

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

August 13, 2013

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:07 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann; Ms. Carin Marshall and Ms. Amy OConnor. Also Present: Dr. Garry P. Murphy, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent, Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Ed Cronin, Business Manager, Mr. Kevin Kaczynski, Technology Director, Christopher Thomsen and Tristan Smith, Student Representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to move up in the agenda the Interview for Potential New Counsel and the School Building Project Space Summary Approval. The motion passed unanimously.

INTERVIEW FOR POTENTIAL NEW COUNSEL

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann introduced Attorney Elizabeth Valerio. Attorney Valerio stated she was an owner at the firm of Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis & Holland and explained that her firm represents different towns and School Committees. She stated she was a former member of the Wrentham School Committee and performs training sessions for the MASC. She further outlined the work her firm provides for towns and School Committees. She encouraged the Committee to contact some of their clients for input on their services. Mr. Kraft asked for some nearby Districts which they represented. Attorney Valerio listed several including Marblehead, Boston, Andover, Arlington, Brookline, Longmeadow and Fairhaven. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann questioned if Attorney Valerio felt they were a firm which would give advice or simply monitor a situation. Attorney Valerio stated her role would include advice and making sure the Committee understands the ramifications of its decision. She further gave an overview of members of her team which would be available to the Committee as well as examples of how the firm would handle certain situations such as collective bargaining, Special Education issues and Policy issues and review. Mr. Kraft thanked Attorney Valerio for coming in to meet the Committee and she further encouraged the members to contact her with any further questions.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT SPACE SUMMARY APPROVAL

Ms. Marshall invited Joe Crimmins to come forward to update the Committee. Mr. Crimmins came forward with Mr. Glenn Paster and Mr. Larry Beaupre, members of the School Building Committee. Mr. Crimmins explained that the SBC was at a point in the process which required the School Committee to vote on two potential space summary proposals. He outlined each of the scenarios and explained that the vote is not an endorsement for one over the other simply an endorsement of the Administration's projected numbers regarding student enrollment to keep the process moving forward. Mr. Kraft questioned how the numbers are projected. Ms. Angelakis stated she was part of the Committee and Mr. Cronin explained that the compilation included a lot of information which included not only past enrollment but information on building permits as well as birth records. There was discussion regarding the possibilities of layout as well as configuration of the buildings. Mr. Crimmins stated the Committee was still exploring multiple possibilities. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann questioned whether the Master Plan had suggested a K-4 school and Mr. Crimmins stated that the Master Plan was the prerequisite for entering the program but that nothing was driving the program at this point. Mr. Delano asked Mr. Crimmins what the next step was for the Committee. Mr. Crimmins stated there would be presentations at back to school nights as well as public forums. He added that the SBC would be working on getting

numbers and analyzing data on different options to present to Town Meeting. Mr. Kraft asked Ms. Marshall whether a vote was necessary and she stated a motion to approve was needed.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the proposed numbers outlined in the School Building Project Space Summary as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Mr. Delano presented an introduction letter from Kopelman & Paige and explained that they had worked in town for many years and if the Committee would like to schedule an interview with them he could facilitate one. He also stated he had been in touch with Mike Gilbert in regards to training and he would get back to the Committee with possible dates. He also spoke in reference to a chain of command for the District in regards to communication and presented an example from Wilmington. There was further discussion regarding the issue and Ms. Angelakis stated there was a generic chart in the District handbook but something such as this would be much clearer. It was agreed it would be discussed with the Leadership Team.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann commented on two cases in the news recently under the new bullying law and wanted to follow-up on the District's plan. Ms. Angelakis stated it is part of yearly training for staff and stated she would look into the District's Task Force. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann welcomed Student Representative Tristan Smith to his first meeting.

Ms. Marshall reminded the Committee about the Policy Review and Dr. Murphy stated he felt it would be good for the Leadership Team and the Committee to get together to have a workshop regarding expectations of the policies. There was further discussion regarding the budget and cost surrounding the review.

Mr. Thomsen commented on the new table placement and stated the Cable Club may have to move things around when people come forward to speak. He also congratulated Gabe Golden, a recent SHS graduate, who was in Basic Training in the Army.

Mr. Kraft welcomed Tristan Smith to his first meeting and explained the Committee Comment portion of the meeting. Mr. Smith stated he didn't have anything to add...yet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the meeting minutes of June 30, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Murphy gave an update since the last meeting and stated that he and Ms. Angelakis had been working closely together and have developed a strong working relationship. He added that he has had extensive conversations with Mr. Cronin and has become more confident and familiar with FY14 budget and the way it's monitored. Dr. Murphy further spoke regarding the budget and commented that he would like to meet with members of the Finance Committee and Selectmen to have an opportunity to discuss the information contained in the budget. He spoke about the possible creation of a Special Education Trust and explained a scenario where that would be beneficial. Mr. Delano stated that Matt Strauss is the School Committee contact and stated he could arrange a meeting. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated she would be meeting Mr. Strauss soon and would mention it as well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. O'Connor reported that she hoped to meet with Dr. Murphy to discuss information which could come from the Committee and from his office to be available to the community on any news from the District.

Mr. Delano stated they would be prepping documents for the Finance Subcommittee.

Mr. Kraft stated there was no update on Negotiations and that they were trying to schedule a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Celli Contract

Mr. Kraft gave some background into the arrangement reached between Dr. Celli and the District last winter. He stated that when Dr. Murphy came on board they came to realize that there was some duplication in responsibilities and that Dr. Celli would relinquish her role under special projects. He stated that he had a copy of the contract that the Committee would need to move to approve.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to approve the revised contract with Dr. Celli.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann questioned whether the document would be public record and Mr. Kraft stated once it was voted on it would. Mr. Delano asked whether the Committee had received a signed copy. Mr. Kraft stated it had been signed but there was miscommunication with Counsel but that the signed copy would be received the next day. Mr. Kraft further stated that the contract spelled out which things will continue to happen that need to be completed under contract and which things will no longer be performed. Ms. O'Connor thanked Mr. Kraft for moving things along. She further questioned whether it made sense to talk about some of these issues publically in terms of the mutual agreement and the details of the contract. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann added that she felt that people will have questions for them regarding the agreement. Mr. Kraft explained that due to the previous contract that the District had entered into with Dr. Celli the District was obligated to pay through end of contract and that in the winter it was negotiated to be half of what the original obligation was but that there was no way to eliminate it completely. Mr. Kraft also added that it was great to see the level of change with Dr. Murphy coming in and taking charge and addressing issues which existed and that this was another way of letting us create the focus to concentrate on students needs. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann suggested a possible Q&A with the media considering all the changes that have occurred over the past six months. Ms. O'Connor added she had been thinking about that in terms of communications. Dr. Murphy commented that he had met with Terry Date from the Swampscott Patch and looked forward to more conversations as well as some with the Reporter and the Lynn Item representatives. Dr. Murphy referred back to a previous meeting when Ms. Speranza-Hartmann spoke about community forums and there was discussion about posting possible dates in the fall to keep the community informed. Ms. Marshall wished to clarify for the community that the Committee was not seeking to rehire into the position but that the projects would be handled in-house and that Dr. Murphy has taken over those projects. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann invited those with questions to contact any member of the Committee.

VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION:

At 8:27 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann seconded by Ms. Marshall to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

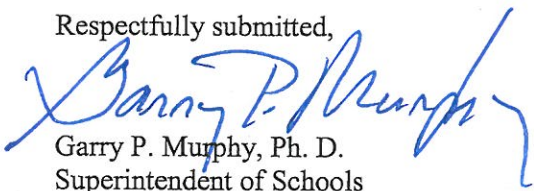
Dr. Murphy requested a motion to reopen the meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to reconvene into open session.

Dr. Murphy thanked the Committee for the stand they've taken in moving the District forward to becoming the type of school District that the community needs. He added that his success is dependent on their support and thanked them for making that evident in their decisions today.

MOTION: At 8:29 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Marshall, seconded by Ms. Marshall to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Garry P. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Garry P. Murphy, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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