

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

March 9, 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, Mr. Ted Delano, Ms. Suzanne Wright and Ms. Gargi Cooper. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Lois Longin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Mr. Evan Katz, School Business Administrator. Student Representatives Matthew Zimmer and Will Green 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 Clarke School 4th grade students Alex Hayes and Nikki Spathanas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. OConnor confirmed that she would be running for reelection. She also reminded all of Swampscott's Got Talent which will be held on Sunday, April 3rd, which is also a fundraiser for the 10th grade class. Ms. OConnor also requested that for the sake of accessibility that as a group it do away with acronyms as much as possible. She further sent thoughts and prayers out to Stanley teacher Christine Ellis and her son Brady who has been undergoing medical issues in the last year and hoped that everyone would think about them.

Mr. Delano congratulated Ms. Marshall and Ms. OConnor for their run for reelection. He reminded that the National Honor Society induction ceremony is scheduled for the 15th. He also suggested an idea that the Committee could visit each of the schools, maybe once a year, for a day to see the issues that the schools may be faced with. Ms. Angelakis said she thought it would be a good idea so the Committee could see not only the challenges in the District but also to see the wonderful things that are discussed in the meetings in action within the schools. She added she would share the idea with the Leadership Team and report back.

Ms. Cooper spoke about the band and chorus program at the elementary and her concern that kids are able to "opt-out" at such a young age. She questioned whether all the elementary schools had the same policy. Ms. Angelakis stated it was always optional and that the intent was to be positive and not feel forced. Ms. Cooper also suggested other programs that might be available for kids during that advisory period, such as foreign language. Ms. Angelakis stated staffing and the schedules could make that difficult. Ms. OConnor agreed though that the idea of "opting-out" in the third grade seemed unusual.

Ms. Marshall announced that she was also running for reelection.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION:

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

Ms. Angelakis referred to the Model UN trip and explained it was an annual trip but pointed out that travel would be by plane. Mr. Delano questioned transportation to the airport. Ms. Angelakis stated she would look into that. Ms. OConnor questioned funding for the trip and Ms. Angelakis stated it was being funded by parents as well as fundraising. Ms. Angelakis gave her support for the trip.

VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Angelakis requested the School Business Administrator report go next to accommodate the Chartwell's presentation.

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Nutrislice App – Scott Valentino, Chartwell’s

Mr. Katz introduced Scott Valentino from Chartwell’s to discuss a new app available to the District in conjunction with the school lunches. Mr. Valentino introduced Ann and Valerie from Chartwell’s as well as Maureen Kellett the District Food Service Director. Mr. Valentino explained the partnership with Nutrislice as well as how the app would work. Ann gave a background of all of the nutritional information which is available to Ms. Kellett and now is reflected in the Nutrislice app. She explained that it takes the menu and makes it interactive for dietary information as well as allergy and health issue information. She showed how the app can filter dietary information as well as reflect the information in another language. Ms. Angelakis stated the app could be used to connect health and wellness programs to students as well. There was discussion regarding promotion of the app to students and concerns surrounding that.

Ms. Cooper questioned whether the District had a policy regarding food which can be brought in, specifically at the elementary level, for parties and celebrations and whether all schools had the same policies. Ms. Angelakis stated she didn’t want to speak for the Lead Nurse but could do some investigation on the issue.

NESDEC Enrollment Information Update

Mr. Katz reviewed the enrollment projection information which was received from NESDEC. He further outlined the conclusions which impact the capacity of any new and renovated schools as well as any impact on tuition due to the projection decrease in Nahant students. Ms. OConnor added that the numbers were in line with what was discussed in the Master Plan as well as within the new school information. Ms. Angelakis commended Mr. Katz for the work he has done to receive correct information. Mr. Delano questioned the METCO numbers and how they are estimated. Ms. Angelakis said it is reviewed yearly with Mr. Green and that usually students are placed into the Middle and High School to keep class sizes smaller at the elementary schools. There was discussion around numbers of students enrolled in private schools and possibly attracting those students to the District. Ms. Cooper questioned the status of exit interviews for families who are leaving the District. Ms. Wright also said that the Nahant tuition should be looked at if those numbers continue to decline. Ms. Angelakis agreed and said that discussion would happen in the future. Mr. Delano said this was the first time they had seen numbers presented in this way.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

H.S. Program of Studies Recommendation for course changes – F. Kowalski

Ms. Angelakis explained that there was a request to drop typing as a graduation requirement from the computer apps class. She further stated it was a first step in looking at the alignment of the Middle and High School curriculum but that they were looking to add something more meaningful into the computer apps class. She was requesting the Committee’s approval to remove typing from the graduation requirements. There was discussion regarding options which could be explored for the class. Ms. Wright agreed the typing should be removed and other options explored. Ms. Angelakis stated she heard the Committee was in agreement to remove the requirement.

Mr. Delano left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Personnel Report

Ms. Angelakis highlighted the personnel changes listed on the first page of the report. She also highlighted that Christine James moved from the High School main office into the Data Specialist position within the Central Office and that in that short period of time her role has really streamlined the Central Office.

Director of Curriculum, Director of Facilities and Principal Search Update

Ms. Angelakis updated on the Director of Curriculum position and stated Committee of six had been formed including Mr. Delano, Ms. Longin, Mr. Wyman, Mr. Calichman, Ms. Hunt and herself. She advised they had received approximately 50 applicants and had narrowed the pool to 15 and were beginning with the first round of interviews. She also explained that they would conduct site visits and had added educational technology knowledge into the questions to applicants. Ms. OConnor questioned why a Committee member was on the interview committee. Ms. Wright agreed and stated she would like to see that type of opportunity opened up to all in the future. Ms. OConnor added if one is included it should be a group decision who is selected. Ms. Angelakis agreed on that procedure going forward.

Ms. Angelakis stated that the Director of Facilities position had been narrowed to two candidates, Rupinder Sembhi and Michael Scola. She gave an overview of each candidate’s resume and added that the final interviews will be conducted by

Robert Lever who has experience in that field. She added that Mr. Younger brought in Mr. Lever and has taken the process from here and they hoped to have a final choice within the next two weeks.

Ms. Angelakis read a statement regarding the HS Principal Search process. She stated at the next Committee meeting she would give an update as well as a short and long-term plan.

Library Media Aide Update

Ms. Angelakis referred to an update on the library media aide position and stated it was her plan to redefine the current roles and go with the two split between three schools.

Staff Attendance Update

Ms. Angelakis gave an overview of the process for transferring staff attendance from the current system into Aspen. She explained the staff needed to be trained on entering staff attendance into Aspen as well as entering forwarding balances and accrual information. She also asked how the Committee would like the information broken down. Ms. Marshall stated she could gather the data and pass along their request.

School Improvement Plan update

Ms. Angelakis appreciated the feedback received on the School Improvement Plans and stated she would meet with the Leadership Team and work on presenting updated plans. Ms. OConnor questioned the role of School Council within the plans and there was discussion regarding how that would fit into the improvement plans.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Full funding of Foundation Budget Review – vote requested

Ms. Marshall explained the issues with current state funding and the findings which were outlined in the report. Ms. Wright explained that a coalition has been formed to call for full funding of the Foundation Budget. Ms. Marshall added that the resolution is something that School Committees, Selectmen and Finance Committees are sending to their legislators to make it known that we'd like to see these changes. Ms. Marshall read the resolution to the Committee and it was agreed the Committee would sign and endorse.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to adopt the resolution as written and presented. The motion passed 4-0.

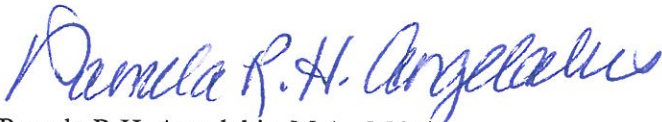
Ms. Wright suggested requesting to be put on the agenda for the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen to have their support as well.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 9:22 p.m. it was moved by Ms. 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: