

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
May 19, 2014

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Ted Delano, Chairman; Ms. Carin Marshall, Vice Chairman; Ms. Amy OConnor, Ms. Gargi Cooper and Ms. Suzanne Wright. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools and Wayne White, School Business Administrator.

Mr. Delano 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 some background on each student and introduced Hadley School 4th grade students Priya Cooper and Maeve Hitchcock.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

Mr. Delano requested a motion to move up New Business in the agenda.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to move Item X - New Business up in the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Renewable Energy Committee - Neal Duffy

Mr. Duffy came forward to speak about what the Renewable Energy Committee has been working on and gave the Committee an overview of some of its projects, including the Middle School weatherization work. He spoke about the coordination of projects with Town Engineer Dan Dragani and stated he was happy that Town Meeting had passed the potential facilities consolidation and hoped that would realize some potential savings as well. He added that the Renewable Energy Committee hoped to come back before this Committee to present a more detailed plan in the near future. Mr. Duffy also commented that he hoped the Committee would appoint someone now that Mr. Delano was in the role of Chairman. He stated it helps to make the communications happen quicker. Ms. OConnor questioned whether Mr. Duffy was part of the group which manages the co-generator and solar panels at the High School. Mr. Duffy stated he was not but gave an overview of how the solar panels work and further spoke about the issues with the co-generator. Ms. Angelakis spoke about a recent meeting with the town and updated the Committee on the status of the co-generator and efforts to make it operational. Mr. Duffy added that again speaks to the facilities consolidation where the town side and schools are involved.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. OConnor commended Mr. Pearse and all the students who participated in "Chicago." She added she was very impressed with the performance. Ms. OConnor further added that she felt it was important to recognize how much time Ms. Angelakis has spent managing infrastructure issues with regards to Hadley and that she felt that there was a loss of time spent in the education of our children due to managing these issues. She added it was in no way a criticism but she felt that while everyone is debating the need for new school buildings she felt it was important to recognize the time spent by Ms. Angelakis on building issues.

Mr. Delano reminded all that the TV auction began this evening and wished the senior class a safe prom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Delano requested to amend the May 12, 2014 minutes to reflect a change to the motion to adjourn. The amendment shall read "Mr. Delano requested a vote to move into Executive Session. He informed the Committee he would be recusing himself from the vote and attendance in Executive Session due to this employment."

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the meeting minutes of May 12, 2014 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SHS Student Recognition

Ms. Angelakis called forward William Green, a sophomore at SHS and read his biographical information and congratulated him for being nominated to Congressman Tierney's Congressional Youth Cabinet and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition for his accomplishment. Ms. Angelakis also called forward Matthew Zimmer to join William Green for recognition of their third place win at the state Science Fair. Matthew and William gave an overview to the Committee of their project and Ms. Angelakis presented each with a Certificate of Recognition. Ms. Angelakis also called forward Olivia Forman, a junior at SHS and gave the Committee Olivia's biographical information and presented her with a Certificate of Recognition for her work as a member of the Anti-Defamation League, as well as for receiving the Derek Sheckman Teen Leadership Award.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Food Services Contract

Mr. White gave an update on the current Food Services Contract which will expire in June. He explained that a request for proposals went out and that he has an upcoming walk-through at the high school for potential food service companies. He hoped to return on June 2nd with a recommendation. He reviewed the current process used by Chartwells as well as billing policies. There was discussion regarding collection of outstanding lunch funds as well as utilization by families of the company's website for payments and Ms. Angelakis stated collection is ongoing and that Maureen Kellett is on top of it. Ms. OConnor questioned whether anyone other than large companies ever place bids. Mr. White explained typically it was larger food service providers who have established practices and systems. Ms. Marshall questioned whether it was typical to get three or four proposals, that she hadn't remembered that in the past. Ms. Angelakis stated that the last few years would have been extensions to the current contract and not a new bid proposal year. Ms. Wright questioned whether the District was required to accept the lowest bid. Mr. White said it was not. Ms. OConnor asked how many years the new contract would cover. Mr. White stated it would be three years with an option for extensions. Mr. Delano thanked Mr. White for the information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Subcommittee Update

Enrollment of non-resident teacher's children attending SPS policy review

Ms. Marshall stated they had a few meetings with representatives from the union and that they were all in agreement that maximum protection needs to be in place for the District and that because it is contained in the union contract they are committed to having a policy in place by the fall. She added that she had a draft that would be forwarded to the Committee, however it was not ready for first read. She stated it would be forwarded to Counsel for review and hoped to have it available as a first read at the June 2nd meeting.

Review of Pregnant Student Policy - vote required

Ms. Marshall stated it had recently come to their attention that the existing policy for pregnant students needed to be reviewed. She added the way the current policy reads is that pregnant students would be permitted to continue in school but would need physician's certification and the state has said the District can't word it that way. Ms. Marshall passed out a proposed amendment to the policy which would be in compliance with state regulations and doesn't require a doctor's certification. Ms. Angelakis stated that in the recent DESE program review it was revealed that the current policy violates student rights. Ms. OConnor questioned the current policy and stated she felt like having a policy perpetuates a very archaic notion about women and their bodies and what they're allowed to do. Ms. Angelakis questioned Ms. Wright and her research of the policy in other districts. Ms. Wright stated of the 25 districts she looked at she only found one that didn't have a pregnant student policy. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the need for the policy and Ms. Angelakis stated that the District is being cited for not being in compliance. There was further discussion regarding the word "permitted" within the policy and Ms. Marshall removed the words "are permitted to."

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Wright to revise the pregnant student policy, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Marshall added they could seek further guidance during the policy review.

Background Check Policy

Ms. Marshall stated the recent SAFIS background check which the Committee has recently voted on needs to be finalized in a policy. She added that MASC has put model language together and it just needed to be modified to reflect the votes taken by the Committee. She stated she would forward the draft to each member and may have it as a potential first read on the June 2nd agenda.

Ms. Wright stated they had discussed June 2nd at 6:00 for Communications Subcommittee and she would notify Mrs. Caron on scheduling that meeting.

Ms. OConnor stated she had spoken briefly with Mike Gilbert regarding the Finance Subcommittee and having each member be included in the subcommittee. She stated Mr. Gilbert was on vacation and she would follow up with him on how to make it work. Ms. OConnor also addressed some follow-up regarding Communications and a recent email from Karyn Walsh and potential participants for a forum.

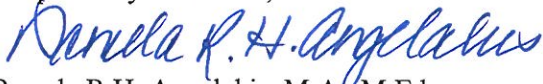
Mr. Delano questioned if there was any follow-up with Mike Gilbert regarding the infrastructure being included in a group subcommittee. Ms. OConnor stated she would speak with Mr. Gilbert on that issue as well. Mr. Delano hoped that would be wrapped up at the next meeting as well. Ms. Cooper questioned whether infrastructure would be a subcommittee of more than two members. There was a discussion regarding subcommittee versus task force groups. Ms. OConnor stated she hoped for clarification by the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:32 p.m., it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Date:

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