

## REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

February 25, 2014

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:06 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools, Wayne White, School Business Administrator, and Tristan Smith, Student Representative. Amy OConnor and Christopher Thomsen were absent.

Mr. Kraft explained that two students were invited to come and lead the pledge of allegiance and read the Mission Statement of the District. He gave the Committee some background on each girl and introduced 8<sup>th</sup> grade students Mia Chung and Laura Long.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Madison Van Dam, a sophomore at SHS came forward to ask for support for the Robotics Club and their upcoming event "Swampscott's Got Talent."

### COMMITTEE COMMENT

Mr. Delano stated he was strongly in support of Maddie and her fundraising for the Robotics program and gave his kudos to the leadership team which is behind the program. He added he felt it was a great opportunity for the community to come together and encouraged Maddie to reach out to him if he could be of any assistance. Mr. Delano apologized for not responding to Hadley School's invitation to the Dr. Seuss reading. He added he appreciated the invitation and would love to come to their next event and encouraged the District to send invites to the Committee members for their events.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann notified all of the fundraiser this Thursday at Tides in Nahant for the students who will be doing to Nicaragua. She also announced that in the upcoming election for School Committee there will be two open seats and she has decided not to run for reelection. She added that it has been a very interesting and educational three years but that she felt at this time she would not run for reelection. She encouraged anyone who wished to run to contact any member of the Committee if they had any questions and reminded that the last day to take out papers is Friday.

Tristan Smith spoke about the recent death of High School teacher Ms. Sewell's husband over vacation and asked for people to keep her in their thoughts and prayers. He also acknowledged Matt Mahoney who was present and stated it had been a pleasure to run with him.

Mr. Kraft reminded the community of the High School Science Fair this Thursday and encouraged everyone to attend. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann added that the Middle School boys hockey play-off game was also this Thursday at Salem State University at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Kraft added to Ms. Speranza-Hartmann's comments regarding the upcoming election and announced he would also be stepping down. He added that he hoped that the Committee could get to a point where there was some longevity with its members but that everyone recognizes the time commitment that service on the Committee entails. He further encouraged anyone interested to seek out current Committee members if they had questions. He also stated that while it is a big investment of time that it is also very rewarding and does give an opportunity to affect the direction of the District and he felt good about what this Committee had accomplished, particularly this year and that the District is moving forward in a great direction.

Mr. Delano added his condolences to Rosalie Hobbs who recently lost her husband. Ms. Angelakis informed the Committee that they had recently learned that Kathy Eaton's mother had passed away as well.

Mr. Delano added to Mr. Kraft and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann that he hoped their service is appreciated by the town and agreed that the Committee has accomplished great things in the past year and he appreciated their leadership and commitment to the District. Mr. Kraft added that all of the current Committee members have children in the District but that he would encourage people who may have had kids in the District in the past to also consider running for a seat. He felt the Board could benefit from someone with that perspective.

Mr. Kraft said that the Board of Selectmen had scheduled a hearing for this evening which would begin at 7:30 and that this Committee would move over to that meeting around 8:30 so they would be able to participate in that. He added they may cut a few things short on the agenda depending on how things progress.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 4-0.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Marshall to move up agenda item 10A. The motion passed 4-0.

### **All State Indoor Track Two Mile Championship Winner: Matt Mahoney**

Ms. Angelakis invited Matt Mahoney to come forward. She announced that Matt had set a new SHS record for indoor track completing a two-mile run in nine minutes and 17 seconds. She read a list of awards Matt has received and noted that SHS has not had an all-state indoor champion since 1986. She congratulated Matt and wished him luck in New York. She also thanked his parents and coach for attending.

*Ms. Speranza-Hartmann exited the meeting at 7:22 p.m.*

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE SY 2014-2015**

Mr. Kraft entertained a motion to open the public hearing on School Choice.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Marshall to open the public hearing on School Choice for school year 2014-2015. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Kraft questioned if anyone in the audience wished to speak regarding school choice. There was no one present.

*Ms. Speranza-Hartmann returned at 7:24 p.m.*

Mr. Kraft gave an overview of what School Choice entailed and questioned if there was any discussion from the Committee. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated the Committee always voted against it but that she felt she would love to do it, it was a great opportunity but that it was a matter of finances and that the District couldn't afford to do it. Mr. Kraft added it was an all or nothing thing.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall not to participate in School Choice for SY 2014-2015. The motion passed 4-0.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Marshall seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to close the public hearing on School Choice for school year 2014-2015. The motion passed 4-0.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. Angelakis gave the Committee an update on the Museum of Science Gateway Project and informed them that the team, led by Bob Murphy, had received news that Swampscott was named one of five districts selected to be a showcase district at the Museum of Science symposium on March 20<sup>th</sup>. She explained that it was a huge honor for the District and that they were informed that it was not typical for a district which just joined the

program to be selected. Ms. Angelakis recognized Mr. Murphy and his team and all of the teachers and administrators for their work in STEM throughout the District. Mr. Kraft additionally thanked Mr. Gelfand for his contributions to the STEM work in our District. Ms. Angelakis also stated that the District couldn't have achieved what they have without Mr. Gelfand's support. Mr. Delano asked if parents could be notified of this news. Ms. Angelakis stated they could.

### **School Visits**

Ms. Angelakis stated since the last meeting she had re-visited Clarke School and has set up a monthly schedule for visits. She added she was invited to Mr. Andrade's science class at the Middle School to observe a lesson involving salmon eggs and stated it was an amazing hands-on lesson.

### **Elementary Principal Retirement and Elementary Principal Search**

Ms. Angelakis said she was sad to announce that Mrs. Longin would be retiring as of June 30<sup>th</sup> as principal of the Clarke School. She stated that Mrs. Longin had been with the District since 1985 and she thanked her for her years of service to our children at the elementary level and added that she would be sorely missed in that capacity. Ms. Angelakis explained that Mrs. Longin took over at Clarke after the closing of the Machon school and had worked very hard to build a community that embodied the Machon spirit as well as the Clarke spirit. Mrs. Longin stated it has been a wonderful ride and that she is very honored to have been able to give back to the District that she attended school in. Ms. Marshall stated Clarke would not be the same. Mr. Delano added that as a parent of kids who went through Clarke he appreciated her care of the children. Mr. Kraft thanked Mrs. Longin for her years of service. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated even though she was staying in the District she wished for her a big retirement bash. Ms. Angelakis added that the process for her replacement would begin relatively soon. Mr. Delano asked if there were any internal candidates. Ms. Angelakis stated that she had spoken with some and have encouraged them to apply.

Ms. Angelakis added that she was happy to report that it would be her recommendation to the Committee that Mrs. Longin be appointed to the position created in next year's budget of Director of Curriculum and Instruction. She stated that Mrs. Longin has been working in those areas already and that changes she has worked on for Professional Development are reflected in the proposed SY 2014-2015 calendar.

### **SEF Grant Acknowledgement**

Ms. Angelakis thanked the Swampscott Education Foundation for supporting our District through funding for programs and projects. She outlined four grants which had come from SEF to teachers in the District. She further added she would be attending a meeting next Tuesday with SEF to discuss further collaborations.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Mr. Delano stated he would inform the Committee of a future date for the Finance Subcommittee. He added that the Communications Subcommittee would be meeting March 11th. He also reminded the members of the March 22nd date for training.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann reported that Mike Gilbert still needed to obtain the information for the Policy Review.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Amendment to School Business Administrator's contract**

Mr. Kraft informed the Committee that the contract with Mr. White needed to be amended to reflect that he would maintain his certification as a School Business Administrator in order to satisfy the Mass. Teachers Retirement system. He further explained that was the intent of the contract but that it wasn't clearly spelled out.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Marshall to approve the School Business Administrator's contract as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

**Donation - \$1,000 to be used for ESL Department from Cummings Properties Employee Directed Giving Program**

Mr. Kraft announced a gift of \$1,000 from Cummings Properties for use in the ELL Department to provide bilingual dictionaries and stated he would entertain a motion to accept the gift.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the gift of \$1,000 to be used for ESL Department from Cummings Properties Employee Directed Giving Program. The motion passed 4-0.

**Donation - Four laptops for STEM Robotics Team from Invensys**

Mr. Kraft announced a gift of four laptops from Invensys for use by the STEM Robotics Team and stated he would entertain a motion to accept the gift.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the gift four laptops for the STEM Robotics Team from Invensys. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Kraft requested that Ms. Angelakis send a thank you to the parties for the donations.

**2014-2015 School Calendar - First Read**

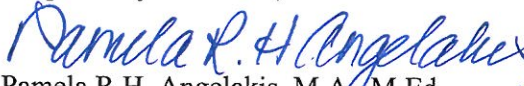
Mr. Kraft announced that at a future meeting the Committee would review the 14-15 School Year Calendar in detail and have its first read but wanted to inform the community that as has been past practice as well as being part of the teachers contract the District would begin school the week before Labor Day. Ms. Angelakis informed the Committee of a full-day professional development day on January 5th and stated that with no snow days the last proposed day of school would be June 15th or June 22nd in the event of five snow days. She further informed the Committee that it was proposed to perform Kindergarten screening in either May or June of this year as opposed to the fall so that the Kindergarten students would start school with the rest of the District on August 27th. Mr. Delano asked if the calendar could be put on the District website as he had received calls from parents regarding dates. Mr. Kraft stated it would be after it was approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

At 7:54 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann seconded by Ms. Marshall to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect. Collective bargaining may also be conducted - AFSCME Local 2610. Roll call vote was taken. Mr. Delano – yes; Ms. Speranza-Hartmann, yes; Ms. Marshall – yes; Mr. Kraft – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools 3/12/14

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