

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

March 23, 2016

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B129 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Carin Marshall Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Vice Chairman and Mr. Ted Delano. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Lois Longin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Mr. Evan Katz, School Business Administrator and Student Representative William Green. Suzanne Wright, Gargi Cooper and Student Representative Matthew Zimmer were 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 Hadley School 4th grade students William Roddy and Grace Reiter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Hanlon came forward speak about the upcoming fundraiser for Brady Ellis, the son of Stanley teacher Christine Ellis which will be held on April 2nd. She advised that anyone interested in tickets could contact Dawn Thomson at the Stanley.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. OConnor commented on the Brady Ellis fundraiser and added that tickets could also be purchased at All About Dance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Marshall read the items contained in the Consent Agenda and requested motion for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Mr. Delano to accept Consent Agenda containing the meeting minutes of March 9, 2016; Field Trip – Spain; Field Trip – DECA Nationals and warrant #'s 16-37 & 16-38.

Ms. Angelakis spoke about the proposed field trip to Spain and Mr. Delano expressed concern having a procedure in place to protect the kids travelling into a foreign country. He added that he was not opposed to the trip but thought everyone needed to be realistic and have a better developed plan in place. Ms. Angelakis echoed his concerns and added that there was constant dialogue on the ListServ about allowing these out of the country trips. Ms. Gahm-Diaz stated she was willing to sit down and organize any safety plans. She also explained that the trip was an exchange with another school who would be visiting here in the fall and hoped the trip could be approved so those students could plan their trip here. Ms. Angelakis questioned deadline for any refunds for our students should something change internationally. Ms. Gahm-Diaz stated Ms. Albert had been working with the company and that no monies had been put down as of yet. Mr. Delano stated he would like to see the travel company come forward to explain their procedures. Ms. Marshall agreed and there was discussion on possible insurances which could cover costs should there need to be a change in the plans. Ms. Marshall suggested approval of the trip as planned with the understanding that they would like more information from the travel company.

Ms. Angelakis also reported on the DECA field trip and stated that two students had moved on to the Nationals which would be held in Nashville, TN on April 23rd to the 27th. She explained that Mr. Parachojuk was unable to attend but that Mrs. Marescalchi, a Beverly teacher and Swampscott parent, would be taking her students from Beverly and chaperoning the two Swampscott students as well.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed 3-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Angelakis requested that item G be moved up in the agenda.

Field Trip Presentation – Quebec Visit – M. Albert/J. Gahm-Diaz

Ms. Albert and Ms. Gahm-Diaz came forward to report on the recent Quebec City field trip. Ms. Albert gave an overview of the trip and explained that it was a busy packed few days and that feedback from the students was positive. She added that it was wonderful for she and Ms. Gahm-Diaz to see students put their learning into practical use as they interacted in restaurants and shops. Ms. Angelakis thanked them for their report.

Will Green gave his student report and stated that spring sports have started up and MCAS testing was ongoing at the high school this week. He also stated that AP registration was coming up and seniors were working on filling out scholarship forms.

HS Transition Program 16-17SY – M. Raymond/C. Harris/E. Wilson

Ms. Angelakis introduced Martha Raymond, Craig Harris and Erin Wilson and invited them forward to present their proposed High School Transition program. Ms. Angelakis stated the program came out of the 3-5 year strategic plan and the need for psychological safety of students. She explained that one of the beginning actions was to form a Mental Health Task Force in which this proposed program was developed. Ms. Raymond explained that the program they have put together to implement at the High School and turned to Mr. Harris to present the power point which would explain the program further. Mr. Harris gave an overview of the program. Ms. Wilson gave some examples of students who would benefit from the program. Ms. Raymond spoke to the Brookline program which they had visited to view as a model. Mr. Harris reviewed entrance and exit criteria for the program and there was a discussion regarding mental health needs versus medical needs of students. Mr. Harris also reviewed how the classroom could accommodate multiple needs. Ms. Raymond added that they would be utilizing existing staff consisting of a special education teacher, school psychologist and ESP.

Ms. Wright entered the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Ms. Angelakis said she was very proud of the work the Mental Health Task Force had done so far and was impressed with the fact that this program was becoming a reality in the first year. Ms. OConnor commented on the amount of students affected and wondered whether the amount of staff was enough. Ms. Angelakis stated having this additional staff and program will alleviate the caseload of Sarah Kelley. Ms. OConnor added that additional data would be helpful in looking at the budget as well. Ms. Angelakis stated that more data could be shared in the future. Ms. Marshall questioned whether there was space at the High School for the program. Ms. Raymond stated they were exploring space but would find it. Mr. Delano suggested emailing the presentation to the Finance Committee. There was discussion on how students would be referred and Ms. Raymond felt the initial point of access would be the nurse. Ms. Angelakis thanked all for their presentation.

HS Principal Position Update

Ms. Angelakis read a press release which gave further information including her appointment of Robert Murphy as the interim High School principal and Jason Calichman as interim Middle School principal for 16-17 school year. Ms. OConnor stated she had received some questions regarding the appointments and the interim status. Ms. Angelakis explained that Mr. Murphy and Mr. Calichman were aware that the positions would be reposted next year but that it was important to have the right people in those positions while she searches for the right fit for Swampscott. She added that when she does repost a Committee would be formed. Ms. OConnor also questioned the Vice Principal role at the Middle School. Ms. Angelakis stated she would be reflecting on that over the next several months and that no decisions have been made. Mr. Delano thanked Mr. Kowalski and Ms. Mackey for the time and work that have put into the District. He also congratulated Mr. Murphy and stated he knew that he will succeed at the High School. He also wished Mr. Calichman the best and said he knew he would do great things. Will Green said he would be the first High School student to welcome Mr. Murphy as the new principal.

Director of Curriculum Update

Ms. Angelakis reported that they held 15 interviews and that she expected four candidates to move on to round two which would take place next week. She then expected to narrow the pool to two and said that process is moving along right on track.

Capital Project Update

Ms. Angelakis gave an update regarding technology and the swipe cards and how they were working at the Middle School and District offices.

CORI-SAFIS Update

Ms. Angelakis clarified information relating to CORI's and SAFIS reports. She explained that staff and anyone who volunteers have been consistently CORI'd and that the Committee had voted a protocol fingerprinting volunteers. She explained that it was decided that although a CORI lasts for three years that going forward volunteers would be CORI'd every year. She also updated that Human Resources has created a live database so that all central office and school secretaries would have access to a live listing of staff and volunteers. Ms. Angelakis felt that these two things would help going forward.

K-12 Task Force Update

Ms. Angelakis stated the group has met monthly and would be meeting tomorrow morning and would report back with any information in the future.

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

FY16 & FY17 Budget Update

Mr. Katz presented a copy of the March update and gave an overview of where the current budget stands. Mr. Katz also presented an update to the FY17 budget and stated he was closely reviewing and keeping an eye on special education. Mr. Delano commended Mr. Katz on his work to date and mentioned during his meeting with the Finance Committee that they spoke very highly of him.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Wright spoke about the Chapter 70 resolution and reported that she had visited the Board of Selectmen's meeting earlier this evening and that they were in favor of it and would be in approval. She added she would be visiting the Finance Committee on Tuesday. Ms. Marshall gave some background on the Chapter 70 resolution.

Ms. Wright spoke about policies which needed to be reviewed which came from the MASC legislative bulleting. She also reminded about a policy related to security cameras. Ms. Angelakis said she would follow up on the security cameras.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:40 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. OConnor 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: