

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

July 30, 2013

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:08 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. Kevin Kaczynski, Technology Director, Christopher Thomsen, Student Representative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Amy OConnor welcomed Dr. Murphy to the District. She also commented on the placement of the tables at meetings and there was discussion amongst the members regarding meeting set-up. Chris Thomsen commented that Mr. Reid arranged the set up for recording meetings. Mr. Kraft stated they could speak to Mr. Reid to discuss the set-up.

Mr. Delano also welcomed Dr. Murphy and stated that he looked forward to great working relationship. He also commented on communicating with Mr. McGee and Ms. Erlich regarding Chapter 70 funding to see if they could come to a future meeting to update the District. Mr. Delano also commented on his concern with contacting the Zoning Board in regards to the JRC development on Paradise Road regarding entry of possible students into the District. He further added that the bocce court was open at the Senior Center. He also welcomed Chris Thomsen to the meeting.

Mr. Thomsen stated he was happy to be here and was looking forward to the report on open campus.

Ms. Marshall welcomed Dr. Murphy and Mr. Rozmiarek to the District.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann also welcomed Dr. Murphy and Mr. Rozmiarek. She also discussed possibly scheduling further public forums with the community in the future.

Mr. Kraft also welcomed Dr. Murphy and welcomed his positive energy to the District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to accept the meeting minutes of June 19, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Murphy updated on his first couple of weeks which included meetings with the Leadership Team as well as town officials and stated all are on board to move in a positive forward direction. He added that he wanted the District to be a great place for kids to go to school as well as a great place for adults to work. He also added that he was looking forward as well to meeting with the parent organizations within the District and having an open dialogue with them as well. Dr. Murphy stated he had several meetings with the Leadership Team at the High School in discussions regarding the graduation requirements and open campus. He further added that Mr. Rozmiarek and Ms. Mackey would present the proposed changes to both plans.

Mr. Kraft requested a motion to move up from new business to the Superintendent's Report the discussion of the Graduation Requirement Policy as well as Open Campus Policy.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Mr. Delano to move up to the Superintendent's Report from New Business the Graduation Requirement Policy and Open Campus Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Graduation Requirement Policy

Dr. Murphy explained that there would be a change that would require a vote for the Graduation Requirements but that the Open Campus Policy was more operational and stated a plan would be presented on how to proceed with Open Campus. Dr. Murphy introduced Mr. Rozmiarek to come forward with Ms. Mackey to present the proposed change to the Graduation Requirements. Mr. Rozmiarek outlined the current graduation requirements which consisted of 100 credits and passing MCAS tests in order to receive an SHS diploma. He stated that the credits would increase to 120 with this year's incoming junior class. Ms. Mackey added that approximately 92% of students already achieve the 120 credits prior to graduation and they felt it would not be a burden on the majority of the students. There was a discussion regarding time on learning and the 990 hour requirements and how the change will affect the requirement. Dr. Murphy commented that the full year schedule would be looked at including professional development hours as well as late start and early dismissals and that they would present a full analysis in the future. Mr. Rozmiarek also added that study halls and academic learning centers would be explored which could affect the 990 hours as well. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann also questioned different elective offerings as well as staffing and substitutes to cover the additional credit hours. Dr. Murphy stated that another of his recommendations would be for the Committee to authorize an increase in the budgeted amounts for substitutes at the high school by \$30,000 which would allow the implementation of the changes outlined by Mr. Rozmiarek as well as an additional amount to add a math teacher.

Mr. Kraft questioned whether the Committee needed to vote on the new requirements. Dr. Murphy stated it would require a vote.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to change the graduation requirements to begin with the incoming junior class (Class of 2015) but excluding the incoming senior class (Class of 2014) to increase from 100 to 120 credits as submitted by the Superintendent.

Ms. OConnor questioned the budgetary impact due the changes. Dr. Murphy stated it was within his responsibility to identify areas of the budget where things could be moved and that he would rely on Mr. Cronin for that reporting. He added that he would bring forward a budget which would show within the line items where the funds were arranged as well as to have the Committee re-vote based on the new document. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann expressed a concern about being able to explain the shifting in the budget to the community who may question earlier cuts that were made. Dr. Murphy stated that concern was legitimate and that he would provide the information so the Committee would be prepared to answer any questions. He further added that he would not have brought the recommendation forward if he wasn't confident the funds could be allocated. Mr. Delano clarified that there would be no additional increase in any fees that the funds were within the current budget and Mr. Kraft agreed that the funds were within the previously approved budget.

VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed unanimously

Open Campus Policy (First Read)

Dr. Murphy gave the Committee a history of the previous Open Campus Policy and explained that the policy would be a multi-step plan limiting open campus to seniors only and only after certain requirements are fulfilled. Mr. Rozmiarek explained that there were two main issues looked at with regard to the current policy which were academics and student safety. He further added that they looked at putting procedures into place to maintain open campus for seniors at the same time supervising students. Mr. Rozmiarek outlined the requirements which the seniors would need to achieve to be able to take part in senior privileges. Ms. OConnor questioned the grade average requirement. Mr. Rozmiarek stated they had not fully discussed the details with parents or student leaders and that necessary changes could be made throughout the year. Ms. OConnor added that she felt that the policy was not a decision of the Committee and that fell to those who run the building and educate. Mr. Kraft agreed and added it was the Committee's position to express opinion but not to dictate to those implementing the policy on a day to day basis. Mr. Delano agreed and added that he felt that the information provided by Ms. Glance earlier was concerning and asked if they could be updated further into the year on the progress. Ms. OConnor stated she appreciated the background information and questioned how other Districts operated. Mr. Rozmiarek stated he sent an email out to other Districts and the general consensus was that a lot of schools don't have open campus. Mr. Thomsen stated he liked the proposal but added that he liked the policy of internal open campus as opposed to classes with assigned substitutes. Mr. Rozmiarek commented that the message needed to be that students were gaining with substitutes as opposed to losing out on a day of instruction when a teacher is absent.

Ms. OConnor questioned whether the Committee would view this as policy. Dr. Murphy stated he didn't feel that it would be that it was an operational issue as opposed to policy and that it wasn't necessary for the Committee to vote on it. Mr. Kraft requested it be noted that it was the opinion of the School Committee that Open Campus was an operational issue as opposed to a policy to be written by the Committee and as well did not require a vote.

BUDGET DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann commented that Mr. Delano brought two policies to her attention that may need to be written. One was a Transgender Student Policy and the second was regarding Fingerprinting. Mr. Delano stated he just wanted to be ahead of the game to make sure the policies didn't get lost in the shuffle. Dr. Murphy asked whether MASC had notified the Committee about the policies and Mr. Delano stated he had read about them in the Boston Globe and wanted to keep them on the radar. There was discussion on planning a workshop with Mike Gilbert to address a policy manual as well.

Ms. Marshall gave an update on the School Building Committee meetings and informed the School Committee that it the next step would require School Committee approval and as soon as she received information she would forward it to the other members and that it should be discussed at a future meeting.

Mr. Delano stated that the Finance and Communications Subcommittees would be planning their next meetings.

Mr. Kraft stated that the Negotiations Subcommittee had a meeting a week ago and were not in agreement but a next meeting would be scheduled and he would update in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule of Meetings

Mr. Kraft explained that the meeting schedule for the year included meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month with the exception of April vacation week.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Mr. Delano to accept the proposed meeting schedule.

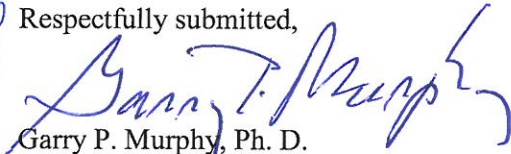
Mr. Kraft added that the two meetings scheduled in August were tentative and subject to change. Mr. Delano commented on a possible conflict with Town Meeting. Mr. Kraft suggested the Town Clerk be contacted to check on the schedule and it was far enough out if that meeting needed to be changed.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:52 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Marshall, seconded by Ms Speranza-Hartmann and voted by roll call vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiation with non-union personnel and strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Mr. Delano – yes; Ms. OConnor – yes; Mr. Kraft – yes; Ms. Marshall – yes. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann – yes.

8/19/13 Respectfully submitted,


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

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