

# Swampscott School Committee

## Regular Session Meetings

August 25th, 2021

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held virtually in Swampscott, MA commencing at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Amy OConnor, School Committee Chair, Ms. Carin Marshall, Mr. John Giantis, Mr. Glenn Paster and Ms Suzanne Wright, School Committee members. Also, Present: Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools, Jean Bacon, Director of Teaching & Learning, Martha Sybert, Director of Finance, and Martha Raymond, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services. Madison Diehl and Meggie Jensen, Student Representatives, were absent.

The School Committee and Superintendent were in-person. The public will be able to attend virtually in accordance with the executive order issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020, order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.304, Section 20. The meeting was being recorded and broadcast live on the local cable station.

**Community Announcements:** Ms. OConnor read the DESE masking mandate announcement. She thanked the community for the feedback and respect in the mask discussions.

Mr. Giantis said he has heard a lot of excitement about being back in school.

Ms. Wright is excited about going back to school and hearing about the HS schedule changes.

Mr. Paster is looking forward to school and hearing about the new HS schedule.

**Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Angelakis' report will be posted on the Superintendent's Page under the SPS web page.

**Announce new School Resources Officer (SRO):** Ms. Angelakis spoke about the SRO position and the interview process. She introduced the new SRO Officer Brian Wilson. Officer Wilson spoke about the opportunity and his background.

Ms. OConnor asked if the SRO would be in the school full time. Ms. Angelakis said his office will be dedicated full time (FT) to the school. Ms. OConnor asked about the uniform and weapons. Ms. Angelakis said he will be in a "soft" uniform. Officer Wilson said he plans to have a firearm and radio. Ms. Marshall asked that he come back in a couple of months and provide an update. Ms. OConnor expressed concern about a firearm. Mr. Giantis is glad to hear it is a FT position and it is a great opportunity.

**Introduction of Director of Social Emotional Learning (SEL):** Ms. Angelakis spoke about Mr. Craig Harris being appointed the Director of SEL.

**Introduction of Human Resources Director:** Ms. Angelakis said that the Director of Human Resources has accepted another position.

**Masks:** Ms. Angelakis said that they are going with masks K-12 until October 1, at which time it will be revisited again, following DESE guidance.

**HS New Schedule:** Ms. Angelakis spoke about the study done by the District Management Group. Mr. Kohut proposed moving away from a waterfall schedule to a more static schedule. He reviewed the challenges with a waterfall schedule, the process and the opportunities with a more static schedule. Mr. Kohut walked through an example of a student schedule.

Ms. Marshall said she liked the new schedule. Ms. Wright asked about X- block and Time on Learning for kids in Homeroom (HR). Mr. Kohut said it meets Time on Learning and spoke about asynchronous assignments. He does not envision that unstructured time will happen often. Ms. OConnor asked about the HR/Learning Community (LC)/ X-Block. Mr. Kohut spoke about time for logistics and to schedule X-Block time with teachers. He spoke about LC and anchor adults.

Ms. OConnor asked the difference between LC and the three X-Blocks in the schedule. Mr. Kohut explained the rationale. Ms. OConnor asked about the lunch block. She asked if the split lunch was cafe size related or due to the pandemic spacing. Mr. Kohut said that it is a cafe size issue. Ms. Wright asked about the 75-minute blocks. Mr. Kohut said they were previously 68-minutes. Mr. Giantis asked if the student could request to meet with the teacher. Mr. Kohut said that students can request to meet with teachers but the teacher side will be rolled out first. Ms. OConnor asked about after school help. Mr. Kohut said there would still be after school help. Mr. Paster thought the schedule was great and spoke about the club side of X-Block.

Swampscott Public School COVID -19 Testing Program: Ms. Angelakis said they received access to the portal and paperwork today to begin the steps for acceptance into the program. Ms. Mulcahy played a video on DESE school testing. She reviewed the plan for close contact COVID pool testing. She discussed the mitigation rules and Diagnostic Testing based on the level of community transmission (Moderate, Substantial and High Transmission areas). Ms. Mulcahy spoke about Symptomatic Testing, Test and Stay (close contact testing) and routine COVID Pooled Testing. She recommends the district implement a Mandatory Routine COVID Testing List. Ms. Angelakis said that the majority of transmission last year came via sports. They are proposing that the pool testing be used only for athletics at this time.

Mr. Paster agreed with athletics but asked about making it more global. Ms. Angelakis said she feels they need to start smaller then expand. Ms. Mulcahy said seventy percent of the HS student body are in athletics. Ms. Wright asked if we were mandating that anyone playing a sport sign something. Ms. Mulcahy suggested they can participate only if they agree to testing. Ms. OConnor asked about the sign-up rate. Ms. Mulcahy said they will be increasing their testing. Ms. Mulcahy explained opting in or out of testing but she would like the pool testing to be mandated for athletics. Ms. Marshall asked if every student would be tested. Ms. Mulcahy said that they will be provided a coordinator to organize. Mr. Paster asked if we had guidance from MIAA. Ms. OConnor asked if you would go home if you didn't sign up for the test and stay. Ms. Angelakis said there is no Remote Learning if you do not participate in the testing. Mr. Paster asked what happens if a large chunk of a team tests positive. Ms. Mulcahy said if an individual is in close contact they either test and stay or quarantine if they are not vaccinated. Ms. OConnor asked about diagnosis data. Ms. Mulcahy spoke about asymptomatic cases and transmission. Ms. OConnor mentioned legality and HIPAA. Mr. Paster said testing could be an added requirement like maintaining a GPA. Mr. Giantis wanted to know about pool testing in other districts. Ms. Angelakis will reach out to other districts.

Summer Facilities Projects Update: Mr. Kasper reviewed the regular maintenance projects and the non-recurring larger projects (i.e. SHS Electrical and Acoustical Modifications, New Fenced in Preschool Play Area, Clarke School Exterior Trim Painting, SMS Sign Repair/Replacement). Ongoing and upcoming projects were reviewed (i.e. MS Roof Replacement started this week).

Ms. OConnor is excited about the improvements and sense of pride. Ms. Angelakis will highlight the improvements in her report. Mr. Giants said this is a good news story.

Designate items as surplus (vote requested): Ms. Mackey-Knowles reviewed the Technology Surplus/Buy back items. Ms. Kerri O'Donnell worked with companies to evaluate everything. Ms. Mackey-Knowles spoke about Second Life Mac and Apple credit. Ms. Sybert said that it all needs to be deemed surplus.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Paster to deem the 1,416 pieces of technology as surplus & seconded by Ms. Marshall.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

### **Director of Finance:**

FY21 Budget Update: Ms. Sybert said that we have spent \$26,627,764 or 99.98% of our general fund appropriation. The year will end the year with a modest surplus of \$4,490. She provided an update on the close process. The School Department returned \$107,384 to free cash as a result of the review. Ms. Sybert presented each cost center.

Ms. OConnor asked about the impact of keeping costs in the operating budget. Ms. Sybert spoke about zero based budgeting. She wanted to be transparent about the costs and to make the SC aware of the costs in the operating budget rather than ESSER II.

Mr. Paster asked about Circuit Breaker (CB) and how money from the Commonwealth affects any of these numbers. Ms. Sybert said that it does not make an impact on the amount that we receive. She spoke about balancing the FY21 budget with more CB money than needed. Ms. Marshall said it was more we planned to dip into CB but didn't have to use it. Ms. OConnor asked about ESSER funding. Ms. Sybert said they meet ongoing to plan the ESSER budgeting.

Ms. Wright asked about budgeting for PPE and ventilation. Ms. Sybert said we still have inventory from last year. Ms. Angelakis said the ventilation is staying and Mr. Kasper is having the filters changed. Ms. Wright wants to make sure we have what we need.

FY21 Budget Transfers: Ms. Sybert requested that \$85,502 be transferred from the Food Service Revolving fund and \$144,815 from ESSER II to the operating budget, a budget change to Circuit Breaker Offset and to reallocate funds between cost centers.

Ms. OConnor entertained a motion to reallocate FY21 funds between costs centers adjusting each cost center to the revised FY21 budgets: Administration: \$1,314,402, General Education: \$13,956,761, Special Education: \$9,359,501, School Facilities: \$2,417,042, Districtwide Programs: \$1,584,548.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wright to accept the recommended budget transfers between cost centers & seconded by Mr. Paster.

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Paster to accept the transfer of \$85, 502 from the Food Service Revolving Fund to the Operational Budget and the change in funding source of \$144,815 from the ESSER II grant to the FY 21 Operating Budget & seconded by Ms. Marshall.

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Ms. Wright to accept the FY21 Circuit Breaker revised budget of \$824,9522 & seconded by Mr. Giantis.

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

**Director of Teaching & Learning:**

**Student Outcomes FY21:** This item was tabled.

**Accounting Textbook Approval - vote requested:** Dr. Bacon spoke about the AP textbooks (the current is from 2004).

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Paster to accept the recommended budget transfers & seconded by Mr. Giantis.

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

**Input on use of ESSA funds (Title I, II, III, and IV):** This item was tabled.

**Chair:**

**Updates:** NA

**SubCommittee:**

**SBC Meeting Updates:** NA

**Policy Update on Masks - vote requested:** Policy update not needed at this time.

**Policy JJIF - Concussion Policy & Protocol Update (vote requested):** This item was tabled. Ms. Wright asked if the Athletic Director needs to weigh in. Ms. Angelakis will invite her for the next meeting.

**Consent Agenda:** Ms. OConnor read the purpose of the consent agenda and the items on the agenda.

- A. Regular Session Minutes-August 4, 2021
- B. Public Forum Minutes--August 18, 2021
- C. Donation - Frank DeFelice Estate - Varsity Football & Baseball Program
- D. Donation - Beckham/Ashe Foundation - SHS DLC
- E. Warrant 22-06 & 22-08

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

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

**Public Comment:**

Amanda Kacuba spoke about making masks healthier for kids, vaccine and curriculum improvement, school lunch, stress relief, and requested the accuracy of COVID testing.

**Next meeting to be held on September 15th, 2021**

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** At 9:46 p.m. It was moved by Ms. Wright to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Ms. Marshall.

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

Respectfully submitted,





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



Date: August 23, 2021

/dmm



Supporting Documentation:

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-  Updated Rev 2 Agenda August 25, 2021, School Committee Meeting 



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  -  Technology Surplus buyback /recycle inventory from 2003-2015 


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  -  Swampscott Public School COVID -19 Testing Program 



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  -  SCHOOL COMMITTEE 8-25-21.pptx 



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  -  PRESS RELEASE Education Commissioner to Ask Board for Authority to Mandate Masks in Public Schools to Provide Time to Increase Vaccinations.pdf



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  -  Policy JJIF - Concussion Policy - Current SC Policy 



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  -  Final Draft SHS New Schedule Presentation 



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  -  Donation - Frank DeFelice Estate - Varsity Football & Baseball Program.pdf 



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  -  Donation - Beckham/Ashe Foundation - SHS DLC.pdf 



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  -  August 18th 2021 Public Forum Minutes Final 



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  -  August 4th 2021 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final 



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  -  2021 Swampscott Concussion Protocol w-KW edits.pdf 



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  -  2021 Swampscott Concussion Protocol 



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  -  2020-21 Progress Report 



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  -  2019 - Swampscott Concussion Protocol Final.pdf 

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  -  50 - Superintendent's Report to SC 8.25.21.pdf 

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  -  08.04.2021 FY21 Budget Update.pptx 
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