

## REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

May 18, 2015

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B129 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Carin Marshall, Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Vice Chairman, Ms. Suzanne Wright and Ms. Gargi Cooper. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Lois Longin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Evan Katz, School Business Administrator and Student Representatives Megan Russo and Ian Crimmins. Mr. Ted Delano 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 Middle School students Mackenna Lord and Charlie Locke.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

### COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Wright commented on the recent performance of Pippin and said it was a great show and she was very impressed with the kids. She also stated she attended an SEF Board meeting this week and brought back a photo book showing some work they were involved in at the Clarke School. She commented on the amount of grants SEF has provided to the District. Ms. Wright also commented that she had received several calls regarding the cut to the AP Biology class at the high school. Ms. Angelakis said she would have further information on that topic. Ms. Wright added that she had looked at the program of studies and was floored by the lack of honors available to juniors. She explained her child is experiencing issues on which classes to take in not having an honors option. She understood the decision about biology but argued that it was an important class for some students.

Ms. OConnor stated she fielded two calls about the AP issue also and that she would defer to Ms. Angelakis on the subject. She expressed a concern about encouraging and guiding kids to take those type of classes given the medical industry is a huge piece of careers in our country. She also reminded everyone about the public forum on Thursday at the High School for the Swampscott Master Plan and encouraged all to attend.

Ms. Cooper also attended Pippin and thought it was a wonderful performance. She congratulated Mr. Delano for being reelected and was looking forward to meeting with the Board of Selectmen to look at the long term vision for the Town.

Megan Russo also said she attended Pippin and it was a great show. She also reminded all of graduation on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ian Crimmins said it was the last week of classes for seniors. He also commented on the issue with the AP classes and said some kids mentioned concern about cost of the AP exams to him. He talked about a recent fundraiser by former student Tristan Smith who did a video game live stream to raise money for people who don't have access to clean drinking water.

Ms. Marshall said she would send out a list of potential dates for a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen. She suggested having a workshop meeting ahead of time to put an agenda together and also to discuss subcommittee reassignments. There was discussion on scheduling more workshop meetings. Ms. Marshall also reminded everyone of the upcoming Superintendent's Evaluation and to keep that on their radar.

### CONSENT AGENDA

#### MOTION:

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

Ms. Wright questioned whether the warrants were in the drop box this week. Ms. Angelakis stated that Ms. Gorman was on vacation and that might be why they weren't. Ms. Wright suggested having someone else in charge of that during vacations.

#### VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed 4-0.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Angelakis also commented on the SEF meeting and said she was unable to attend but wanted to thank them for making sure that the school was involved and being involved in deciding where the funds can be best utilized.

Ms. Angelakis also commented on the issue of AP Biology. She summarized a response by Mr. Rozmiarek but felt it may be beneficial to have Mr. Rozmiarek speak to the Committee and felt further that the issue is part of a larger problem and conversation regarding classes and scheduling. She stated that Mr. Rozmiarek was working with the ten students whom the change affects to make sure they get what they need. Ms. Angelakis addressed Ian's comment regarding cost of the test and stated the District is committed to making sure there are no financial burdens for any student with respect to the AP exams.

#### **Recognition of Student Representatives**

Ms. Angelakis thanked Ian and Megan for dedicating themselves to the Committee this year and thanked them for their service as Student Reps.

#### **TV Studio Upcoming Auction – T. Reid**

Mr. Reid came forward and gave the Committee an overview of the auction. He explained it would take place May 26<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Marshall stated she has participated in the past and that it was a great experience. Ms. OConnor also stated she thought it was a lot of fun and was impressed by the kids running the auction.

Mr. Reid also spoke about the program and explained that Ms. Angelakis and Mr. Younger had worked to renegotiate a contract with Comcast and Verizon which would provide for an additional part-time TV production teacher in the fall. He thanked Ms. Angelakis for her support of the program and the arts. Ms. OConnor stated she was thrilled that this could be worked out. Ms. Cooper asked what the goal for the auction is. Mr. Reid stated he doesn't set one so that the students don't feel as if they didn't reach their goal, but that it averages between \$10,000 - \$15,000.

#### **SMS Field Trip to Milford, NH – Bill Andrade**

Ms. Angelakis explained this was an annual trip that completes a unit that Mr. Andrade teaches on salmon in which they drive up to Milford to release them. She added the documentation was attached and she was requesting approval for this out of state field trip.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to approve the salmon release field trip to Milford, New Hampshire. The motion passed 4-0.

#### **SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **Food Service**

##### **FY16 Meal Price Increase – Vote requested**

Mr. Katz explained that part of the review of the food services was to look at pricing. He added that prices have not been increased in a few years and it was recommending an increase in the coming school year. He outlined what the increases would be at each level.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve the FY16 meal price increase.

Ms. OConnor clarified that the increase was not for profit. Mr. Katz confirmed the increase would simply keep the program balanced.

#### **VOTE ON MOTION:**

The motion passed 4-0.

#### **IOU's**

Mr. Katz explained that the current IOU balance was approximately \$7,200. He explained that they were going to be looking into the software so parents receive notifications for low balances and IOU's. He added that regulations don't allow the Food Service Company to absorb bad debt and that the school must. He also stated he is working with families to get them caught up on balances.

#### **Expanded Breakfast Program**

Mr. Katz also announced that the breakfast program will be expanded to include all three elementary schools in September.

#### **HS Cleaning Contract**

Mr. Katz said that the High School cleaning contract would be going out for rebid in the next few weeks.

**FY15 & FY16 Budget Updates**

Mr. Katz updated on the budget and stated he was working with the Town Accountant to review the numbers. Ms. Cooper questioned if they would receive an updated budget report. Mr. Katz stated he can include one. Ms. Angelakis predicted going into FY16 the reporting would be more frequent. Mr. Katz also stated he was watching the budget at the state level and informed that there are some funding issues that he is watching including the Kindergarten grant and METCO funding. Ms. Marshall questioned when we may have that information. Mr. Katz thought maybe the middle or end of June. Ms. Cooper questioned how funding affects fall Kindergarten. Ms. Angelakis stated that the District has agreed to fund all-day Kindergarten so it would have to be absorbed into the budget if there were any state cuts.

**Town/School Finance Consolidation**

Ms. Angelakis explained that the proposed consolidation was similar to that for facilities and needed to be approved at a regular session of Town Meeting which was the reason for it's inclusion in the past Town Meeting. Ms. Angelakis stated they were still working on Facilities and it wasn't her intention to push too quickly into any Finance consolidation. Ms. Marshall agreed but clarified that they understood if it wasn't on this past Town Meeting warrant it couldn't be discussed at all.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Student Transportation in Private Vehicles – first read.**

Ms. Marshall referred to the proposed policy as well as some waiver forms which would cover any liability issues from students driving in private vehicles with teachers or other students. Ms. Marshall stated it had been reviewed by legal counsel. Ms. Wright stated they had received further suggestion of higher insurance coverages. Ms. OConnor suggested the policy should be broader with the waivers being more specific. There was discussion on how the policy information could be tracked for liability. Ms. Marshall felt the policy needed to be reviewed further by legal counsel. It was agreed to have legal counsel review the policy and attachments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed SC meeting Dates 2015-2016SY**

Ms. Angelakis mentioned that the proposed meeting dates for Wednesday were in the Committee packets. There was discussion on whether there should be workshop meetings included within the dates. Ms. Angelakis stated the workshop meetings could be scheduled once the subject of the meeting was determined. Ms. Marshall suggested the Committee email comments or suggestions for the meeting schedule.

**Donations from Cummings Properties – Michael Depippo & Pete DeOrio - \$1,000 each for SHS ESL/S DeOrio**

Ms. Angelakis stated the donor is the brother of High School ESL teacher and was made with the intention of going towards materials for the class. Ms. OConnor questioned how the money would be used and Ms. Angelakis stated she just received the request today and would follow up on it.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. OConnor to accept the donations from Cummings Properties – Michael Depippo & Pete DeOrio. The motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Cooper reported that the Joint Task Committee was meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to review job descriptions for the Manager position and that they were moving forward.

Ms. Angelakis also noted that thanks to a recent energy study for the High School by Peter Kane and Dan Dragani the Committee would now be permanently meeting in B129 as it was determined to be more energy efficient versus the prior meeting room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

At 9:02 p.m. it was moved by Mr. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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