

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

February 11, 2016

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. Carin Marshall Chairman, Mr. Ted Delano, Ms. Suzanne Wright and Ms. Gargi Cooper. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Lois Longin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Mr. Evan Katz, School Business Administrator and Student Representatives Matthew Zimmer and Will Green. Ms. Amy OConnor, Vice Chairman, was absent.

Ms. Marshall explained two students were invited to come up and lead the pledge of allegiance and read the Mission Statement of the District. She gave the Committee some background on each student and introduced Stanley School 4th students Tyler Chiarello and Rose McCarren.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Will Green commented on the basketball team which was currently playing Marblehead. He also said that Mock Trial had its last meet today and it went well.

Matthew Zimmer said the Drama Club and Band are preparing for their upcoming spring musical and concerts.

Ms. Cooper commented on the recent speaker on internet safety. She said she was unable to attend but has heard a lot of great feedback and was impressed to hear that students were taking her suggestions as well. She stated she looked forward to continuing presentations such as that in the District. She also thanked the Hadley 4th Grade Leaders for their work on donations to the Lynn Shelter and My Brother's Table.

Ms. Wright also commented on the internet safety presentation by Katie Greer, which she did attend. She said there was a lot of great advice given and recommended all follow her on Facebook for more information.

Mr. Delano recognized Irene Dalton in the crowd and said he hoped those in the District realize what a special teacher she is and how motivational she can be for students.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Marshall read the listing of the items contained in the Consent Agenda and requested a motion for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Mr. Delano to accept the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Angelakis introduced Mr. Parachojuk to come forward and give the Committee information regarding the DECA field trip to Boston. Mr. Parachojuk introduced Aria Corkum, Emma Laudano and Madison Hahnen. Madison gave an overview of DECA. Emma explained the competition process and Aria explained the states competition. Mr. Parachojuk said they were requesting approval as it was an overnight trip.

Ms. Angelakis also spoke to the Harvard Model Congress field trip with Mr. Morrison which would be held February 18 to February 21 in Boston. Will Green, the President of the Political Action Club, gave an overview of the trip. Ms. Angelakis added there were 12 students going and noted that it was during the February vacation week.

Ms. Angelakis further spoke about a donation from the class of 2003 for a scholarship in the amount of \$2,700. She noted that it would be divided as \$900 per year for three years.

Ms. Angelakis also spoke about a donation of a drum set to the music program at the High School. Ms. Marshall read some history of the drum set.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE SY 2016-2017

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to open the Public Hearing on School Choice. The motion passed 4-0.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Delano to close the Public Hearing on School Choice. The motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Mr. Delano not to participate in School Choice for the '16-'17 school year.

Ms. Marshall asked Ms. Angelakis if she had any comment or recommendation. Ms. Angelakis said it would be her recommendation not to participate in school choice and to focus on the students who are residents of Swampscott.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BUDGET 2016-2017

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Delano to open the Public Hearing on the School Budget 2016-2017. The motion passed 4-0.

There was no public comment.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Mr. Delano to close the Public Hearing on the School Budget 2016-2017. The motion passed 4-0

Ms. Marshall stated if there were no objections she would move item 9A the FY17 Budget up in the agenda.

FY17 Budget – vote requested

Mr. Katz explained that the budget built on the progress in last year's budget which included expansion of programs and technology and would see continued progress through this budget. He explained that there was a 5.2% increase provided through town funding and that the District was very appreciative of that. Mr. Katz gave an overview of the highlights within the FY17 budget. Ms. Angelakis added that the budget contained items which she had committed to in prior years. She referred to the additional library/media specialist position. Mr. Katz reviewed program savings and revenue increases within the budget and added that the proposed budget maintains all programs and class sizes. Ms. Wright questioned how the substitute budget was defined within the budget. Mr. Katz explained he reviewed the recent history and allocated funds to each school with the remainder in the District budget to allow for transfer as needed. He added it can be a very unpredictable number. There was discussion regarding the athletics budget including coaches salaries and stipends at the High School and Middle School levels.

Mr. Delano questioned the Kindergarten and METCO grants. Mr. Katz stated the METCO grant remained the same. Ms. Wright questioned the summer camp and Mr. Katz explained is it handled through a revolving account through the Middle School. Ms. Marshall pointed out the revenue sources on the front page of the budget document. Ms. Cooper commented on the increases in electricity and heating fuel and wondered if any of that could be handled through behavioral changes. Mr. Katz stated some of those figures were stale in prior budgets and

that he would have more information in the FY16 budget on heating and electricity savings. Ms. Cooper also commented she had looked at other towns in regards to the library/media position and wondered if the district could explore a library aide position so that all three schools could be adequately staffed. Ms. Angelakis stated it could be investigated.

Ms. Angelakis commended Mr. Katz for the work that he's done in taking apart the FY16 budget and rebuilding this budget from the bottom up. She felt this was the first time in her position that no stone had been left unturned and that the changes show some real scrutiny of every dollar in the District and where it belongs. Ms. Marshall added that Mr. Katz essentially audited the District which was something that had not been done in quite a while. Ms. Angelakis also acknowledged the Town's support of the District.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve the FY17 Budget for the Swampscott Public Schools in the amount of \$30,048,607.00. The motion passed 4-0.

FY16 Budget Update

Mr. Katz reviewed the status of the FY16 budget and explained that it is currently underfunded in the range of \$400,000 - \$800,000. He explained that the District has some additional funds and that the Finance Committee has added \$150,000 to the reserve fund if needed. He explained he would know more as we got closer to the end of the year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Facilities Director Timeline Update

Ms. Angelakis stated that she and Mr. Younger received four names which moved into the second round of interviews and that they had interviewed three of the four. They hoped to schedule the fourth interview soon and narrow the pool down to two. They were hoping to finalize the candidate in the near future.

Clarke School Building Update

Ms. Angelakis reported there had been some glitches with finalizing the project and that she was hoping that the project would be completed and cleared during vacation. .

Ms. Cooper questioned the timeline for the Facilities position. Ms. Angelakis stated she was hoping for the first week of March and agreed that the process has gone longer than she had hoped.

School Committee Reschedule Meeting Dates

Ms. Angelakis referred to the calendar in the Committee's packets. There was discussion on dates and it was agreed to move most meetings to Wednesday nights on the opposite weeks from the Board of Selectmen meetings but to defer to Thursdays if that was not possible. The meetings for the remainder of the school year would be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016; Wednesday March 9, 2016; Wednesday, March 23, 2016; Thursday April 14, 2016; Wednesday April 27, 2016; Wednesday, May 11, 2016; Wednesday May 25, 2016; Wednesday June 8, 2016 and Wednesday, June 22, 2016.

16-17SY Calendar – vote requested

Ms. Login reported on the earlier discussion regarding time and learning and explained that with the 12:00 dismissal time and no lunch service the calculation would still be correct for required time on learning. There was a lengthy discussion regarding dismissal times for early release and the concern of the Committee on losing lunch service, especially with students who would then be attending the Extended Day program.

Ms. Angelakis reported on her recent meeting with the local Rabbis concerning religious holidays. She explained the meeting went very well and it was the consensus of all that by eliminating religious holidays it would force families and students to choose between school and family and could add anxiety to some students. She stated it was decided to leave the religious holidays in the calendar as previously presented. Ms. Angelakis also referred to some information compiled by Mrs. Caron pertaining to December 23rd as well as exploring a single March vacation. Ms. Marshall questioned the October date between Columbus Day and Yom Kippur. Ms. Longin stated

it was put in as to be determined and was open to discussion. She added the Team had questioned having students come one day in between two days off, but that they didn't have strong feelings either way.

Ms. Marshall asked Ms. Angelakis for her opinion on the October 11th and December 23rd dates and Ms. Angelakis said her opinion was to hold full days of school on both of those dates. There was further discussion surrounding the dismissal times for early release and conference dates. Ms. Marshall reviewed the Committee's plan of keeping the religious holidays, holding full days of school October 11th and December 23rd and keeping the early release days at 12:30. Ms. Angelakis stated she would speak to Mr. Murphy and Mr. Calichman about keeping a noon dismissal with no lunch served on the Middle School conference days.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper accept the SY16-17 calendar as outlined. The motion passed 4-0

Mr. Delano left the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

EBC – Emergency Plans – vote requested

Ms. Wright explained that the changes were reflected with the proposed plan.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve Policy EBC – Emergency Plans. The motion passed 3-0

Ms. Marshall reminded that the next meeting would be February 25, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:40 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Wright to adjourn. The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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