCAS Updates:** Ms. Condiike provided an update on 2018 MCAS results. She shared the strengths, challenges, and next steps. Teacher feedback indicated that the new computer-based test was more difficult. Ms. Condiike is reviewing district data with the leadership team to identify trends. She is in the process of conducting a root cause analysis with Content Leads and principals.

Ms. Cooper asked for an explanation on the Math Coach recommendation. Ms. Condiike shared that the coaches can plan with teachers, provide content training and analyze data with teachers. Ms. Cooper asked if math was still mostly pencil and paper. Ms. Condiike stated that technology is used to enhance a lot of lessons though learning is still a lot of pencil and paper. Ms. Wright asked if we have longitudinal data. Ms. Condiike responded on the different levels of proficiency and patterns in concepts across different tests. Mr. Green expressed the desire to have ELA teach to the SATs.

## **Chair**

**Updates:** Ms. O'Connor provided an update on the Tri-Chair committee. Primary discussion involved the financial summit in December. Additional discussion centered around what the school committee would like to present to the finance committee in relation to Special Education, contract obligations, etc. There is a sentiment that the Finance Committee may be setting expectations with the Town Budget.

Also mentioned was the Memorandum of Understanding with the Education Support Professionals (ESPs). Teacher contract negotiations begin in December. They have requested the town be a more active part of conversations by including Human Resources & the Town Manager.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

Ms. Wright explained the purpose of the verbiage changes & did the final read of the policy.

A. Policy EEAA- Walkers and Riders-Vote Requested

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Delano to accept the policy and seconded by Ms. Wright.

**Vote on Motion:** The motion passed 4 to 0.

## **Consent Agenda**

Ms. O'Connor read the purpose of the consent agenda and the items on the agenda.

A. Regular Session Minutes-October 10, 2018

B. Warrant #19-15 & #19-16

**Motion:** It was moved by Ms. Gargi to accept the Consent Agenda and seconded by Ms. Wright.

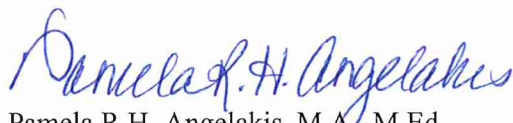
**Vote on Motion:** The motion passed 4 to 0.

**Next meeting to be held on November 14, 2018**

## **Adjournment**

**Motion:** At 9:25 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Wright to adjourn.  
The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Superintendent of Schools


/dmm

Supporting Documentation:



11/15/18

Date:



 01 - Agenda 24-Oct-2018 School Committee Meeting2.pdf 

 02 School Committee Tech Ninjas 

 03 - Superintendent's Report to SC 10.24.18 


 04 - Athletics, clubs and other activity fees-Answers to SC questions.pdf 

 05 - MCAS\_SC Presentation.10.24.18docx.pdf 

 06 - 10-Oct-2018 SC Minutes.pdf 

 07 - Policy EEAA Walkers and Riders updated.pdf 

 24-Oct-2018 SC Public Comment Sheet.pdf 

 Approved 10-Oct-2018 SC Minutes.pdf 