

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
April 28, 2014

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann; Amy OConnor and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools, Christopher Thomsen and Tristan Smith, Student Representatives. Wayne White, School Business Administrator was 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 student and introduced Middle School 5th grade student Danny DiLisio and 8th grade student Gia DiLisio.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Tristan Smith recognized Mr. Kraft and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann's last meeting and stated that he appreciated all they did for the District and reminded all that a lot of work gets done behind the scenes. He also reminded all of the upcoming SHS TV auction May 19th through May 22nd.

Chris Thomsen also thanked Mr. Kraft and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann for all the work that they have put into the Committee.

Ms. Marshall also thanked Mr. Kraft and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and added that when she came on as a new member it was important to be able to look to the more experienced members for guidance and they were both excellent mentors and leaders. She also thanked Mr. Kraft for his work as Chair.

Ms. OConnor agreed with Ms. Marshall and added she felt the Committee was in a good place and was sad to see them go.

Mr. Delano added that he didn't think people realized how much time and effort is put into serving on the Committee and that he was appreciative of Mr. Kraft and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann for all of their contributions. He added that Ms. Speranza-Hartmann had agreed to stay on with the Policy Subcommittee. He further congratulated the two incoming members and hoped to keep the positive momentum moving forward.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann thanked all for their kind words. She added that it has been a long, strange trip and that it has been a learning experience. She added that she felt like she was a good voice between working in the schools and serving on the Committee. She thanked all for letting her serve. She further reminded all that Aimee Caron and Jared Solomon's presentation of "The Last Five Years" will be Friday evening.

Mr. Kraft also reminded those of the upcoming High School production of "Chicago." Mr. Kraft also added that it has been a pleasure to serve on the Committee and that he felt good about how things have turned around in the past year. He thanked the current members of the Committee as well as past members. He also thanked his family who has put up with the hours he has put in, as well as Garry Murphy for all his work toward turning the District around. He thanked Ms. Angelakis and stated it had been great to work with her and her team. He further wished Ms. Wright and Ms. Cooper all the best at their first meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the meeting minutes of April 14, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NEAYC Accreditation (Clarke & Hadley)

Ms. Angelakis updated the Committee with regard to the NEAYC accreditation reporting for the full-day Kindergarten which provides grant funds. She stated that Clarke and Hadley's reports were submitted and Stanley is in the process of theirs. Ms. OConnor questioned why Stanley's report had not been completed and Ms. Angelakis stated it was a timing issue.

Hadley Update

Ms. Angelakis gave the Committee an update on the Hadley roof. She explained that the maintenance department was currently working with DEP, that four classrooms had been relocated and that the clean-up is ongoing and she hoped it would be completed by the end of the week. Ms. OConnor questioned the budget impact of the repairs. Ms. Angelakis stated the District was in emergency mode and at the moment was concerned with getting things where they needed to be. Ms. OConnor stated that as the town was in the process of considering new schools whether it made sense to add up the costs spent on repairs and maintenance. Ms. Angelakis added that Mr. White could put together a list of maintenance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update to FY2015 Budget

Ms. Angelakis directed the Committee to the changes to the budget, which positions were highlighted in red. She reviewed the District-wide retirements in which she hoped to see savings with new hires. She further outlined an addition in specialists across the elementary schools which were required due to the addition of time to each school day. There was lengthy discussion on the additional position and Ms. Angelakis explained that the Leadership Team made the recommendation and the principals will coordinate the schedules for their buildings. Ms. Angelakis further outlined the proposed new positions within each school building. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann questioned the cuts of part-time math and literacy tutors and the effect on Title 1. Ms. Angelakis explained that the existing full-time positions would support the Title 1. Tristan Smith questioned whether those positions would be looked at for re-hire in the future and that it was nice to have the additional support. Ms. Angelakis explained that Ms. Longin is working on a new balanced literacy program which may help in other ways but that she would love to add those positions back if possible. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann questioned the retirements and whether those were to be made public. Ms. Angelakis stated those parties had submitted letters. She further explained the reimplementation of a teacher/librarian at the high school would remove the district from NEASC warning. Mr. Delano questioned the number of retirements and Ms. Angelakis stated it was up to seven, that she had received notification of one just prior to vacation. Ms. OConnor expressed concern to a cut to a preschool position. Ms. Angelakis stated that Ms. Blumstein and Ms. Raymond are working hand in hand to ensure the program doesn't suffer. Ms. Marshall questioned the Kindergarten numbers and Ms. Angelakis stated a cut was not made because the enrollment numbers had changed since it was last reviewed. Mr. Kraft added that the bottom line number has been presented to the Finance Committee and that the Committee needs to vote to approve this budget to forward to Town Meeting. Ms. OConnor thanked Ms. Angelakis for the amount of work done. Ms. Angelakis stated she felt they had a good handle on the current state of the budget. Gargi Cooper questioned funds allocated for emergencies at the elementary schools. Ms. Angelakis stated whatever was in the District contingency. Mr. Kraft added that the schools are able to pre-pay expenses forward from funds remaining at the end of the school year and those amounts serve as a cushion and contingency for those type of situations.

There was discussion regarding a vote and amounts which needed to be separated by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and Mr. Delano and it was agreed to table the issue for the moment while the information could be obtained.

SAFIS Program - Hardship Exceptions/Waivers

Mr. Kraft reminded the Committee that at its last meeting they had voted on all issues with the exception of the issue of a hardship exception or waiver. He outlined the fees involved in the program and questioned whether the District should pay fees for those unable to afford them. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the issue of the District paying fees as well as discussion surrounding the PTA possibly intervening if necessary for volunteers and any potential hardship.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Mr. Delano **TO NOT HAVE** hardships or waivers.

There was further discussion and it was suggested by Ms. OConnor to bring it to the Committee's attention if it needs to be reconsidered.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Update to FY2015 Budget

There was further discussion regarding the amounts in which Mr. Delano and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann would recuse themselves from a vote.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the budget in the amount of \$24,750,654 which excluded line items for Nurses Salary and High School Athletics. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Delano and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. O'Connor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to approve \$270,508 for High School Athletic Services as presented in the budget. The motion passed 3-0.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. O'Connor to approve \$59,838 for the Middle School Nurse salary as presented in the budget. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Delano and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann returned to the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Consolidation of facilities maintenance for schools and general government.

Mr. Kraft reminded all that Mr. Younger presented at the last meeting a proposal for consolidation of facilities between the District and general government. He stated he would entertain a motion to approve the consolidation.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to authorize Town Meeting to consider accepting Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37M relative to the consolidation of facilities maintenance for schools and general government.

Ms. Marshall stated that the vote allows the town to look at the issue, and doesn't direct them to do anything other than study and consider it. Mr. Kraft explained that the vote was necessary to allow them to consider it, that it was one step in the study and that any consolidation would be contingent upon the Committee and Selectmen approving and putting a plan in place. Ms. OConnor requested clarification of what the vote authorized. Mr. Kraft stated it was an approval to begin discussions. Ms. OConnor restated that we were approving the discussion, not the consolidation itself.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated the Policy Subcommittee was working on the wording of the teacher non-resident student issue and she expected it to be available for a first read at the next meeting.

Ms. Marshall stated the School Building Committee would have a forum on Wednesday and would present a more recent traffic study.

Ms. OConnor stated Communications had not recently met. Mr. Delano added that they had a final draft on the chain of command and Ms. Angelakis stated she had it and would return to them the latest draft.

Mr. Delano stated the Finance Subcommittee would meet next on May 12th at 11:30.

Mr. Kraft stated that the Negotiations Subcommittee was working with Counsel to finalize the teacher contract and that there were some issues with recent language edits to the contract but that he was very much hoping to get the contract finalized and signed.

MOTION:

At 8:22 p.m. it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the teachers' union and also 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 - Threatened Litigation - Extracurricular/Athletic Suspensions - discussion would have detrimental effect on School District's position. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Delano – yes; Ms. Speranza-Hartmann, yes; Ms. OConnor – yes; Ms. Marshall – yes; Mr. Kraft – yes.

Mr. Kraft requested a motion to return to open session.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. O'Connor and seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to return back into open session. The motion passed unanimously.

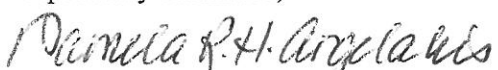
Mr. Kraft stated he neglected to announce that Garry Murphy, the Assistant to the Superintendent, had submitted his resignation effective Friday. He added that it was a testament to the work that he has accomplished in that he was able to finish his work with the District earlier than had been planned. Mr. Delano added that Dr. Murphy came into situation that was complex and with his wisdom and guidance provide some substantial assistance. He wished him well and thanked Dr. Murphy for his time spent in the District. Ms. OConnor stated he was able to show how well a School Committee can work and also helped to clean up issues within the District and that she appreciated his time with us. Ms. Marshall agreed with all. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann thanked Dr. Murphy for his work.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:27 p.m. it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the teachers' union and also 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 - Threatened Litigation - Extracurricular/Athletic Suspensions - discussion would have detrimental effect on School District's position. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Delano – yes; Ms. Speranza-Hartmann, yes; Ms. OConnor – yes; Ms. Marshall – yes; Mr. Kraft – yes

Respectfully submitted,


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

5/13/14

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