

Swampscott School Committee

Regular Session Meetings

April 14th, 2021

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held virtually in Swampscott, MA commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Amy OConnor, School Committee Chair, Ms. Suzanne Wright, Ms. Carin Marshall, and Mr. John Giantis, 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. Myra Diaz and Tabitha Randell, Student Reps were absent. Mr. Ted Delano, School Committee was absent.

The School Committee was meeting in a virtual setting, fully remote via teleconferencing, practicing social distancing, and in accordance with the Governor's suspension of certain open meeting laws. The meeting was being recorded and broadcast live on the local cable station.

Community Announcements:

Ms. OConnor thanked Mr. Delano for all his service on the committee and stated how much he would be missed. She read a letter highlighting his contributions as a member of ADL, a lifelong Swampscott and product of SPS schools, a police officer, and his focus on students while making the community a better place. She presented Mr. Delano with a plaque and a framed picture of the town pier.

Ms. Marshall thanked Mr. Delano for always being a person she could come to and talk to and depend on. She wished him the best and noted how much he would be missed.

Ms. Wright said that Mr. Delano reminds them why they are here, appreciates his perspective and that he will be missed.

Mr. Giantis said Mr. Delano's commitment to the children is always loud and clear.

Mr. Delano thanked everyone for their kind words. He stated that he truly believes in the district and is always around to help.

Ms. Angelakis thanked Mr. Delano for his openness, honesty, and unwavering support. She stated that he will be sorely missed.

Ms. Marshall mentioned lunch volunteering at Hadley. She acknowledged how hard everyone is working. She thanked the custodians for keeping everything clean and safe.

Ms. Wright thanked Ms. Shea for inviting guest readers during Read Across America. She spoke about seeing the kids back in the class. Ms. Wright gave kudos to the teachers.

Mr. Giantis thanked the SC and superintendent for arranging the school site visits. He said it was great to see the kids back in.

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

Superintendent Report:

Ms. Angelakis provided an update on the reopening of the schools. All levels were back to In-Person learning on April 5th and April 12th. She mentioned the incredible work put in by our administrators, teachers, and staff in order to make this happen. Ms. Angelakis thanked all the volunteers.

Ms. Angelakis spoke about reading to students last week and how challenging it was during the pandemic with speaking and hearing through masks, and maintaining distance. Microphones have been purchased to help teachers amplify their voices.

She said a couple of the School and Finance Committee members along with a member of the Select Board made school site visits.

Ms. OConnor mentioned that she and Ms. Marshall are volunteering during lunch. She was blown away by the logistics of what it takes to make things happen which prompted her to set up other site visits.

Innovation Pathways Approved: Dr. Bacon said the Baker-Polito Administration awarded designations to 18 high schools for launching new programs, known as Innovation Pathways, that will connect students' learning to a career pathway by providing work-based learning experiences with rigorous technical coursework. Swampscott High School is launching an Innovation Pathway in Manufacturing. The school is partnering with MassHire Metro-North, Lynn Manufacturing, and M.M. Newman, among other area employers. Through a partnership with North Shore Community College, participating students will take advanced coursework in the

core academic areas and have opportunities for college level-work in technical courses related to Advanced Manufacturing. Participating students will complete a 100-hour internship sponsored by the partnering employers. The program will begin in the Fall.

2021-2022 - Partnership with Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School: Ms. Angelakis announced that we have signed an MOU with Essex NS Agricultural & Tech School. She explained the program is designed for SHS who do not have post-secondary plans and who have an interest in Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs (Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing, Automotive Technology, Construction, Design and Media Communications, Electrical, Plumbing).

Ms. Wright said this was awesome and we needed to start revising policies for graduation. Ms. Angelakis has reached out to other districts to see how their schedules incorporate this program.

Ms. Wright asked about recruitment. Ms. OConnor said the 8th graders have had a presentation. Ms. Wright asked if the staff was helping pick students. Ms. Angelakis said there is a flyer going out and they have a liaison to work with them.

Ms. OConnor asked about the number of seats. Ms. Angelakis said the recommendation is eight to eleven. They are looking at eleven.

Student Services Update: Ms. Raymond spoke about free and appropriate public education (FAPE). She reviewed the Student Service staff members. Ms. Raymond spoke about the guiding essential questions. She reviewed the percentage of students with disabilities (17.9%), English Language Learners (5.6%), and economically disadvantaged students (16%) compared to the state.

Ms. Raymond spoke about the financial drivers such as Out of District Tuition/Transportation, FTE's, Clinical Services, Testing, Educational Materials, and Translations services. She reviewed Out of District placement (OOD) and transportation costs and factors. The total cost for OOD is \$3,500,000 about \$200,000 over FY21.

Ms. Raymond reviewed the additional funding sources such as grants and Circuit Breaker. She spoke about their re-opening priorities, and Anti-Racism Professional Development (PD). Ms. Raymond spoke about the Tiered Focused Monitoring Review which monitors special education and civil rights regulatory compliance. The district was found to be in compliance with all criteria reviewed; no corrective action is required at this time. Ms. Angelakis noted this is rare and thanked Ms. Raymond and her team.

Ms. Angelakis spoke about the economically disadvantaged breakout by the elementary schools (Clarke 32.7%, Hadley 20.3%, Stanley 6.3%). She said that kindergarten registration may look different as they try to balance the schools across town.

Ms. OConnor asked about homelessness and foster care. Ms. Raymond said that we do not experience a large number of homeless students. She said that Swampscott students usually choose to stay in Swampscott schools and we provide transportation. Ms. OConnor asked about transportation. Ms. Raymond said if someone is homeless, we share the cost with the town where they live but for Foster Care the last district where the student was enrolled remains responsible. Ms. Raymond said it is about the best interest of the child and stability.

Mr. Giantis asked what would happen if there is a finding during the review. Ms. Raymond said districts are required to fix findings and show how the findings were fixed. Mr. Giantis asked if the IEP data sent is aggregated or individual. Ms. Raymond said the data is protected and submitted via the state security portal by student ID record.

Chair: Ms. OConnor reached out to the Finance Committee & the Select Board to have them send a representative for the tours. She said it was to help them understand what education looks like at this time. Ms. OConnor said they asked great questions. Ms. Wright said she received feedback that they would help get a new school. Ms. OConnor spoke about the Kindergarten wing and how different it is for them during COVID.

Foreign Exchange Students: Ms. OConnor stated the next step for the exchange program was how this would happen operationally. Ms. Angelakis and Ms. Raymond called districts that used the program and they did not have great agency feedback.

The decision has been made to not move forward at this time. Ms. OConnor said that the policy is one that SC makes but operationally it is the Superintendent. They will review it next year. Ms. Angelakis stated that they want to give it the time it deserves versus doing it because there is a case.

Tri-Chair: Ms. OConnor spoke about the Tri-Chair discussion with the town regarding the position of a Director of Equity & Inclusion from an organizational perspective. The town administrator has the job description vetted.

There was a discussion on all the work being done by the superintendent and her team. Ms. OConnor said there are some similarities between the town's and school's needs but educationally it means something else. The committee came to an agreement that the district needs to do their own work. Ms. Angelakis said we need to continue our work and then define the position. She said it needs to be a thoughtful plan.

SubCommittee:

SBC Meeting Updates: Ms. Wright showed a few slides from last night's SBC meeting. She spoke about the floor plans with the lower school (K-2) on one side and the upper school on the other side. (3-4). The costs are estimated at \$96M before any reimbursement.

Ms. Angelakis said it is a sensible affordable school. Ms. Raymond thanked the sustainability committee. Ms. Marshall loves the plan and looks forward to walking into the school someday.

Ms. OConnor mentioned the divide of the economically disadvantaged within the elementary schools. She said that we don't offer the number of Metco Elementary spots we would like due to space. She said the new school solves needs and equitability.

Ms. OConnor asked about meeting attendance. Ms. Wright said that it is mostly people in the neighborhood. Ms. Wright spoke about the traffic consultant. She gave a shout out to Gino Cresta who has started building a sidewalk along the opposite side of the MS.

Finance Meeting: Mr. Giantis mentioned the April 7th meeting. He said Ms. Sybert gave the same presentation that was given to the SC with a couple of updates to numbers. He said the questions from the Finance Committee were similar to those of the SC.

Ms. Sybert appreciated being invited to present. She said there were thoughtful questions and good dialogue.

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

- A. Regular Session Minutes-March 24, 2021
- B. Donation Brent Mills Photo & Video
- C. Warrant 21-39 & 21-41

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

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 4 to 0 via roll call vote.

Public Comment: Ms. OConnor said comments were 2-minutes or less and not for a response.

Ms. Keiko Zoll thanked volunteers for helping in the elementary schools. She stated that Ms. OConnor asked her to recruit more Stanley volunteers and implied that Stanley's parents were not willing to volunteer elsewhere due to privilege. Ms. Zoll read a lengthy statement about being disappointed and the erroneous assumption of Stanley's parent bias and privilege.

Ms. OConnor was completely flummoxed. She stated that Ms. Zoll had misinterpreted her, jumped to a conclusion, and her comments were off base. Ms. OConnor encouraged Ms. Zoll to reach out to the vice chair if she was interested in discussion rather than grandstanding. Ms. Marshall agreed with Ms. OConnor and stated that Ms. Zoll's statements were off base.

Next meeting to be held on May 12th, 2021

Adjournment

Motion: At 8:56 p.m. It was moved by Ms. Marshall to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Mr. Giantis.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 4 to 0 via roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,





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

Superintendent of Schools



/dmm



Supporting Documentation:

Date: May 13, 2021

 [Agenda April 14, 2021, School Committee Meeting](#) 

 [44 - Superintendent's Report to SC 4.14.21.pdf](#) 

 [March 24, 2021 Regular Session Meeting Minutes](#) 

 [State of Student Services April 2021](#) 

 [Baker-Polito Administration Awards Designations - SHS - New Innovation Pathways Programs.pdf](#) 

 [Donation - Brent Mills Photo & Video - HS Art.pdf](#) 
