

## REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

April 27, 2016

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B129 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Carin Marshall Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Vice 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. Student Representatives Matthew Zimmer and Will Green were 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 Middle 5<sup>th</sup> grade students Stephen Burse and Ella Pascucci.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There is none.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Marshall explained the new format for community announcements. She congratulated Ms. Angelakis for recently being awarded the Dr. Marilyn E. Flaherty Distinguished Alumna Award from Salem State University

Ms. Angelakis recognized the recent passing of Anthony Benevento and explained his family had requested donations be made to the SHS Athletics and further that Kelly Farley would be keeping track of donations and would bring a request for acceptance before the Committee at a later date.

Ms. OConnor spoke in recognition of Administrative Professional's Day and thanked Mrs. Caron, Mrs. van der Burg and Mrs. James for their work in the Superintendent's office, as well as all of the building Administrative Assistants who keep the buildings in order. Ms. Marshall thanked Mrs. Nottingham for her work for the Committee.

Ms. Cooper recently attended the SMS production of Peter Pan Jr. and stated she was very impressed with the production and hoped that the theater programs would trickle down to the elementary levels.

Mr. Delano thanked Ms. Angelakis for recognizing Mr. Benevento and sent his thoughts to his family. He further commented on the recent Pie Day event which he thought was great for the kids. He also commented on his recent attendance at the Special Education workshop at the High School and hoped their presentation could be linked on the District webpage. Ms. Angelakis stated she would look into that.

Ms. Wright spoke about upcoming workshops through MASC and hoped to attend one May 7<sup>th</sup> pertaining to Superintendent evaluations. Ms. Marshall stated she hoped to attend as well. Ms. Wright also reminded that the Junior prom is Friday night and hoped for a safe and fun time for everyone.

Ms. Cooper congratulated Ms. Marshall and Ms. OConnor on their reelections. Ms. Marshall also congratulated the newly elected Selectmen.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Marshall read the items contained on the Consent Agenda.

### MOTION:

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

### Field Trip – Nantucket – Football Team – B. Serino

Coach Serino gave the Committee an overview of the trip. He explained he hoped to use these type of opportunities as incentives to keep the kids motivated in the classroom as well as on the field. Ms. Cooper questioned whether other towns would be attending. Mr. Serino said it would just be a scrimmage between SHS

and Nantucket. There was discussion on having a trainer present and Mr. Serino stated he was looking to having their trainer attend as she was familiar with the kids. Ms. Marshall thanked him for the information.

#### **Field Trip – Michigan – Golf Team – J. Knowles**

Ms. Marshall stated Mr. Knowles wasn't present to speak to the golf trip but that the information was in the packets. Ms. Angelakis added that the trip was over Labor Day weekend so the students would not be missing school.

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

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

##### **Introduction of Director of Facilities – M. Scola**

Ms. Angelakis introduced Michael Scola as the new Director of Facilities. She gave an overview of his background and experience to the Committee. Ms. Marshall acknowledged the process which was followed and said they were glad to welcome him on board. Ms. OConnor stated she was glad to see the facilities issues being taken off of Ms. Angelakis which allows her to put her focus into the student needs of the District versus facilities issues.

##### **Field Trip Presentation - Model UN – Washington – S. Walsh**

Mr. Walsh came forward to present a report on the recent Model UN field trip. He added that he was looking forward to continuing to work with the group and that the trip was a lot of fun. Ms. Angelakis thanked him for all his work on the trip.

##### **Promoteur – Tour Company for out of country field trip**

Ms. Angelakis invited Ms. Gahm-Diaz forward to revisit the out of country field trip which the Committee had questions regarding safety and other potential travel issues. Ms. Gahm-Diaz came forward with Ms. Baralt as well as Anais Boschet who came from Spain to represent the tour company. Mr. Delano commented that he was not against travel to foreign countries but had requested more information as he felt it was their responsibility to have all questions answered for the students of the District. There was discussion regarding the policies of the tour company in regards to cancellation and refunds. Mr. Delano stated he had done some research and wanted to make sure the cancellation policy was clear. There was discussion regarding travel insurance as well as the policies of the company. Ms. OConnor questioned the cost of the trip and Ms. Baralt estimated at approximately \$2,400. There was further discussion surrounding communication with parents during the trip. Ms. Baralt stated she has in the past created Facebook pages for groups and with technology today it's much easier for all to stay well connected. Mr. Delano commented on a program where the embassy would receive information about tour groups and Ms. Gahm-Diaz stated that is something they would do as well. Mr. Delano hoped it would be added as a requirement to the trip. Ms. Marshall asked whether all questions and concerns had been addressed and Mr. Delano felt they had. Ms. Angelakis thanked Ms. Boschet for coming to answer the Committee's questions.

##### **STEM Presentation – C. Porter**

Ms. Angelakis introduced Catie Porter. Ms. Porter gave an overview of what has been happening in the District since January in regards to the newly adopted next generation science standards. She explained the work that she has performed in going through each of the school's inventories to determine what supplies they had and how they could be utilized. Ms. Porter also spoke about the work that District teachers have been doing on units to be taught at each grade level. She further reviewed work that groups had done over the summer to set up the units. Ms. Longin thanked Ms. Porter for all of her hard work and further elaborated on the summer science institutes that teachers had participated in. She explained that teachers received in-service credit for their work as well. Ms. Angelakis added that Ms. Porter has helped teachers incorporate other subject areas within science units. She commended Ms. Porter for her work and stated that her progress since shifting positions has been amazing.

##### **Director of Curriculum Update**

Ms. Angelakis announced that she had signed a contract with the new Director of Curriculum and Instruction who would be taking over as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. She announced that Anne Marie Condikey comes to the District from a position with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with a vast knowledge of curriculum work and gave

the Committee an overview of her background and experience. She also gave some insight into the interview process and thanked the interview committee for their work as well.

### **PARCC Update**

Ms. Angelakis reported on the beginning of PARCC testing throughout the District. She gave some information on numbers of students whose parents had opted them out of testing. Ms. Angelakis also spoke about her concern with the amount of anxiety students are experiencing surrounding testing. Ms. OConnor added that her daughter reported a student in her class was at her desk in tears during testing. Ms. Angelakis stated opinions and feelings are being shared state-wide and she hoped those things will be taken into consideration. Ms. OConnor questioned if there were any consequences for kids opting out. Ms. Angelakis stated the District is held harmless and that it was a parent's decision.

### **Mid Year Progress**

Ms. Angelakis gave the Committee a review of her professional practice goals, student learning goal, District improvement goals, integrating technology, along with her evidence on those goals and thoughts on her levels of progress. She further reviewed some areas which were identified in her 2015 evaluation remarks which included focusing on the Superintendent's responsibilities, the realignment of the principal positions at the High School and Middle School, leading the Leadership Team to identify long term planning around District goals and plans moving forward. Ms. Marshall opened the discussion for questions but reminded those to keep it mind it was not the actual evaluation but rather a report of progress towards goals which will be evaluated this summer. Ms. OConnor referred to student learning goals. Ms. Angelakis stated her intent at Leadership meetings is to look at student engagement at each building at the beginning of each meeting. There was discussion regarding professional practice goals and Mr. Delano referred to District Improvement goals for crisis and referred to recent situations which Ms. Angelakis has dealt with. Mr. Delano also referenced timelines relating to a statement of interest to the MSBA. Ms. Angelakis felt it would be submitted within the proper time frame. Ms. Cooper commented on communication and stated she had received a lot of great parent feedback when the Superintendent's webpage was updated and suggested she add any press releases to that page as well. Ms. Cooper questioned the timing of the final evaluation and Ms. Marshall stated it would be similar to last year that the Committee would receive information and go through it in the process of completing their evaluations. Ms. OConnor referred back to the statement of interest. Ms. Angelakis gave a brief update on the work to date and added the next piece of work would be looking at sites.

*Mr. Delano left the meeting at 9:02 p.m.*

Ms. Wright commented on the possible configurations being debated with regards to any new buildings. Ms. Marshall felt it was understood that there would be one new building as well as major renovation for other buildings. Ms. Angelakis stated the Subcommittee of the Task Force was reaching out to other communities to see how they are making their plans work and that she would bring back information at a future time.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Ms. Marshall explained that there would be a new section where she would bring information forward for the Committee and the Public under Chair Report.

### **Tri Chair Update**

Ms. Marshall explained that the Tri Chair meeting didn't happen so she did not have an update but would bring back information from future meetings. She further explained how the Tri Chair meetings are structured. Ms. Angelakis agreed they are a great tool for keeping everyone within town departments informed.

*Mr. Delano returned to the meeting at 9:07 p.m.*

### **SC Retreat Date**

There was discussion around setting a School Committee retreat date. It was scheduled for August 1, 2016.

Ms. Marshall reported that recently the Committee spent five mornings touring all five schools and felt that it was very eye-opening for the members. She added that Ms. Wright wrote a summary of their visits which was added to the School Committee page on the District website.

**SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

**FY16 & FY17 Budget updates**

Mr. Katz summarized the budget memo which outlined the FY16 budget. He explained funds which would be requested from the Finance Committee for special education. There was discussion regarding special education funds and those challenges within the budget. Ms. Marshall stated she was scheduled to speak with the Finance Committee and stated she would confirm and email in case anyone wished to attend with her. Mr. Katz also reviewed the FY17 budget memo.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Policy ADDA Background Checks update – first read**

Ms. Wright referred to the updated policy which included that which came from MASC. Ms. Marshall added it was a first read and that any questions should be directed to Tony Wyman as Human Resource Officer and that the policy would be brought back for vote at the next meeting.

**Policy JICH Alcohol, tobacco & Drug Use by Students Prohibited – first read**

Ms. Wright also referred to any changes in policy JICH as a first read. Ms. Marshall stated this would be put on the next agenda for vote as well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed SC meeting dates 2016-2017SY**

Ms. Marshall suggested all review the dates and they could be voted at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

At 9:40 p.m. it was moved by Ms. OConnor 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: