

## REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

January 14, 2014

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Carin Marshall and Ms. Amy O'Connor. Also Present: Dr. Garry P. Murphy, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent, Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Assistant Superintendent, and Tristan Smith, Student Representative. Ms. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann and Christopher Thomsen were 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. Dr. Murphy introduced students John Currie and William Fraser.

Mr. Kraft announced the death of Tara Sisco on December 29, 2013. She had been the METCO coordinator for the District for nine years. The Committee held a moment of silence in her honor.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

### COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Marshall stated that she would have information in the next few weeks regarding the School Building project.

Ms. O'Connor commended Ms. Angelakis for her decision regarding the recent snow days.

Mr. Delano echoed the condolences for Tara Sisco. He also reminded the community of the December 13<sup>th</sup> deaths of Ryan Scarponi and Cody George who were former Swampscott students and were killed in an accident in Revere. He reminded younger members in the community that some of the decisions they make can be costly and they do have great penalties. He added that it was important to remember the Scarponi and George families and cherish memories of the men when they were with us. He asked for a moment of silence for them.

Mr. Delano also advised that he had attended the Zoning Board meeting regarding the project on the JRC site. He explained that he had tried to get on the agenda and was unable and that the Committee also did not have public comment. He explained that he had hoped to get an explanation of their plan for estimating potential students within the project so that the Committee could plan its budget forecasting. He suggested possibly having Mr. Younger or someone from the Zoning Board come to a meeting to explain their formulas. Mr. Kraft stated he would raise the issue at his next Tri-Chair meeting. Ms. O'Connor added she would reach out to Mr. Kornitsky to see if he would be willing to come and speak to the Committee.

Mr. Kraft congratulated the Middle School chorus on their performance this evening.

Tristan Smith wished everyone a Happy New Year and advised that mid-term exams were next week and that the Honor Society was offering tutoring. He also said that Wellness Week would be held at the high school next month and was being dedicated to Ms. Sisco.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Marshall to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2013. The motion passed 4-0.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **SHS Field Trip NYC – Mr. Vazquez-Gonzalez**

Mr. Rozmiarek introduced Mr. Vazquez-Gonzalez who is leading the Spanish trip to New York. Mr. Vazquez-Gonzalez explained that the three-day trip to New York City was a great way for students to see and experience Hispanic culture and an affordable option versus traveling abroad. He gave an overview of the itinerary to the Committee.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. O'Connor to approve the Spanish Department Field Trip to New York. The motion passed 4-0.

### **SHS Field Trip Philadelphia – Mr. Richard Maestranzi**

Mr. Rozmiarek introduced Mr. Maestranzi who is leading the International Relations Club annual trip to the Model U.N. in Philadelphia. He gave the Committee some history of the trip and outlined the itinerary.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. O'Connor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to approve the International Relations Club trip to Philadelphia. The motion passed 4-0.

### **SHS Field Trip NYC – Mr. James Morrison**

Mr. Rozmiarek explained that Mr. Morrison couldn't attend the meeting and he then gave an overview of the overnight trip to Boston for students to attend the Harvard Model Congress. He explained the itinerary and stated that the trip was at the end of the February vacation week.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Delano to approve the Harvard Model Congress Field Trip to Boston. The motion passed 4-0.

### **Assignment of METCO Director**

Dr. Murphy acknowledged as Mr. Kraft had mentioned the recent passing of Tara Sisco. He asked Ms. Angelakis to give an update on plans moving forward. Ms. Angelakis introduced Jason Greene to the Committee who is currently the Academic Support Specialist. She outlined for the Committee all of the work he had done in connection to Ms. Sisco's passing and she thanked him for his support of students and staff during this difficult transition. She added it was her recommendation that Mr. Greene take over as the Interim METCO Director. She stated she felt that the consistency in having Mr. Greene in that role would be a good thing for the students. Ms. Angelakis added that Mr. Greene had coordinated an emergency meeting at METCO in Boston before the students returned to school. She added that the details of his appointment would be finalized in the upcoming week.

### **Library Media Center Update**

Dr. Murphy stated that library update was added to the agenda at the request of Tristan Smith. He explained that it would be part of the FY 15 budget presentation. Ms. Angelakis added that they hoped to restore the library specialists at the High School and Middle Schools as well as bring in aides to the elementary libraries as part of a multi-year plan to fully restore each level. Dr. Murphy added that if funds became available that the time frame on each step could move up. Mr. Kraft questioned whether things would stay as they were for the remainder of this year and Ms. Angelakis said it would.

### **High School Music Staffing**

Dr. Murphy explained that he would like to take steps toward building up the music program at the High School and asked Mr. Rozmiarek to speak about the guitar program. Mr. Rozmiarek explained that at the end of the year he would be coming forward to ask to have the band program position made into a full year position but that he was currently asking for Ms. Bailey's current position to be increased from .6 to .7 to allow for an additional section to the guitar program. He explained that many students had come forward expressing an interest in a second section of guitar and that Ms. Mackey was able to work out the schedule so that

approximately 12 students could fill the Guitar 2 class. He added that students were working to get the word down to the Middle School about available programs at the High School level to get those students thinking ahead to coming to High School. Mr. Rozmiarek added that he saw Ms. Bailey as a part of the future and as he had previously stated he would be coming back hoping to increase her position to a 1.0 but at this time was just asking for an increase from .6 to .7. Mr. Kraft added that he felt the connection between Middle School and High School was important so that the students stay interested. Ms. Angelakis also added they were thinking a long-term goal was to bring back elementary band as well. Dr. Murphy stated he was asking for the authorization to increase the position to a .7 for the second half of the year.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Marshall to approve the increase from .6 to .7 for the Band Director at the High School.

Ms. O'Connor stated she felt this was exciting news. Ms. Marshall agreed.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** The motion passed 4-0.

### **MASC Policy Manual Contract**

Dr. Murphy explained that MASC provides a service in which they perform a review of the District's policy handbooks and that he recommended going forward with the contract. Ms. Marshall asked if this was the proposal that they had received from Mike Gilbert and Dr. Murphy confirmed it was. Ms. Marshall agreed it was necessary to have the review performed and added that the service brings all the policies up to date and consistent.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. O'Connor to approve the MASC Policy Manual Contract. The motion passed 4-0.

### **Capital Requests**

Dr. Murphy requested a vote of support from the Committee as to the list of capital requests. Ms. Angelakis added that Town Hall and Mr. Younger have helped through the process in terms of details of the plan. Ms. O'Connor questioned the items pertaining to Hadley and asked if they were weighed against what was happening with the new school building. Ms. Angelakis stated that they hoped to know by year two what would happen with a new school building but added that the Administration didn't feel that the roof at Hadley could wait. Ms. Marshall questioned if the asbestos line items were the same project. Ms. Angelakis explained it was done in portions over a number of years. Dr. Murphy added that he would be attending a meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> with an asbestos consulting firm who would review what we have right now and give a recommendation on what we need to do immediately and a plan going forward. Ms. O'Connor added that she thought that the numbers regarding Hadley and Stanley projects could be a factor in the presentation to Town Meeting in making a case for a new school. Ms. Marshall agreed. Ms. Marshall questioned if Capital Planning had asked for the multi-year plan. Ms. Angelakis stated she believed they did and Dr. Murphy added that all plans go to Mr. Younger who compiles the list to go before Capital Planning. Mr. Delano commented about the HVAC unit and the High School as well as the generator and thought it should be kept on everyone's radar. He also questioned the security plans at the Middle School. Dr. Murphy stated those were on the agenda but not necessarily as a capital expenditure but might be funded through the operating budget. Mr. Kraft questioned the asbestos removal at the High School listed under year five. Dr. Murphy stated that was an error and it was the Middle School. Ms. Angelakis gave an overview of the Technology Department capital requests. Mr. Kraft added that the District was making up for the fact that it hadn't updated some Tech in the past and that this was all the first step and that a lot could be accomplished through long range planning. Dr. Murphy added that Tech as well as Facilities were both fluid and could be reviewed in any given year.

### **Interim School Business Administrator Appointment**

Dr. Murphy stated he was pleased to recommend to the Committee that it appoint Wayne White as Interim School Business Administrator effective January 15 – June 30. He added there was a copy of the agreement in their packets with the terms. Dr. Murphy gave the Committee an overview of Mr. White's background and

added that he came with very high recommendations from everyone, including the Executive Director of MASBO. He explained that Mr. White completed a program to obtain his certification and is a certified School Business Administrator. Mr. Delano added that the possibility of job sharing was still on the table and would be looked at down the road. Dr. Murphy added that it was important to note that Mr. White and Ms. Angelakis have connected and have worked well together to date. He added that they believed in each other and are excited to work as a team going forward. Dr. Murphy stated he was pleased to make this recommendation and that they would come back at some point in the spring to discuss what would be done after June 30. Ms. O'Connor added that after a tumultuous year in terms of leadership that it was important to have real collaboration and she welcomed Mr. White. Mr. Kraft added that issues have become clear and the ability to work effectively throughout the community as well as being able to maintain those relationships was important. Mr. Kraft stated he would entertain a motion for appointment.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. O'Connor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to appoint Wayne White as Interim School Business Administrator. The motion passed 4-0.

**FY14/15 Budget**

Dr. Murphy explained that the Committee, by the Town Charter, is required to have a budget approved by February 15<sup>th</sup>. He further explained that not every line item needed to be exact, that there could still be some fluidity to it and added that the budget would be presented to the Selectmen on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. There was discussion regarding the possibility of establishing a Special-Ed fund and Dr. Murphy explained that Ms. Angelakis had contacted other Districts for their input. Ms. Angelakis stated she had received some replies and that they would speak with Tom Younger about the issue. Dr. Murphy also explained that the format of the budget would be changing to reflect budgets at each school level and distributed a sample of the new format with the FY14 information as a reference. He gave the Committee an overview of the new budget reporting. Ms. O'Connor added that she and Mr. Delano had reviewed the new format as part of their budget meetings and gave it their vote of confidence. Mr. Kraft stated the FY15 budget would be available at the next meeting as a first read.

Dr. Murphy concluded his Superintendent's Report.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Delano suggested that the Budget Subcommittee meet prior to the next Committee meeting to facilitate any questions or concerns regarding the new budget. Dr. Murphy agreed and thought they would meet beforehand so they would be updated as well.

Mr. Delano also confirmed the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:00 with Mike Gilbert for continued training.

Ms. Marshall stated the Policy Subcommittee would be meeting and that the Regionalization Subcommittee hadn't met again.

Mr. Kraft added that as of a week ago the Teachers' contract was being worked out and that he hoped to have that finalized soon.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Donation - \$5,000 to support SHS Robotics Club from Suzanne & Richard Wright**

Mr. Kraft announced a gift of \$5,000 from Suzanne & Richard Wright which would be added to the STEM Student Activity account and stated he would entertain a motion to accept the gift.

**MOTION:**

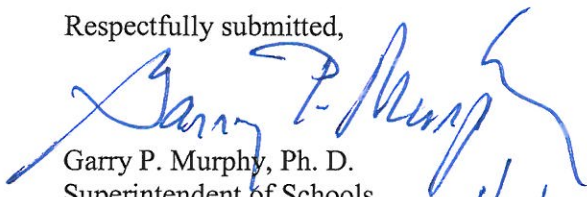
It was moved by Ms. O'Connor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the gift of \$5,000 from Suzanne & Richard Wright to support the SHS Robotics Club. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Kraft thanked the Wright family for their donation.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
**MOTION:**

At 8:18 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. O'Connor to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to non-union negotiations or to conduct collective bargaining sessions with non-union personnel – Interim Superintendent of Schools; and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect. Collective bargaining may also be conducted – AFSCME. Roll call vote was taken. Mr. Delano – yes; Ms. Marshall – yes; Ms. O'Connor – yes; Mr. Kraft – yes.

Respectfully submitted,



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

1/30/14

/pan