

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
December 19, 2014

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in the Superintendent's Conference Room at Swampscott Middle School commencing at 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Ted Delano, Chairman; Ms. Carin Marshall, Vice Chairman; Ms. Amy O'Connor, Ms. Suzanne Wright and Ms. Gargi Cooper. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools and Lois Longin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Dave Castellarin, Town Accountant, and Student Representatives Megan Russo and Ian Crimmins and were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Nancy Hanlon, 87 Plymouth Ave, Swampscott, MA, 01970, thanked the committee for considering the recommendations of the calendar committee concerning the return to school on Jan. 5th.

Mr. Kevin Rogers, 214 Forest Ave, Swampscott, MA, 01970, thanked the committee and mentioned that he was very appreciative and hopeful that the committee would entertain a different return date. He also mentioned that there was value in the message that the committee would consider a different timeframe.

Mr. Tom Reid, 40 Beacon Street, Melrose, MA, 02176, thanked the committee and Superintendent Angelakis for having the meeting. He also mentioned that though not every teacher feels the same way about the professional development day, the consensus was that more than ½ of them would prefer the professional development day moved to June.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

None at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 2014-2015 School Calendar Update – Vote Requested

Ms. Angelakis is requesting a vote on a proposal from 12/15/14 to change the calendar of the school year. It would include changing the professional development day scheduled for 1/2/15 to 1/5/15 and also extending the school year by one day to 6/16/15. She mentioned that this was originally proposed last spring with the recommendation of the calendar committee. She stated that she recognizes that this will pose difficulty for families with child care needs for 1/5/15, but that she thinks moving the date would make sense and that is her recommendation. She also mentioned it would need to be a full day of professional development as opposed to a half day program.

Mrs. Wright expressed concern about whether or not other date options were explored instead of moving the professional development day to 1/5/15. Mrs. Wright was concerned about losing a full day of education in a pivotal time in the school year and that exchanging 1/5/15 for 6/16/15 was not an equal swap in terms of education. Mrs. Cooper echoed the same sentiment and stressed that she did not want to see losing time on learning. Mrs. Cooper also suggested moving the date to February to give parents some advance notice for child care.

Mrs. O'Connor expressed an interest in seeing if the extended day program could be offered to assist parents with childcare issues that day. Ms. Angelakis explained that that was not possible as there is yet to be a replacement extended day director at this point and that extended day registration had to be done in advance and does not have a one time availability. Mrs. O'Connor also inquired as to who the calendar committee was and what the discussion was concerning the move in date when it was brought up in the past. Ms. Angelakis stated that the calendar committee is a group comprised of teachers and administrators who make their recommendation to the Superintendent who then in turn brings it to the school committee.

After further discussion, 2/10/15 was determined to be a better date to move the professional development training to as it was already scheduled to be a ½ day for professional development.


MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to move the Alice Training for Professional Development to 2/10/15. The motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. O'Connor and seconded by Mrs. Marshall to change the school year calendar to reflect the last three days of school to be: an early release day for students and the last two days to be ½ days for students and staff. The motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. O'Connor and seconded by Mrs. Wright that staff will return with students on 1/5/15. The motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: At 5:00 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Marshall and seconded by Mrs. O'Connor to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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

1/13/15

Date: