

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

October 15, 2015

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B129 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Carin Marshall, 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, Mr. Evan Katz, School Business Administrator and Student Representatives Matthew Zimmer and Will Green. Ms. Amy OConnor, Vice Chairman was absent.

Ms. Marshall explained that two students were invited to come 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 8th grade students Jacob and Seth Olsen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Glenn Paster, a former member of the School Committee came forward to speak about the Chemical Health Policy. He gave a history to the creation of the prior policy and reminded the community of the reasons for the initial policy and stated it was an important policy that does work. He thanked Ms. Wright for speaking with him about the proposed policy before the meeting and stated he looked forward to hearing more about it.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Marshall welcomed the new Student Representatives Will Green and Matthew Zimmer to the Committee. Matthew stated they were both seniors and members of the Executive Board at SHS. Will commented that before they began attending they spoke with students and teachers regarding anything they should bring up and one issue was a recycling program. He stated that each class has a recycling bin that ultimately just gets added to trash. He hoped to bring forward a plan for a recycling program to an upcoming meeting. Ms. Wright questioned how one becomes a representative to the School Committee. Will stated it used to be that a student was voted in but it recently changed and now are members of the Executive Board. He added they recently restructured in hopes of bridging the gaps between students and Administration.

Ms. Cooper recently attended the girls soccer game and stated there was a great showing and it was exciting to be there and support the girls.

Mr. Delano commented on Light Up Swampscott and thanked the SEA for their involvement and felt it was a great community event. He also spoke about the recent passing of Darren Spinney who was a 1984 graduate of SHS. He spoke about his two daughters, Brianna, a college student, and Taylor, a senior at SHS. He hoped the community and District would rally in support of the Spinney family.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Marshall requested a motion to accept the consent agenda.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to accept the Consent Agenda containing the meeting minutes of October 1, 2015 and warrant #'s 16-13, 16-14 and 16-15. The motion passed 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Educator of the Year – Ms. Natalie Paine

Ms. Angelakis explained that teachers nominate and give their Educator of the Year award at the opening day convocation. She announced that this year's Educator of the Year was Natalie Paine. She gave an overview of Ms. Paine's background and welcomed her forward to congratulate her for the honor.

Recognition of Teachers' awarded Professional Status

Ms. Angelakis explained the process of obtaining professional status and congratulated those teachers in attendance which included Margaret Ardman, Debi Ardon, Karen Reback, Sharon Santry, Keelyn Welch and Amy Camire. She also congratulated Wesley Geraci, Elizabeth Jones and Marianne Hartmann who were not able to attend.

Recognition of SHS students – National Merit Commendation

Ms. Angelakis invited Mr. Rozmiarek forward to announce the students who are recognized as commended students by the National Merit Board. Mr. Rozmiarek read a letter from the National Merit Board and presented certificates to Kevin Strothman, Sara Cunningham, Meghan Harrington and Anna Hunt.

VHS Program Information

Mr. Rozmiarek and Ms. Comparato gave a power point presentation which outlined the Virtual High School program implemented at the High School. Mr. Rozmiarek explained that enrollment through VHS allows the high school access to 25 seats per semester and further allows flexibility to offer classes to students which the high school does not offer. Ms. Marshall questioned whether students could work at home as well. Ms. Comparato said students can access the website at any time. Ms. Wright questioned whether the 25 seats are filled each year and would it be worth adding seats. Ms. Comparato said at this point almost all are filled and it would be worth looking at but she was unsure about cost of membership for the next level of seats. Ms. Cooper questioned if classes were full year, Mr. Rozmiarek explained they were semester long classes. Ms. Comparato also gave an overview of the page for the class she is currently teaching.

Light Up Swampscott Update

Ms. Angelakis gave an update to the Light Up Swampscott celebration which finalized the efforts to obtain a new projector for the SHS auditorium. She thanked all who participated in making the fundraising a success.

Enrollment Information

Ms. Angelakis shared information relating to students enrolled into the District. She commented on those coming back from private schools and added that she would share information on students who withdrew from the District at an upcoming meeting.

October 1 Enrollment and October 1 Report to DESE

Ms. Angelakis gave an update to the October 1 enrollment numbers and the DESE reporting. She spoke about the work of the staff necessary to compile the information for reporting and the possibility of shifting some responsibilities relating to reporting in the future.

Ms. Angelakis updated on the Human Resources position and stated at this point the person they had hoped to hire decided to stay in their current job and she expected to repost the HR Coordinator position.

Ms. Cooper questioned the breakdown of male/female in relation to students who leave the District. Ms. Angelakis stated that could be done with the next report.

Property Signage

Ms. Angelakis stated signs had been ordered in regards to dogs on school property and said there was a copy of the sign in the member's packets. Ms. Wright questioned if the signs had been ordered and expressed some concern about the times listed on the signs. Ms. Angelakis stated the wording was taken directly from the policy. Ms. Cooper expressed concern about being on the same page as the town as far as their policies. Ms. Angelakis suggested that might be a conversation for the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Angelakis added that Ms. Hodgson and Ms. Reback, Middle School 5th grade teachers, were honored this morning by the Essex Heritage National Area Parks for a program they created called "Parks for Every Classroom." She congratulated them for their accomplishment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy EEAA, Walkers and Riders - vote requested

Ms. Wright stated the Committee had read the policy before and she spoke with Mike Gilbert who advised the policy had to remain and was just routine. She added one section was updated due to current law. Ms. Marshall requested a vote to approve.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve policy EEAA, Walkers and Riders. The motion passed 4-0.

Policy ADD, Safe Schools Policy Review – vote requested

Ms. Wright explained that the policy was reviewed to verify the existence of the Safety and Security Committee as well as its members. Ms. Angelakis stated there was a Committee and she had met with them and would be meeting again in the future. Ms. Marshall added nothing was changed with the policy and it was just for verification.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Mr. Delano to approve policy ADD, Safe Schools. The motion passed 4-0.

Policy EEAG, Student Transportation in Private Vehicles – second read

There was follow up discussion regarding the intent of the policy and Ms. Marshall clarified that after speaking with counsel their advice was that it should be during school hours and school related only. There was lengthy discussion on how to proceed forward with the policy. Ms. Angelakis felt the language needed to be looked at. Ms. Marshall agreed that more work needed to be done. Ms. Wright stated she would write something to reflect the discussion. Ms. Cooper questioned a universal permission slip. Ms. Wright stated she would forward something to Ms. Longin for review.

Chemical Health Policy Update – second read

Ms. Wright explained that the concerns of the Subcommittee included the 365-days a year policy in which there would be no staff to police issues 365-days a year. She further explained that the Subcommittee felt the policy needed to address education versus punishment. There was discussion about offenses that occur over the weekend and off of school grounds and how those would be dealt with. Ms. Angelakis stated the team was working on a discipline policy and Ms. Wright stated they would like to see that before completing their work on the policy. Ms. Wright also spoke about some online educational programs and stated that Sarah Kelly was working on that piece. Ms. Wright suggested an additional Subcommittee meeting before the next scheduled School Committee meeting to iron out any other details.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy DBC Budget Deadlines and Schedules – first read

Ms. Wright stated the policy was contained in the policy review and that Mr. Gilbert suggesting removing the date from the policy and using a timeline backwards from Town Meeting. Ms. Angelakis stated Mr. Castellarin had given her a timeline and that she would forward that.

Ms. Cooper shared that the Renewable Energy Committee had reported savings at the High School due to the solar panels. She stated that Dan Dragani felt there could be further savings and improvements as well and she felt that spoke more for the need to move on the Facilities Director.

Ms. Cooper questioned whether there was any report from the Finance Subcommittee. Ms Marshall said they were looking to book a Committee as a whole meeting in the future.

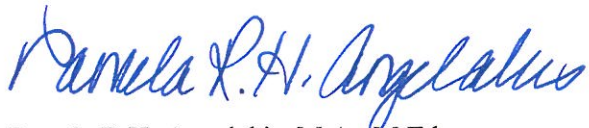
Mr. Delano stated he was working on getting an update from SEPAC.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:45 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Delano, seconded by Ms. Wright and voted by roll call vote to enter into executive session for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Ms. Wright – yes; Mr. Delano – yes; Ms. Cooper – yes; Ms. Marshall – yes.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
/pan

11/9/15

Date: