

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
February 11, 2015

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Ted Delano, Chairman, Ms. Carin Marshall, Vice Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Ms. Suzanne Wright and Ms. Gargi Cooper. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Lois Longin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Student Representative Megan Russo. Mr. Dave Castellarin, Finance Coordinator and Town Accountant and Student Representative Ian Crimmins were absent.

Ms. Marshall explained that two students were invited to come 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 Stanley School students Louisa Caplan and Sophia Thomson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Megan Russo told the Committee that the Political Action Club would be attending the Harvard Model Congress at the end of next week.

Ms. Cooper stated she recently attended a parent meeting held by Mrs. Phelan to review the Hadley crisis manual. She felt it was a detailed and thoughtful plan and that it was unfortunate that we need to prepare for these things, but that the Hadley community has been looking for something like this. She thought it was a great meeting.

Ms. OConnor commented on the snow removal near the Middle School and Stanley and stated she appreciated the work that had been done.

Mr. Delano also commented on snow removal and mentioned looking into recouping any funds possible with the state of emergency declaration. Ms. Angelakis stated she had spoken to Mr. Castellarin regarding that and that there was a process to be followed that they were on top of.

Mr. Delano also announced that he has decided to take out papers for reelection and that he appreciated all the support he has received in making his decision.

Ms. Cooper questioned the make-up snow days due to the state of emergency. Ms. Angelakis stated she would update in the Superintendent's Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE SY 2015-2016

Mr. Delano stated he would entertain a motion to open the public hearing.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to open the public hearing on School Choice. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Delano asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on subject. There was no one who wished to speak.

Ms. Angelakis explained that historically Swampscott has not participated in School Choice and that it was her recommendation to vote no. There was discussion regarding other communities' participation in the program. Mr. Delano added there was no discriminatory factor to the decision. Ms. Cooper questioned new developments

and buildings in town and its effect on the schools. Mr. Delano spoke about his involvement with the meetings for the JRC building development and stated he had been told the effect on schools would be minimal. Mr. Delano stated he would entertain a motion to close the public hearing if all discussion was complete.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to close the public hearing on School Choice. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. Wright to NOT participate in School Choice for the 2015-2016 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Castellarin came into the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BUDGET 2015-2016

Mr. Delano stated he would entertain a motion to open the public hearing.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to open the public hearing on the School Budget. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Cooper – yes; Ms. Marshall -- yes; Ms. Wright – yes; Ms. OConnor – yes; Mr. Delano – yes.

Mr. Delano asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on subject. There was no one who wished to speak.

Ms. Angelakis gave an overview of the budget history as well as an update on the District Budget goals for FY16 and explained there was a 4.29% increase in this year's budget compared to last year's. She stated that the Leadership Team met to compile a needs list throughout the District. She added how impressed she was with each building working collaboratively to share the needs among all the buildings and Departments and to share the additional positions outlined and focused on a group of total additions which totaled \$253,024. She then spoke about positions which could be added if additional funding became available and outlined each of those. She stated she would look to the Committee for its opinion on priority order of these positions. Ms. Angelakis then reviewed the capital requests made within the FY16 budget. She referred to the MSBA accelerated repair program that Ms. Cooper brought up previously and stated at this time the District couldn't participate, but that she would put it on her radar for next year.

Martha Raymond questioned if the budget broke down how many teacher FTE's were in each line item. Mr. Castellarin stated it did not in this form, but would eventually. Ms. OConnor questioned the .5 literacy tutor at Stanley and wondered if it was in response to MCAS as she had previously remembered it at Clarke. Ms. Angelakis explained that in the previous year's budget there was a cut to literacy and that building principals made the request. Ms. Wright questioned the PE positions at the High School and Ms. Angelakis stated the High School felt they could work through that with scheduling as opposed to an additional position. There was also discussion regarding the STEM position and Ms. Angelakis felt it was important to build the position into this year's budget so the District wouldn't be looking to add three positions into future years. Ms. Cooper questioned the potential guidance counselor position at the Middle School and the current caseload. Ms. Angelakis stated she had data she could share with the Committee and that it was a position that needed to be looked at. Ms. OConnor spoke about the historical budget changes and the ability to reinstate programs and positions which have been eliminated. Ms. Angelakis stated it would take some time, but that her commitment was to bring back programs and eliminated positions into the District.

Mr. Delano added that the entire Committee had met earlier today with the Leadership Team and he felt it was a very productive meeting. Ms. Cooper asked for some clarification on the next steps. Mr. Castellarin stated that the budget was already combined with the town and that it would go before Town Meeting in May. He added that the Committee would know if any additional funds are made available. Ms. Angelakis added that there is a spending freeze in place currently and that they would look at the current budget again in March to see if that would free up any funds to be able to fund additional positions by pre-payment of any expenses, such as out of

District placement tuition, for the following fiscal year. Ms. OConnor gave her kudos to Ms. Angelakis sand the Leadership Team for a very different budget experience from last year.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Marshall seconded by Ms. OConnor to close the public hearing on the School Budget. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Cooper – yes; Ms. Marshall -- yes; Ms. Wright – yes; Ms. OConnor – yes; Mr. Delano – yes.

Mr. Delano stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the budget. He added that in previous years he need to recuse himself from a portion of the budget regarding police details, but that he had been informed that it no longer comes out of the school budget so therefore he was able to vote on the budget as a whole.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the FY16 budget of the Swampscott Public Schools in the amount of \$26,156,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

School Calendar/Snow Days

Ms. Angelakis stated the District has currently used the five allotted snow days, but that she felt that they were still in good shape with additional days available at the end of June if needed. She added that Ms. Longin has been working with the Calendar Committee and is already looking to next year. Ms. Longin stated she had recently spoken with Nancy Hanlon and that nothing has been determined, but they were looking at having the professional development days earlier in August and that the union as well as the School Committee would vote on the final calendar. Ms. OConnor discussed the religious holidays and there was discussion regarding those days. Megan Russo commented on the senior class and whether graduation as well as AP exams would be affected. Ms. Angelakis stated she would be following up with Mr. Rozmiarek on that.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Town Representative to the Municipal Design Committee (formerly known as Beautification Committee) - vote required

Ms. Marshall stated she looked into the appointment and also spoke with Peter Kane. She gave the Committee some background information on the appointments and stated two seats were for the Selectmen to appoint and two are for this Committee with one floating between the two. Ms. OConnor asked if the name given for appointment had volunteered. Ms. Marshall stated he had. There was discussion on what the Municipal Design Committee does and there was a discussion on how the School Committee is affected.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Marshall to appoint Andrew Steingiser as the School Committee representative to the Municipal Design Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

School Committee Goals

Ms. Wright said she spoke with Mike Gilbert regarding putting together School Committee goals. She said it was goals which should be used to evaluate ourselves and are actually Committee “norms and beliefs.” Ms. Angelakis stated she looked at some on other District websites and that she liked the ones where the Committee and Superintendent signed them and that they were generally used to keep everyone in sync with each other. Ms. OConnor stated she would have loved them when she came in. Ms. Wright said we can make our tool anything we want it to be.

Ms. OConnor questioned what should be done with the draft of the protocol. Ms. Wright stated there were some redundancies. Mr. Delano asked whether the Committee wanted to explore it further or put it on a future agenda. Ms. Angelakis suggested each member pick a few items and come back to see how they come together and which ones are important to each individual as well as collectively. Ms. Wright felt picking three items was adequate. Ms. OConnor suggested everyone should pick out three things and send them to Ms. Wright. Ms. Cooper

suggested this was a perfect example of action items for the agenda. There was a discussion on what can be added to the agenda and those "to-do items." Ms. Angelakis stated the "to-do items" could be given to her and they would be added as an action item. The Committee discussed the "to-do items" which would be placed on the next agenda under Action Items. Ms. Cooper felt that action items were more School Committee items to follow up on. Ms. Angelakis said it was just a check list to follow up and Ms. Cooper agreed it allowed them to keep track of those items.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Delano stated he had spoken with Mr. Strauss regarding a combined meeting. Mr. Strauss said he would like a firm agenda for the meeting of what will be discussed. Ms. OConnor said they should start a list towards developing an agenda. Ms. Angelakis stated some of that would come from the Tri-Chair meeting as well.

Ms. Wright said they would put a portion of the policy review on the agenda for the meeting on the 23rd. She said that the entire manual would be voted, but that some items needed to be approved sooner than later and would be pulled out for that purpose.

Mr. Castellarin stated he was unsure if this would be his last meeting, but thanked the Committee for everything they had done over the past eight months. He said it was a great learning experience and that he was glad things worked out the way they have. Ms. Angelakis stated she has learned a lot from Mr. Castellarin and was happy with the working relationship between the town and school sides. Ms. Cooper stated she was happy that it had strengthened that relationship as well.

Mr. Delano requested a motion to correct the opening and closing of the public hearing on School Choice to reflect a roll call vote for both.

MOTION:

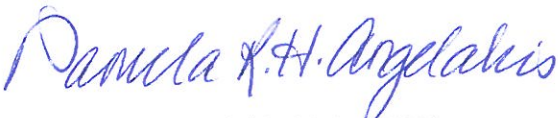
It was moved by Ms. OConnor seconded by Ms. Marshall to amend the vote for opening and closing the public hearing on School Choice to reflect a roll call vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Cooper – yes; Ms. Marshall -- yes; Ms. Wright – yes; Ms. OConnor – yes; Mr. Delano – yes.

ADJOURNMENT

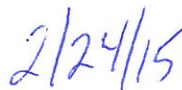
MOTION:

At 9:12 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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