

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
June 2, 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.

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 Stanley School 4th grade students Tate Greenfield and Kyle Spear.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Wright stated it had been a great graduation weekend.

Ms. OConnor commented on the graduation as well and stated she was impressed with all of the students who spoke.

Ms. Cooper congratulated all the graduates and said she was sorry she couldn't attend.

Ms. Marshall commented on the graduation and thought everyone did a great job and that it was great to see Tristan Smith and Chris Thomsen receive their diplomas.

Mr. Delano echoed everyone's thoughts on graduation and congratulated the Class of 2014. He also sent an early congratulations to the new families who will be joining the District in September in Kindergarten. Mr. Delano also commented on the transitions from elementary to Middle school as well as Middle to High School and encouraged anyone with questions or concerns to contact either Mr. Murphy at the Middle School or Mr. Rozmiarek at the High School. Mr. Delano also added that he and Ms. OConnor would be meeting with the DOR for the town-wide review on Tuesday, on Wednesday there would be a meeting with the town-wide Crisis Team and on Thursday the Committee would meet with Mike Gilbert for training. He also added that June 8th was the Clarke Country Fair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the meeting minutes of May 19, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Angelakis requested to remove item B from the agenda. She explained that there was still a week remaining to receive bids on the Food Services contract and she hoped to have more information at the next meeting. Ms. OConnor questioned who was involved in the process. Ms. Angelakis stated it was happening through the Business Office and added that the District held a mandatory walk through and only one company attended. Ms. OConnor questioned whether attendance was mandatory and Ms. Angelakis stated it was.

Clarke Principal Appointment

Ms. Angelakis requested to take item C out of order and gave the Committee some background on the search to replace Lois Longin as principal of Clarke School. She introduced Mrs. Jennifer Hunt as the next Clarke School Principal. Mrs. Hunt came forward and thanked Ms. Angelakis for inviting her to the meeting. She stated she was thrilled to be here and has heard wonderful things about District. She stated she already has felt very welcomed and looked forward to rolling up her sleeves and getting started. Ms. Angelakis thanked her for coming and welcomed her to the District.

TELL Survey

Ms. Angelakis gave the Committee some background on the TELL survey and explained that each of the schools' results were represented except for the Middle School which received less than the 50% minimum response from staff. She highlighted points from each of the schools' results. She added that each school would review the results and use them to have further conversations with staff. Ms. Angelakis stated discussion on the results could be put on a future agenda to give the Committee time to review the reports. Ms. Wright questioned whether anything stood out in the reports. Ms. Angelakis stated several things did and those would be the subject of discussions with the Leadership Team. Mr. Delano requested to add the item to the next meeting agenda to give the Committee time to review. Ms. Wright asked if the teachers were obligated or if there was any incentive to respond to the survey. Ms. Angelakis stated there was not. Ms. OConnor questioned how helpful the survey has been in the past. Ms. Angelakis stated that it has been very helpful in starting conversations. Mr. Delano stated the item would be put on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Ms. Angelakis further reported on an item which Mr. Delano spoke about earlier, transitioning from elementary to Middle School. She stated she had a conversation with Mr. Murphy and Mr. Calichman regarding this year's step-up day. She acknowledged that while Thursday's visit will be shorter than in the past years, they talked about doing something different over the summer and stated there would be an ice cream social for the incoming fifth grade as well as a school scavenger hunt to familiarize students with the building. Ms. Cooper questioned where the information would come from and Ms. Angelakis stated it would come over the summer from the Middle School.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Infrastructure Committee

Ms. OConnor gave an overview of her research into the proposed Infrastructure Committee. She explained that since the initial discussion with MASC it was her opinion that a new subcommittee wasn't a solution to the problem and there was a concern that members should not get involved in the daily control of the District and that members need to be mindful of our roles as a School Committee, while still making certain issues a priority. She felt that if the meetings the Committee has are meaningful and there is continued positive interaction with the Superintendent, it would negate the need for an Infrastructure Subcommittee. There was lengthy discussion regarding interaction with the Superintendent as well as Town departments and a possible joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss goals. Mr. Delano discussed the subject of meetings over the summer and arranging potential dates. Ms. OConnor agreed and added she felt the Committee lost some momentum last summer by not meeting. Ms. Wright stated she would like to see the Communications Subcommittee meet more over the summer before the school year begins.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Enrollment of non-resident teachers - vote required

Ms. Marshall handed out the language for the first read for enrollment of children of non-resident teachers into the District. She explained that it was negotiated in the contract last year and that what the contract called for was simply that the teachers, by next school year, would be allowed to enroll their children on a space available basis. She added that the contract states that the spaces are identified by Superintendent and no part of that grievable. She added that it was understood that the Committee would have to come up with an overall policy that covered the enrollment but that the procedures and protocols for carrying out enrollment would be left to the Superintendent. Ms. Marshall added that the policy was first read and would be voted at the next meeting which would give the Committee and the public time to comment. There was discussion on impact on the District as well as special needs services which would not be covered or costs incurred by the District. Mr. Delano spoke about the financial benefit to the teachers and stated he had spoken with Mike Gilbert regarding the benefit being claimed by the employee. Ms. Angelakis felt that would be referred to the Business Office. There was further lengthy discussion regarding the wording of the policy and Ms. Marshall stated legal counsel had reviewed the wording. Mr. Delano suggested any questions be directed to Ms. Marshall for follow up at the next meeting and requested a motion to amend the agenda to reflect first read as opposed to vote required.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to amend the agenda item to reflect Enrollment of non-resident teachers - first read as opposed to vote required. The motion passed unanimously.

Background Check Policy

Ms. Marshall informed the Committee that she had contacted MASC about the proposed language and how to insert the votes taken by this Committee and she hoped to have a draft for the next meeting.

Ms. Wright gave an update for the Communications Subcommittee who met earlier today. She added they spoke of possibly having a community member involved as well as talked about monthly newsletters. Ms. OConnor stated they were working on ways to make people more aware so that there is less misinformation.

NEW BUSINESS

Liaison to Renewable Energy Committee - vote requested

Mr. Delano reminded the Committee that Neal Duffy had come before them last week and that the Committee needs to appoint a representative to the Renewable Energy Committee. Ms. Cooper stated she would be happy to volunteer.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to appoint Gargi Cooper as liaison to the Renewable Energy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Regionalization Committee - vote requested

Mr. Delano explained that Ms. Marshall has requested to be removed as the representative of the School Committee to the Regionalization Committee. Ms. Wright questioned how frequently they meet. Ms. Marshall stated it was approximately once per month. Ms. Wright stated she would be happy to volunteer.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to appoint Suzanne Wright as liaison to the Regionalization Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy for Subcommittees - vote requested

Mr. Delano explained the issue had come up during training that there should be a policy in place for forming Subcommittees. Ms. OConnor questioned whether it would come up during the policy review. Ms. Marshall thought it might. Ms. Wright suggested it be discussed at the Thursday training with Mike Gilbert. Mr. Delano stated he would entertain a motion to postpone the vote for a Policy for Subcommittees and it could be revisited if needed at a later date.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to postpone a vote for Policy for Subcommittees to a later date to be announced. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:15 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
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6/17/14

Date: