

# Swampscott School Committee

## Regular Session Meetings

December 9, 2020

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. Suzanne Wright, Ms. Carin Marshall, Mr. Ted Delano, 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. Also present were Myra Diaz, and Tabitha Randell, Student Rep. Ms. Amy OConnor, School Committee Chair 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:**

Mr. Delano spoke about the funeral for Jim Hughes, a former basketball coach, and a long-standing community member. He wished those celebrating a Happy Hanukkah.

Mr. Giantis said his thoughts and prayers were with Fred Dubiel (former president/coach Big Blue football) while he is recovering.

Ms. Diaz said students were excited and hopeful for a safe winter sports meeting.

Ms. Randall said seniors are working hard and starting to hear back on college admission.

Ms. Wright thanked Ms. Raymond and Ms. Donato for inviting her to talk about the new school project at the ELL meeting. She spoke about the Unpacking Racism Forum. Ms. Wright shared the forum take-aways that impact the schools.

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

**Superintendent Report:** Ms. Angelakis spoke about the MS/HS Scheduling Study kick-off meeting with the District Management Group (DMG) consulting on November 20th. She reviewed the goals of the project which will be led by Ms. Sybert due to budget implications. The target completion date with recommendations is March-April 2021.

Ms. Wright asked if we would be looking at the MS programming/specials such as offering gym throughout the whole year. Ms. Angelakis stated that they are looking at both the MS and HS course offerings, programs, and schedules.

Ms. Angelakis discussed the METCO Leadership retreat she attended along with Ms. Raymond. METCO has partnered with Beloved Community to conduct free equity audit research projects. Ms. Angelakis mentioned the documentary shown at the retreat. She will be sharing the documentary with the district and SC.

Ms. Angelakis provided an update on the Hybrid Learning model. She discussed the challenges such as staffing issues, the rise of close contact and positive cases. She mentioned they are working with the Director of Facilities to monitor the Stanley classroom temperatures. If we have severely cold temperatures we may need to consider calling a remote day (MS/Elem). The outdoor tents will be coming down until the spring but masks breaks and snacks will continue outside.

Ms. Angelakis addressed an Open Letter From Parents that mentioned utilizing other appropriate available spaces for students. She reviewed the needs and considerations (i.e. busses, nurses, administrators, custodians, and ventilation studies) beyond finding space and hiring teachers. She discussed the difficulty of hiring staff during COVID.

Ms. Angelakis stated that they did not dismiss the decision of portable classrooms without thought. Leadership's experience is that procuring and installing portable classrooms takes 1-1.5 years.

She addressed Remote Learners and the Phase V Committee which has already met twice to plan and offer an improvement to the current model.

Ms. Wright asked if we had a better estimate for a timeline of the Stanley repairs. Ms. Sybert said they have engaged an engineering firm. The bid will be released before winter break and awarded in late January/early February. The early estimation for completion of the work is the end of April.

Mr. Delano questioned the timeframe for portables. Ms. Angelakis asked what problem we were trying to solve with portables. The Stanley classroom issues should be resolved by the end of April. Mr. Delano said it would be a rough estimate in case we have to go down a different road. Ms. Sybert said her past experience was three portables cost \$1.5M and required appropriation by town meeting. Ms. Wright asked if there is a way without spending too much time looking at portables. Ms. Marshall said it should be a high-level look as people are busy. Ms. Sybert will reach out to some vendors.

Athletic Winter Sports Update: Ms. Mulcahy reviewed the COVID data and timeline. There have been 56 new community COVID cases in the last 7 days. Ms. Mulcahy spoke about the health-related challenges and increased risk at school. She mentioned the Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) is now getting involved versus the Swampscott DPH due to the volume of cases.

Ms. Marshall asked if the increased risk concern was because someone won't know that they have COVID before coming into school. Ms. Mulcahy mentioned the multilayer risk and delay of notification with the CTC involved. She said there is the potential of being tested and coming into school and then finding out they are positive or close contact. Ms. Mulcahy spoke about relying on families to self certify. Ms. Wright asked if we are seeing families self certify that we have to pull out as positive. Ms. Mulcahy replied yes. We are also sending people that were identified as close contact.

Mr. Delano asked if we could get Ms. Mulcahy's data portion of the presentation to parents. Ms. Angelakis said we have a new communication going out to parents and will include this data.

Ms. Marshall asked about the percentage that called in sick and how many turned out to be COVID positive. Ms. Mulcahy said we want parents to continue to keep the students home if they are symptomatic.

Ms. Wright suggested weekly statistics in the letters that go home. Ms. Angelakis agreed that the DPH information may be helpful.

Ms. Wolff provided an update on the EEA/MIAAA modifications. Modifications have made it as safe as possible to play but "not safe to play". She discussed the financial impacts.

Ms. Wolff reviewed the considerations such as the gym is being used as a classroom, sanitizing, and indoor sport close contact rules.

Ms. Mulcahy said that the MA DPH has not provided guidance for sports. Ms. Angelakis said the director of the Swampscott DPH has tremendous concerns about winter sports and does not recommend it.

Ms. Wright said she watched the sports medicine committee town hall and the basketball committee town hall. She mentioned her concern with the discrepancy in the two committees' views. Ms. Wright said it does not make sense to put so many at risk.

Ms. Randall said safety and health are more important than sports. Ms. Wolff said she has concerns for staff, coaches, and student-athlete safety.

Ms. Marshall asked if they were being asked to decide tonight. Ms. Wolf stated that the MIAA has a December 14th begin date. She stated that SPS would not start before December 21st (League games start January 8th). Ms. Angelakis asked Ms. Wolff what other districts were doing. Ms. Wolff said some are still waiting for clarification of the governor's announcement. Ms. Wolff stated that this is a condensed season that ends on February 22nd.

Ms. Wright stated that in good conscience she could not see having this season. She said it does not sound like anyone (DPH, AD, Board of Health) is in support of a winter season. She feels that there is no reason to delay the decision as we do not expect anything to change. Mr. Giantis said that in the fall the SC voted to let the AD make the call. Ms. Wright said that the decision is not in the SC purview. There will be a continued discussion.

October 1 Report to DESE: Ms. Angelakis discussed the three reports submitted to DESE.

October 1 Enrollment: Ms. Angelakis shared the October 1 enrollment numbers (2,166 students). This is 97 less than the previous year. Ms. Angelakis spoke about the breakdown and change in the Pre-K and Kindergarten numbers.

Withdraw Students Report: Ms. Angelakis shared the breakdown of the 140 students that withdrew.

New students Report: Ms. Angelakis shared the breakdown of the 92 new students.

Mr. Delano asked about the homeschool numbers. Ms. Angelakis said the students that withdrew in order to Homeschool are included in the breakout numbers. She said we could provide additional Homeschool data.

Ms. Wright asked if school business administrators were concerned about the 21/22 financial budget impact due to COVID-related enrollment decreases. Ms. Sybert said they have discussed at MASBO and by statute, the budget is based on the October 1 numbers. Ms. Sybert said all districts are in the same situation with the fluctuation of student enrollment. Ms. Wright asked when we would know more about the impact. Ms. Sybert mentioned a \$53M FY21 grant that will be allocated to districts based on the October 1 enrollment. She is expecting our portion to be \$65K.

**Director of Finance:** Ms. Sybert presented the proposed FY22 Budget Calendar. She discussed the FY22 abbreviated budget process as a result of the pandemic. She stated that last year the Finance Committee and the Select Board approved requiring that budget development assume a tax policy limiting the growth of the annual real estate and personal property tax levy to 2.0%, plus an estimate of \$425,000 representing “new growth”.

The Superintendent will determine the size and scope of the budget by the end of December. January 14, 2021, is the first draft of the Superintendents Recommended Budget with final edits due January 18, 2021. The budget will be submitted to the SC for consideration in mid-January and presented to the Committee in January and February. The Swampscott Town Charter requires the SC Budget to be submitted to the Town Administrator no later than February 15.

Mr. Giantis asked if the SC would be receiving any draft documents prior to meetings. Ms. Sybert said the budget is due to the SC one week prior (1/21) to the January 27th meeting. Ms. Wright said the committee will see a draft prior to January 21st. Ms. Marshall said we meet as a committee as a whole as we go along.

**Chair:**

**Nahant Negotiations Update:** Ms. Angelakis said the last session was on December 1st. Mr. Delano mentioned Ms. Sybert’s presentation. Ms. Angelakis said they agreed to produce a proposal in two meetings. She said it was a great collaboration. Ms. Sybert concurs that it was a great meeting. She said that they need to put numbers on paper but have come to a 5-year agreement.

**Tri-chair Update (Capital Planning):** Ms. Angelakis said their meeting focused on capital planning and a 5-year plan that looks at the needs of all of our buildings.

Ms. Wright said the contract bargaining for ESPs will begin in the next month or so.

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

- A. Regular Session Minutes-November 18, 2020
- B. Donation - NDuffy-SHS Media Arts
- C. Donation-Fidelity-DECA
- D. Warrant 21-20

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

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

*Next meeting to be held on January 13th, 2020*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** At 8:58 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Delano to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Ms. Marshall.

**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

Date: January 14, 2021



Supporting Documentation:

 [Approved November 18, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final](#) 



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 [Superintendent's Report to SC 12.9.20.pdf](#) 



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 [November 18, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final](#) 



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 [METCO \\_ Beloved Community \\_1\\_-compressed.pdf](#) 



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 [FY22 Proposed Budget Calendar 12.07.2020.pdf](#) 



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 [October 1 Report to DESE & Reporting Schedule.pdf](#) 

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 [October 1 Enrollment Report.pdf](#) 

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 [Withdrawn Students Report.pdf](#) 



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 [Donation-Fidelity-DECA.pdf](#) 

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 [New Student Enrollment Report 2020.pdf](#) 


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 [Donation-NDuffy-SHS Media Arts.pdf](#) 

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 [Template Grade Reconfiguration Certification 20160226 \(1\) \(1\).doc](#) 

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 [MIAA Statement on Winter Sports and Sport-Specific Modifications.docx](#) 