

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
March 11, 2014

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools, Wayne White, School Business Administrator, and Christopher Thomsen, Student Representative. Amy OConnor and Tristan Smith 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. He gave the Committee background on student introduced Clarke School 4^h grade students Dylan Dubiel and Anya O'Neil.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann congratulated Danielle Strauss and the Recreation Department for a successful event with the Court Jesters. She also wished all the players good luck in tonight's dodge ball game.

Mr. Delano reminded the community of the National Honor Society induction tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. and congratulated those students. He also thanked Anya and Dylan for coming and reciting the anthem and pledge. He further reminded all students and staff that March is a long month and encouraged them to look forward to April's vacation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the meeting minutes of February 25, 2014. The motion passed 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2013-2014 School Year Snow days

Ms. Angelakis gave the Committee an update on the snow days and stated the District had used four of the five allotted days and said that even if we should go over the five, the calendar allows for a cushion at the end of June to still go into the week of June 23rd. Mr. Kraft questioned what the last day of school would be as it was now. Ms. Angelakis stated it would be June 20th.

Personnel Report

Ms. Angelakis reviewed the personnel report from the Committee's packets.

SEF Grant Acknowledgement

Ms. Angelakis thanked the Swampscott Education Foundation for two grants which were awarded in March and added that the District is very grateful for their support.

Update on Budget

Ms. Angelakis gave the Committee an update as to the budget and stated that she and Mr. White had been reviewing the budget to look for areas in which to make cuts. She stated they were looking at making a cut to cell phones for administrators as well as they had put a freeze on unnecessary spending. She added

the bottom line number the Committee voted would not change but that they would continue to refine the numbers.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Delano stated that the Finance Subcommittee met yesterday and commented on the new budget layout. He thanked Mr. White and Mr. Angelakis for their work on the budget. Mr. Delano added that the Communications Subcommittee met earlier and stated they hoped to have a finalized chain of command within a meeting or two.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann reported that the Policy Subcommittee would meet to continue to discuss a policy for non-resident teachers to bring their students to be educated in Swampscott. She added that it was a part of their contract so a policy needed to be created. There was discussion regarding possible future openings and Ms. Marshall suggested meeting with Ms. Angelakis to obtain some data. Ms. Angelakis stated they could, but that a lot of times the numbers aren't determined until the end of August.

Ms. Marshall questioned whether Mr. Gilbert picked up the information for the policy review and Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated he had. Mr. Kraft questioned how long that process would take. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated she expected it to be a long process, possibly a year.

Mr. Delano reminded the Committee of the March 22nd goal setting meeting with Mike Gilbert at 10:00 at the High School.

Ms. Marshall reminded all of the upcoming School Building forum on Thursday night at the Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m. She urged everyone to come including Committee members.

Mr. Kraft stated that he attended the Tri-Chair meeting yesterday to discuss the budget. He stated they would be presenting to the Finance Committee on Monday.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Representative to the N.S. Vocational School District School Committee - William Jackson

Mr. Kraft informed the Committee that it needs to vote to approve the appointment of William Jackson to the N.S. Vocational School District School Committee. He added that it needed to be done yearly and that Joe Markarian had reappointed William Jackson to the position.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to approve the appointment of William Jackson to the N.S. Vocational School District School Committee. The motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann thanked Mr. Jackson for taking on this role.

VOTE ON MOTION

The motion passed 4-0.

2014-2015 School Calendar - First read

Ms. Angelakis presented the proposed changes to the calendar to the Committee as a power point which included a change in the dismissal time on half-days as well as dismissal time for elementary students. She explained that by dismissing children at the 12:00 dismissal time they were losing time on learning which was the reason for the extension to the 12:45 time. Ms. Angelakis explained that with the proposed changes to the calendar it would allow for 36 hours of professional development for staff as opposed to the current 16.5 hours this year.

Ms. Angelakis stated that the first day of school for staff would be August 25th, and the second day is August 26th, both of which would be designated as staff days. She explained that the first day for staff consists of an opening at the High School, followed by a brief union meeting, and then staff reports to their individual schools. She added that all students K-12 would start Wednesday, August 27th and that Kindergarten screening would be done in the spring allowing for all students to begin on the same day. She further gave an overview of the early release days for the remaining months as well as the religious and federal/state Holidays as well as vacations. She stated there would be an additional full-day PD day for teachers on January 5th so students wouldn't return from the holiday break until Tuesday, January 6th.

Mr. Kraft questioned the full-day PD day on January 5th and questioned if it could be scheduled for Friday, January 2nd and noted that most people return to work on January 2nd. Ms. Angelakis stated that date could be reviewed. Mr. Kraft added that it made sense to use that day at the end of the week and then students could return on Monday, January 5th. Chris Thomsen expressed that he felt it wouldn't be fair to return on that Friday date and Mr. Kraft clarified students would still have until Monday it would be staff possibly returning for the Friday date. Mr. Kraft further questioned staff attending a union meeting on the first day of school. He questioned whether they were being paid at the same time. There was discussion regarding the union meeting and Ms. Angelakis stated that could be looked at as well.

Ms. Marshall questioned if the Kindergarten screening would take place after the end of the school year in June. Ms. Angelakis stated that Martha Raymond and staff from the pre-school would be closing the preschool three days early so that they would perform the screenings so that the current Kindergarten staff could attend to their classes and not lose time for the screenings.

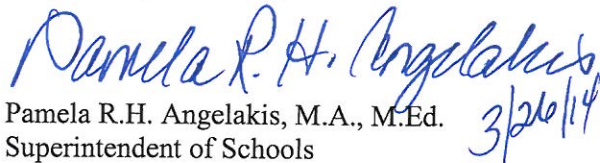
Mr. Kraft advised all that this was the first read and that if anyone had any questions they could contact Ms. Angelakis and that the Committee would vote on the final calendar at its next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 7:40 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann seconded by Ms. Marshall to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to non-union negotiations or to conduct collective bargaining sessions with non-union personnel relative to former executive assistant to the Superintendent. Roll call vote was taken. Mr. Delano – yes; Ms. Speranza-Hartmann, yes; Ms. Marshall – yes; Mr. Kraft – yes.

Respectfully submitted,


Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed. 3/26/14
Superintendent of Schools

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