

Regular Session Meetings

October 23, 2019

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. Gargi Cooper, School Committee, Ms. Suzanne Wright, Ms. Amy OConnor, Mr. Ted Delano, and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools, Martha Sybert, Business Administrator, Jean Bacon, Director of Teaching & Learning, Martha Raymond, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services, Greg Vinitsker, and Max McDonough, Student Reps.

Public Comment:

Ms. Cooper spoke about the public comment process. A three-minute limit per speaker was set due to the amount of speakers.

Roddy Young, a parent of an elementary & MS student spoke about the article in the Boston Globe. He mentioned other town employees receiving a 2% raise. He stated that we must support teachers to avoid future decay.

Lisa Green, a 1988 SPS graduate, resident, parent, and teacher spoke about inspiring, connecting with students, being on the front line of crisis, preparation of differentiated lessons, and putting their lives at risk for the safety of children in an emergency.

Casey Frein, a former student of Ms. Green and a parent of Grade K & 2 students spoke in support of teachers. She expressed the need as a town to show that we value teachers as professionals.

Amy Ries, a parent of Stanley students addressed the difference between steps and lanes. She stated despite the issues at Stanley, the teachers always remained positive and happy. She requested the SC think outside the box to stay inside the budget.

Shayne Spaulding thanked the SC for their work. She discussed moving here for the schools, the impressive teachers and the concern that a 0% raise would have an impact on attracting and maintaining teachers. She stated compensating teachers is a #1 priority.

Kim Diamond discussed her mom being a teacher, moving here for the schools, the turmoil at Stanley, and being moved to Hadley. She discussed the teachers as the constant stability. She stated that at the end of the day supporting the teachers is in the best interest of the whole community.

Kim Nothangel, a parent of a Stanley Grade K student that was moved to Hadley thanked the SC and the teachers. She discussed the quality of SPS teachers. She inquired about Chapter 70 funding. She asked if the SC could share whether they spoke to the select board and advocated for additional money or the possibility of a town budget override.

Ms. Cooper thanked everyone. She noted that it is a challenging position but they remain consistent to negotiate at table versus in public. Ms. Cooper stated the questions were valid and the importance of putting out facts from the SC perspective. The SC has great respect for teachers, and is confident that with both sides working collaboratively they will find a resolution.

Community Announcements

Max McDonough mentioned the drama club fall play and outside lunch. Since it is STEM week, the robotics team will be giving rides on the robot during lunch on Friday. Greg Vinitsker talked about pep rally planning, and school survey.

Ms. Marshall is super excited for the drama club show.

Mr. Delano mentioned the loss of Corrine Nelson who was a dedicated SPS teacher. He requested a moment of silence.

Superintendent's Report: Ms. Angelakis' report will be posted on the Superintendent's Page under the Swampscott Public School's web page. She noted that all the principals are in attendance due to the MCAS presentation.

Ms. Angelakis spoke about the great loss of Mrs. Nelson and the teachers having an honor guard at her funeral.

Ms. Angelakis discussed the October MassCue Conference. Ms. Latoya Ogunbona, METCO Program Director brought the Directors Association Monthly Meeting to SPS. She noted how impressed METCO CEO was with the Student Executive Board. We have received the Safe and Supportive Schools Competitive Grant of \$8,000 for 2019-2020 school year.

October 1 Enrollment/October 1 Report to DESE & reporting Schedule: Ms. Angelakis noted the school enrollment is official when it is submitted to DESE. She reviewed the combination of 9 reports that are submitted to DESE throughout the year along with the reporting schedule. She gave a shout out to the data specialist, Chris James. Ms. OConnor asked how the numbers compared to last year. Ms. Angelakis stated that the numbers are flat.

Withdrawn Student Report: Ms. Angelakis provided the breakdown of the 118 students that were withdrawn between July 1st and October 1st, 2019 by school and transfer category (private, out of state, public in state, homeschool).

New Student Report: Ms. Angelakis discussed the breakdown of the 107 new students by school, grade, transfer from category (private, public, out of country, etc) and transfer school.

Mr. Delano asked about the online academy. Ms. Angelakis noted there are more opportunities now for online education.

HS Program of Studies-AP Computer Science: Ms. Angelakis is tabling this item for the time.

Ms. Angelakis read about the National Scholarship Program and commended students. She congratulated the two SHS students (Ian McRae, Sarah Zanger) that received commended status.

Ms. Angelakis discussed meeting with Ms. DeLillo and Mr. Kohut regarding a student government day. The program would permit students to take on a community role for one day. She anticipates to roll out a version of the program this year.

School Business Administrator:

5-year Capital Plan-vote requested: Ms. Sybert reviewed the 5-year capital plan for the Elementary, Middle and High Schools. She reviewed the improvements for Clarke and Stanley Elementary schools, Middle School, and High School reviewing the improvements (i.e. exterior, interior, mechanical electrical & plumbing, structure (MS)), the planned year of the improvement and associated costs. Ms. Sybert reviewed the structure updates for the field house over the next 3 years.

The Hadley School improvements and costs will be determined by the MSBA feasibility study. The contract for the Middle School Building Assessment was awarded to Habeeb & Associates.

Mr. Delano asked if the vote included the temperature issue in the gym. Ms. Sybert will work with Garrett Baker to identify the root cause. The fix for the gym does not impact the 2021 capital improvement vote.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. OConnor to accept the plan & seconded by Ms. Wright.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

FY2020 Budget Update: Ms. Sybert discussed the FY20 Budget updates. The FY20 approved budget was \$29,620,403. We now require purchase orders for all spending so that we are accounting for the money in encumbrances.

Ms. OConnor asked if salaries are in the encumbrances. Ms. Sybert stated that we do not encumber salaries. Ms. Marshall asked if we manually project them. Ms. Sybert noted that they fall under projections.

Mr. Delano inquired about the transfer of costs centers. Ms. Sybert stated that next view will be all cost centers. Ms. OConnor asked about the remaining budget of \$2,711. Ms. Sybert noted that we will project to spend everything.

Director of Teaching & Learning:

MCAS Accountability Report: Ms. Bacon presented the MCAS results for ELA and Math Grades 3 & 4, ELA, Math and Science in Grades 5 - 8 and Grade 10. She presented Swampscott versus State results in the Meet and Exceeding Expectations categories as well as the differences. Swampscott continues to outperform at the state level.

Ms. Wright asked if there has been a decline with the computer based testing, especially in math. Ms. Bacon noted that we are stable but everyone across the state is in the same position. Ms. OConnor inquired about the 3 top performing subjects and the 5% change.

Ms. Bacon discussed DESE's new accountability system. She discussed the calculation methods, outcome rating, and improvement target percentage (37%). The SPS 2019 rating is moderate progress toward improvement targets. Ms. OConnor asked if we knew how peer communities performed. Ms. Cooper asked if Ms. Bacon was concerned with the moderate progress. There was a discussion on the progress rating.

Hadley school saw significant progress toward improvement targets. The Middle School Improvement Target Percentile rose from

19% in 2018 to 57% in 2019 for “all students”. Ms. Bacon reviewed the areas for growth and the efforts occurring in elementary math, Tier 1 instruction, lowest performing students and chronic absenteeism to grow improvement.

Ms. Cooper asked if we looked at the math curriculum we were using when performance was higher. Ms. Bacon noted that the basic math program hasn’t changed since 2013. State standards and expectations have changed which requires instruction change.

Ms. Wright asked if pacing guides were standardized or developed in house. The pacing is up to the district. Ms. OConnor inquired about Tier 1 instruction. Ms. Bacon explained Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction.

Mr. Delano inquired to steps taken when students reach 5% and 10% absenteeism. Mr. Calichman provided the MS action items. Mr. Delano asked if the issue was more MS & HS. Ms. Huntley and Ms. Bebachick both felt the issue was more of an exception at the elementary level.

Ms. Cooper asked if PD will be addressing any of the elementary math issues. Ms. Bacon commented that they are working to develop embedded PD in classroom, modeling lessons, and collaborative time.

Chair:

Updates: Ms. Cooper stated that they are looking at potentially scheduling a SC meeting in Boston on March 11. Ms. Cooper discussed the communication committee and social media. Ms. Marshall stated that the team needs to talk about social media more as part of a regular meeting or workshop. Ms. Marshall would be happy to spearhead the initiative if the committee decides to go forward with social media. Ms. Cooper mentioned the challenge of constant monitoring.

Mr. Delano noted that the only issue with community coffees is people’s schedules. Ms. Wright mentioned having community coffee once a month while Ms. Cooper was thinking about quarterly meetings.

Tri-Chair was cancelled and will meet in November. Ms. Angelakis stated in lieu of tri-char that she met with Sean Fitzgerald, Ron Mendes, Martha Sybert and Martha Raymond. They have scheduled meeting dates until June.

Sub Committee:

SBC Updates: Ms. Wright stated that tomorrow is the big day with qualifications packages due. A Designer Selection Panel Meeting is scheduled for December 3rd to interview the Designers shortlisted and rank candidates. They will have a January kick off.

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Executive Session Minutes – September 23, 2019
- B. Regular Session Minutes – September 25, 2019
- C. Donation Nielson- Kellerman Kestrel Weather Instruments-HS Science
- D. Donation HS Football Boosters Club-Athletics-Football
- E. WARRANT # 20-13 & W20-15

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

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Next meeting to be held on November 13, 2019

Adjournment

Motion: At 9:10p.m. It was moved by Ms. to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Mr. Delano

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,




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


Date: December 12, 2020

Supporting Documents:

 Approved September 25, 2019 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final.pdf 

 Approved September 23, 2019 Exec Session Meeting Minutes.pdf 

 00 - Agenda October 23, 2019, School Committee Meeting 

 10.23.19 FY20 Budget Update 


 Superintendent's Report to SC 10.23.19.pdf 

 2019 MCAS & Accountability Report 

 00 - Agenda October 23, 2019, School Committee Meeting.pdf 

 10.15.19 SPS Capital.pptx 

 September 23, 2019 Exec Session Meeting Minutes.pdf 


 Donation-HS Football Boosters Club-Athletics-Football.pdf 

 New Student Enrollment Report.pdf 

 October 1 Report to DESE & Reporting Schedule.pdf 

 September 25, 2019 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final.pdf 

 October 1 Enrollment.pdf 

 Withdrawn Students Report.pdf 

 Donation-Nielsen-Kellerman Kestrel Weather Instruments-HS Science.pdf 

 CSPSyllabus2019 - SEE PAGE 4.pdf 