

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

January 7, 2016

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B129 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Carin Marshall, Chair, 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, Mr. Evan Katz, School Business Administrator, and Student Representatives, Matthew Zimmer and Will Green. Ms. Amy OConnor, Vice Chair, was 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 Clarke School 4th grade students Jake Collins & Sofia Comfort.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Marshall commended Superintendent Angelakis on her professionalism in regards to the events of the past few weeks and felt she acted very appropriately throughout dealing with the issue.

Mr. Delano wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reminded all of a benefit tomorrow night for Brady Ellis whose mom teaches at Stanley. Mr. Delano also spoke about Governor Baker's opioid bill and stated he hoped people realize how many are affected and felt that everyone needs to join together on the issue.

Mr. Wright commented that Mr. Parachojuk recently took students to the DECA competition at Endicott. She added it is a relatively new club and wanted to give a shout out to the kids who participated. She also congratulated the girls' basketball team for their recent win over Marblehead.

Ms. Cooper stated she attended the town events held over the holiday break and said they were all great community events. She also added to Mr. Delano's comments about the opioid crisis and questioned thinking about policies in the future.

Matthew Zimmer stated the High School was wrapping up the quarter and that winter sports were in full swing. Will Green added students are also getting ready for mid-terms.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION:

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

Ms. Cooper questioned the warrant for science books and hoped in the future they could get an update on the science program. Ms. Longin gave an overview of the work that is being done by Ms. Porter and the science teams across the grade levels. Ms. Wright questioned the money which was earmarked for textbooks and whether it had already been spent. Ms. Longin stated she has been working with the funds to make sure that every grade level is covered and that there is some money put aside for books which haven't been ordered yet.

VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Angelakis announced that a letter went out today appointing Mr. Kowalski as Interim Principal and turned it over to Mr. Kowalski for presentation under letters A&B.

SAT, AP & ACT Test Results – F. Kowalski

Mr. Kowalski gave an overview of the SAT scores from 2015-16 and explained the overall scores placed SHS higher in all categories over state scores. He also gave an overview of the ACT scores and explained the history of the ACT as well as explained how the ACT correlates to the K-12 curriculum. He also referred to the fact that the scores reflect a lower than state average but that amount of students who took the test affects the numbers. Ms. Wright stated the message seemed mixed since the ACT is more aligned with the curriculum. There was discussion regarding the amount of students who took the ACT as well as discussion on promoting the ACT more to students. Mr. Kowalski stated the junior parent night is upcoming on February 11th and that they had a test expert coming in as well. Ms. Angelakis requested the backup data for the prior years ACT data. She advised the Committee she would forward it when she receives it. Ms. Wright agreed she'd like to see a

comparison between the SAT and ACT data. Mr. Delano stated he appreciated the data and added he hoped that there was a buy-in from the Guidance department on the ACT test and felt it was very important to pass on to the students.

Mr. Kowalski further presented some information on the AP tests. He explained the students are doing very well and that all students who take AP classes are now required to take the AP exam. There was discussion on benefits of taking the AP tests as well as looking at future scoring.

Drop Out Report – F. Kowalski

Mr. Kowalski also presented the updated student Drop Out report. He explained the work done to work with the at-risk population and options they can work with for the students. He also stated he was proud of the numbers as he knows how hard the staff works on these cases.

PARCC Update

Ms. Angelakis stated the letter Committee members received in their packets was sent to families regarding PARCC testing. Ms. Longin explained that with the issues of student anxiety around testing they were using this as a positive way of trying to reduce some of that testing anxiety. She added that teachers are working on getting acquainted with the PARCC materials and introducing it to students. Ms. Angelakis discussed the concerns of the Leadership Team and it was decided to take advantage of the “hold-harmless” year. Ms. Angelakis also referred to the proposed schedule of testing and there was discussion on the amount of testing students will go through during the testing period. She added many of the Superintendents are talking amongst themselves and hope their concerns get back to the state level.

High School Principal Search Update

Ms. Angelakis shared that the job posting will close on January 29th. She stated she had received 32 applications to date and said that she was disappointed in what she had seen so far and had screened out approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the applicants who did not fit her vision for the District. She added that she was not in a place to put an interview committee together at this point.

District Assessment of Technology – Whalley Communications Update

Ms. Angelakis referred to the handout in the Committee’s packet and stated she would add a presentation by Mr. Kaczynski on the agenda at a later date. She also stated she would be getting back in touch with Whalley to have dollar figures added to their suggested action items.

Superintendent Goals Update – vote requested

Ms. Angelakis shared her updated goals document and expected review at the February 11th meeting. She also expected the building principals to present their school improvement plans at the next meeting. She was requesting vote of approval of the Committee. There was discussion regarding the assessment and review tool. Mr. Delano added that he concern regarding the communication goal and reminded that sometimes things arise that cannot be commented on. Ms. Wright felt the wording of the goal was vague enough.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Mr. Delano to approve the Superintendent Goals as outlined. The motion passed 4-0.

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

FY 17 Budget Draft

Mr. Katz presented the first draft of the FY17 budget. He explained he was still waiting to hear on the town allocation as well as the Governor’s budget which is expected at the end of the month. He outlined the format changes of the budget document and gave an overview of the highlights to the budget including additional resources, program savings and some items under review. He also advised that he had not figured in an amount for collective bargaining for the teachers unit. Mr. Katz further reviewed the bottom line of the summary page which outlined a figure of \$630,000 which would need to be addressed. Ms. Angelakis added that the District had received just today a check from the Gelfand Trust. Mr. Katz stated that would reduce that \$630,000 number. Ms. Angelakis stated while the number was high she expected it to decrease but that it was somewhat concerning to her that it did not factor in raises for the teachers bargaining unit. She advised that negotiation would start next week. Ms. Marshall questioned when the figure from the town would be known. Mr. Katz stated a couple of weeks. Ms. Wright thanked Mr. Katz for his work. There was discussion regarding out of district transportation and placements. Mr. Katz said many things within the detail could change.

Mr. Delano left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Ms. Marshall requested a Budget Subcommittee meeting be scheduled before the next School Committee meeting. Ms. Angelakis requested Mr. Katz schedule that meeting.

FY17 Capital Plan

Mr. Katz also presented the summary Capital Plan which was submitted to Town Hall. He outlined the projects listed within. Ms. Angelakis emphasized that in Technology it was important to ask for a realistic amount of money to finish the projects which are still outstanding. Ms. Marshall questioned whether the Plan had been presented on the town side. Ms. Angelakis stated she had not heard from the town yet and she would inquire on what date she would be presenting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Appointment of Director of Student Services – vote requested

Ms. Angelakis brought forward her recommendation to appoint Mrs. Raymond as Director of Student Services as of July 1, 2016. She requested a vote of support of the appointment for all the reasons she had state at the previous meeting. Ms. Marshall reminded that while they are not the hiring authority that Ms. Angelakis was requesting a vote of support. Ms. Angelakis agreed but added she had brought it forward because of the Special Ed.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to support the appointment of Martha Raymond to the position of Director of Student Services as outlined beginning July 1, 2016. The motion passed 3-0.

SUBCOMMITEE REPORTS

JKAA Physical Restraint of Students – first read

Ms. Wright explained the policy is on for first read and it was the version that MASC is recommending. She reviewed the changes and advised that Ms. Blumstein and Ms. Raymond have reviewed the new version. She stated it could be added to the next agenda for vote.

Ms. Wright also advised that the Article 6 Committee is meeting on Monday and had received a draft of the Collins Center Report. She would review and share.

Ms. Cooper stated that the Brandy Wilbur had arranged for members from the Renewable Energy Committee to speak to AP student and he felt it was a great model of collaboration between the District and the Town.

Ms. Cooper also questioned the progress on the Facilities Director position. Ms. Angelakis stated the candidates were being screened and the Committee would be interviewing potential candidates and would bring the names to Mr. Younger and herself for review.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:59 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Wright and voted by roll call vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining. Ms. Wright – yes; Ms. Cooper – yes; Ms. Marshall – yes.

Respectfully submitted,



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

1/22/16

Date: