

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**  
**December 10, 2013**

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann, Ms. Carin Marshall and Ms. Amy OConnor. Also Present: Dr. Garry P. Murphy, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent, Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Assistant Superintendent, Christopher Thomsen and Tristan Smith, Student Representatives.

Mr. Kraft welcomed Mr. Murphy to introduce two Middle School students who would be starting the meeting by leading the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and reading the Mission Statement of the District. Mr. Murphy introduced Thomas and Katelyn O'Keefe who came forward.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Allison Norton, a teacher at Stanley and Swampscott resident came forward to thank the Committee for their hiring of Ms. Angelakis as Superintendent. She commented on Ms. Angelakis' history in the District and stated she was committed to the District and serves as a role model to staff. She congratulated the Committee on its decision as well as Ms. Angelakis.

**COMMITTEE COMMENT**

Ms. OConnor commented on an exciting week in the District.

Mr. Delano wished everyone a happy and safe holiday and wished the students good luck before the break.

Ms. Marshall wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann reminded all of the Holiday Concert and Art Show this Thursday at the High School.

Chris Thomsen wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Tristan Smith recognized the passing of Nelson Mandela. He also reminded everyone on behalf of the Cable Club to make sure they are speaking into the microphones so that everyone at home can hear the speakers. He further commented that he hoped the library issue could be added as an agenda item in the near future.

Mr. Kraft congratulated the Middle School Chorale on their performance this evening.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. OConnor to move up in the agenda the Hall of Fame Committee naming of the Field House; the Field Trip to Montréal and Appointment of Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously

**Hall of Fame Committee naming of Field House**

Jack Taymore came forward to answer any questions regarding their proposal to name the Field House in honor of Richard "Dick" Lynch, a former teacher and coach. Mr. Kraft requested that he give a background of the proposal. Mr. Taymore gave Coach Lynch's history in the town and stated that the Hall of Fame Committee would pay for any expenses incurred by the naming. He added that they expected to have a ceremony during an upcoming basketball game. Mr. Kraft stated he would entertain a motion for approval.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Marshall to dedicate the Field House to Richard "Dick" Lynch. The motion passed unanimously

Mr. Kraft questioned the coordination of the signage. Dr. Murphy stated that a meeting would be set up to coordinate getting it accomplished. Mr. Delano requested the Committee be informed of the date for the dedication. Mr. Taymore stated he would be contacting the sign company and would also check the basketball schedule to coordinate a date. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann also commented that the waiting period in regards to the naming policy had been satisfied and that she had not heard from anyone in regards to the dedication. Mr. Delano added he had heard only positive feedback.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Taymore thanked the Committee for its support.

### **Field Trip to Montréal**

Melissa Albert, a High School French teacher, came forward to present a proposed trip to Montréal in April. She explained that there was previously an approved trip to France but due to low interest the trip was rescheduled for Montréal. She gave the Committee an overview of the itinerary of the trip which is planned for April 4-6. Dr. Murphy stated it was his recommendation that the trip be approved.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the High School field trip to Montréal. The motion passed unanimously

Ms. OConnor questioned whether the trip came before the Committee because it was out of the country. Dr. Murphy stated it was as well as there was a school day involved.

### **Appointment of Superintendent**

Mr. Kraft explained that at a previous meeting the issue of the method and process of choosing a new Superintendent was discussed and that the Committee had come to a consensus that the District had someone internally who has worked closely with Dr. Murphy and has been in the role of Superintendent when Dr. Murphy isn't in District and it was their conclusion and they found it appropriate to appoint Ms. Angelakis as the next Superintendent. He further explained that the Committee felt that a substantial part of a person's effectiveness is their ability to bring people together and get them working together and forming relationships, and that Ms. Angelakis has created those relationships, as well as that she is very well respected and has received overwhelming support from community, teachers and the District. Mr. Kraft explained that the appointment wasn't previously posted in accordance with the open meeting law which was the reason for it being on tonight's agenda. Ms. OConnor commented that she was pleasantly surprised by the positive response to their decision and that she was happy to vote again this evening. She added that it was exciting to be able to focus on coming together and moving in a forward direction. Ms. Marshall added that she was happy that people see a renewed energy and dedication within the District. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated she was lucky to be in the schools the day after the first vote and that people were thrilled and it was really an exciting time. Mr. Delano added that Ms. Angelakis has wonderful, strong support from her family and he knows we will see fantastic things and wished her nothing but the best. Tristan Smith added from a student perspective the support he has heard has been huge. He added teachers and students said it was a great call and that students were happy to see a name they recognized as Superintendent. Mr. Kraft added that another aspect that was important was to develop talent within the District. Melissa Albert added that from the teachers' standpoint Ms. Angelakis is a breath of fresh air for the District and that in a time of feeling stressed and fractured Ms. Angelakis has brought everyone together and has brought positivity to all. Ms. Marshall brought forward her motion from the prior meeting.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to appoint Pam Angelakis as Superintendent effective February 1, 2014 or as otherwise needed. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Angelakis thanked the Committee and stated she was humbled and honored at their confidence in her to lead the District. She added that she is devoted to both students and staff, and she felt she knew where the District had

been and was going and with Dr. Murphy's guidance they have gained the momentum to move forward and that she couldn't wait to get started.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to accept the meeting minutes, as amended, of November 26, 2013.

Mr. Delano asked that the minutes from the November 26, 2013 meeting be amended to reflect that it was requested that this meeting be utilized to recognize the waiting period with respect to the Hall of Fame Committee's request for naming the Field House.

#### **VOTE ON MOTION:**

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. OConnor commented on the portion of the previous minutes relating to the "Big Blue Babes" and expressed some concern about the perception of female athletes by using that title. Dr. Murphy asked the student representatives if the issue could be raised with the students. Chris Thomsen commented that it could be brought up to the Student Leadership Council. Ms. OConnor stated she didn't feel it needed to be something that could not be done but that it was just a concern of hers. Mr. Kraft agreed all should be aware of it with recognition of values and that there were a lot of ways that it could be addressed with an eye towards education and people understanding the terminology and how it affects the larger issue and social interactions.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Murphy stated the copy which had been emailed had some of the names truncated. Ms. Angelakis distributed a new version to the Committee this evening.

#### **An Act Relative to Special Education Funding**

Dr. Murphy informed the Committee of a proposed change in a law relative to Special Education Funding which would affect the funding of outside placements. He explained the date was proposed to be changed from April 1<sup>st</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> which would be a plus for Districts for budget forecasting and planning. Dr. Murphy stated he added it to the agenda as an FYI to the Committee.

#### **Tri-Chair Meeting**

Dr. Murphy stated that he met with Mr. Kraft, Ms. Angelakis, Jill Sullivan and Tom Younger for their Tri-Chair meeting, and added that the Chair of the Finance Committee wasn't in attendance. He explained it was a very productive meeting in which they discussed further possibilities relating to consolidation of departments. He expressed that the timing seemed right with the spirit of cooperation between departments and that he would be reporting back over the next few months with any further information but that it was a process that would take some time.

Mr. Kraft questioned the Special Education funding issue and whether Dr. Murphy thought it would be hard fought issue. Dr. Murphy stated the issue had been proposed in the past but was recently brought forward out of a study committee and he felt it may have a better chance now than in the past.

Mr. Delano added that Senator McGee's mother recently passed away and wondered if it was possible to send condolences to his office. Dr. Murphy said that would be taken care of.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

Mr. Delano reported that the Finance Subcommittee met earlier in the day and with the help of Dr. Murphy and Ms. Angelakis they were working on producing a new report which would be easier for people to see where the monies are going. He added that after the meeting he felt very positive and appreciated all the work that everyone has done and that in the next few weeks he expected to have more information. He further added that capital requests have been disseminated and there has been communication on that and all was moving forward. Ms. OConnor agreed

and added she was relieved to see a level of clarity and transparency that the town should expect and we should deliver and also appreciated all the work being done. Mr. Kraft questioned if a there was a draft available. Ms. OConnor stated they had seen it but that there was still some more work to be done through the Superintendent's Office before it goes out. Dr. Murphy added that the budget was being broken down by each school and department so that the report was easier to understand. He stated a draft would be forwarded ahead of time but expected it to be available at the next Committee meeting. Dr. Murphy also reported on capital improvements for Facilities and Technology and stated he would have the Committee review them. Ms. Angelakis thanked Mr. Kaczynski and Mr. Baker for their work on the multi-year planning for capital improvements. Mr. Kraft agreed and added the multi-year plan was good for both the District and the Town. Ms. OConnor stated the new budget documents would be easier to understand and are broken down in ways which were simplified.

Mr. Delano updated on the Renewable Energy Committee and stated they were meeting this evening as well and that he would report back with any recommendations he received. He also added that he would get dates for meeting with Mike Gilbert after the first of the year. Mr. Kraft stated he would like to keep that conversation moving along and Mr. Delano stated he would get dates and forward them by the end of the week so that they could secure a date with Mr. Gilbert within the first two weeks of January.

Ms. OConnor updated on behalf of the Communications Subcommittee and Ms. Angelakis reported that the first issue of The Educator was being proofed and was going to print on Friday and would be delivered to the schools and printed in the Swampscott Reporter next week. Ms. OConnor asked for clarification on funding and Ms. Angelakis stated there was a line item already in the budget which covered publications.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated the Policy Subcommittee would be meeting to put together a committee to create a policy for out-of-district students. She added that she would reach out to anyone interested in working on the Committee and Ms. Marshall added they would be working from a draft which she would put together. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann asked for clarification from Mr. Kraft on whether she, as the Policy Subcommittee Chair, was able to put together the Committee. Mr. Kraft felt as Chair of the Committee she could. Dr. Murphy suggested speaking to members of the leadership of the Teacher's Association. Ms. OConnor suggested that Nancy Hanlon may have good ideas. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated she wished to start meetings after the first of the year and get the policy worked out. Mr. Kraft questioned the issue of the policy review. Ms. Marshall stated it should be added to a future agenda to start the process.

Ms. Marshall updated on the School Building Committee and stated it had met this day to discuss renewable energy and updated the Committee on that issue. Ms. Angelakis added that everything is highly regulated and monitored and that a day earlier there was a meeting with the Town Department heads to discuss systems within the proposed building and that concerns were raised and that further dialogue will be needed.

Mr. Kraft updated on the negotiations and stated that the language for the contract with the Teacher's Union was being worked out and that the District's attorney and the Teacher's Union attorney were working on that issue. Mr. Kraft added he didn't have a time-line for the completed contract but hoped that within a month's time it would be drafted. Mr. Kraft further updated on the Tri-Chair meeting and stated that he and Tom Younger had discussed the DOR consultation and had decided that the issue of finance would be the issue that DOR would review as it was the most complicated piece.

#### **Appointment to the Town Beautification Committee – Jer Jurma**

Mr. Kraft explained that the School Committee has three slots for the Town Beautification Committee and that since the person to be appointed is his husband that he would recuse himself from the vote and turned the discussion over to Mr. Delano. Mr. Delano read an email from Rick Rawlins, the Vice Chair of the Beautification Committee in support of Jer Jurma.

#### **MOTION:**

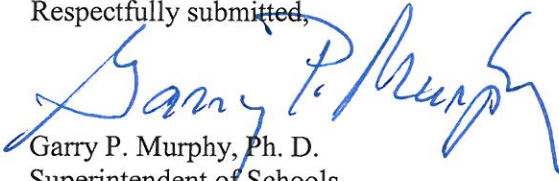
It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. OConnor to appoint Jer Jurma as representative to the Town Beautification Committee. The motion passed 4-0; Mr. Kraft – recused.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:15 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann, seconded by Ms. Marshall to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Garry P. Murphy, Ph. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

1/22/14

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