

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
July 21, 2014

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Ted Delano, Chairman; Ms. Gargi Cooper and Ms. Suzanne Wright. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Joanne Llorente, of 99 Kensington Ave. thought there was a discussion about chemical health policy on the agenda. Mr. Delano said that even though it wasn't on the agenda, please feel free to express your comments. Mrs. Llorente stated that children have been affected by the chemical health policy, and she was concerned that it goes so far that kids have nothing to lose and have no way to redeem themselves because so much is taken away. She mentioned that she doesn't think it's a good thing, and that the consequences are too drastic. Mr. Delano mentioned that it's on their radar, and he realizes people have concerns about it and that he has spoken with the Superintendent about it and that she has a plan to address it in the next few meetings. He stated that he did appreciate Mrs. Llorente attending the meeting and expressing her concerns. Mrs. Wright stated that there will be a meeting of the policy committee about it, and it's important to hear ideas and solutions. Mr. Delano stated that he values the public's input and he encouraged all to email any members of the committee at any time with thoughts on the matter.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Wright stated that she hopes everyone is enjoying summer. The SEF had an event on Saturday night, with great attendance, and that it was a really fun event with lots of community support.

Ms. Cooper - None

Mr. Delano stated that the sub-finance committee meeting went well, and that it was nice to see the schools so cleaned and polished.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to accept the meeting minutes of June 16, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Angelakis spoke about the transportation bid, with one respondent of North Reading Transportation. Ms. Angelakis recommended approval of the contract. Ms. Wright asked if it was possible to share services with other towns to reduce costs. She also voiced concerns about athletic transportation and any ways to reduce costs, as well as any ways to plan ahead and investigate different options to save in the coming years. Ms. Angelakis stated that those were very valid points and she would look into them.

MOTION: To postpone vote for transportation bid, by Ms. Wright, and seconded by Ms. Cooper. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Angelakis proposed changing the elementary school hours to 8:15 – 2:15 which was needed because of the collective bargaining agreement with the teachers. Mr. Delano expressed concern that there was enough time to get the word out. Ms. Angelakis stated that she will be able to get the information out to parents before the start of school.

MOTION: To change elementary school hours to 8:15 – 2:15 by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Wright.

Ms. Angelakis mentioned that the only directive from the state is that anyone hired last year be fingerprinted, but as a district, she will require new hires and all field trip volunteers, etc. to be fingerprinted as well. Ms. Wright

suggests adding a piece to the letter about all information being confidential, and if there are issues with a candidate's fingerprinting, that they will be contacted by the Superintendent's Office.

Ms. Angelakis added an item surrounding the Hadley principal search. Following a similar timeline as the Clarke Principal search, and that Asst. Principal, Jason Calichman, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Lois Longin, would be heading up the search. They had 31 applicants apply during the wide reaching search, and 2 internal candidates have withdrawn. Aug. 13th starts the interview process. Information about the vetting process will be widely advertised.

Ms. Angelakis spoke about attending the Superintendent's Executive Institute conference, which was a great experience, with 32 new Superintendent's in MA this year. She thanked the committee for supporting her attendance there. She mentioned that she was assigned a coach and felt that it would be a wonderful experience. Mr. Delano mentioned that he would like to have a meeting with the leadership team soon. Ms. Wright inquired about whether or not they would have set goals and the timeline for that. She also stated that she'd like to have something in place before budget building begins for next year.

Ms. Angelakis added an item and gave out a handout from the DESE concerning fiscal reviews.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Cooper attended her first renewable energy meeting and had great discussions about cost saving initiatives in regard to energy costs.

The Communications Subcommittee hasn't met since the last meeting, and they would like to get one scheduled.

The Policy Subcommittee have a meeting coming up on Thursday, July 31st, to start reviewing the policy manual, and Mrs. Wright stated it will be a long process.

The Regionalization Subcommittee had a meeting last Wednesday. They asked for selectmen support to continue. There are 2 slots still open on the board. They are hiring a 3rd party firm to evaluate the situation further.

Mr. Delano stated that the Finance Subcommittee met with Dave Castellarin and that there have been really good developments in regards to Dave helping the district. Mr. Delano mentioned that they are training all principals and secretaries on the MUNIS system. Mr. Delano stated that Dave is focused and committed to making sure everything is done properly. He is splitting his time between town hall and the school department. Discussion ensued surrounding the business manager replacement issue.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:12 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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