

## REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

January 21, 2016

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 Representative Will Green. Ms. Amy OConnor, Vice Chairman and Student Representative Matthew Zimmer 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 Hadley School 4<sup>th</sup> students Eliana Levine and Joshua Murphy.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There is none.

### COMMITTEE COMMENT

Will Green said the High School has mid-terms winding down this week and that winter sports are in full effect.

Ms. Wright said the girls' basketball team won a contest and were recently on 103.3 radio and as part of the contest the station DJ will be performing at an upcoming game. She also gave an update on the Article 6 Committee which presented the Collins Center Report to the Board of Selectmen. She explained that although the school wasn't specifically analyzed there was a portion which included it. She gave an overview of the categories of recommendations from the report and stated she would forward the draft to each Committee member. Ms. Marshall questioned whether the report should be scheduled to be presented. Ms. Angelakis stated she would like to see the final first. Ms. Wright added she wasn't sure it touched on the District enough for a formal presentation.

Mr. Delano stated he thought the events at the High School this week were handled well and wanted the community to know that the main priority is keeping the students safe. He also thanked the building principals for being in attendance and looked forward to their presentations.

Ms. Marshall echoed Mr. Delano's comments.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Marshall requested that item B be removed to have the title corrected. She requested a motion to accept the Consent Agenda with items A & C.

### MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Mr. Delano to accept Consent Agenda items A and C, the Regular Session minutes of January 7, 2016 and Warrant #'s 16-28, 16-29 and 16-30. The motion passed 4-0.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Angelakis thanked all of the building principals for being in attendance to present their School Improvement Plans. She invited Mr. Kowalski forward to begin with the high school.

Mr. Kowalski highlighted some of the goals within the plan which included increasing academic rigor, community engagement and communication, professional culture and school climate. He explained that he had recently added a weekly ConnectEd call for community updates, would be working with students to obtain input for the rest of the year as well as increasing faculty meetings to receive input from teachers. Ms. Wright questioned the other information within the packet. Mr. Kowalski stated the PowerPoint items were picked from the goals packet, but all were still being addressed. Ms. Angelakis added that she had directed the Principals to put together a highlight slide as opposed to presenting the same information as was in the packets. Ms. Wright questioned the progress of last year's goals and Mr. Kowalski stated some could still be in progress. There was discussion about ACT testing and Mr. Kowalski reminded of the parent night presentation upcoming. Mr. Delano thanked Mr. Kowalski for recognizing and supporting the at-risk

students within his goals. Ms. Cooper questioned the tardy issues with last year's new security system. Mr. Kowalski discussed things in place and expected a large reduction in this year's tardies. Ms. Angelakis agreed and stated she was happy with the work done on that issue.

Ms. Hunt came forward to present Clarke School's plan. She explained they were focusing on four goals including curriculum instruction and assessment in literacy and math, family and community engagement and student wellness/psychological safety. She explained their focus on the Reader's Workshop model and her hope to move into a Writer's Workshop model. She further outlined the goal of strengthening communication between school and families by hosting parent coffees for ELL families to help connect them to the school community and PTO. Ms. Angelakis commended Ms. Hunt on her work in joining the two groups. Ms. Hunt stated she was working to have the parents be more comfortable which in turn translates to the kids as well. Ms. Hunt further updated on recent ALICE drills as well as an off-site building evacuation. Mr. Delano commented on the first grade math website and hoped other schools were using it as well.

Mr. Murphy presented the Middle School plan and commented on administrative tasks of working with the High School to align the schedules in an effort to maximize offerings between the school as well as utilizing staff. He also updated on the family and community goal as well as rolling out social emotional curriculum within the building. Mr. Murphy further reported on ELA and Math areas and work to reduce students who may be in the warning or failure categories. Ms. Cooper questioned whether there was a connection between the Middle School and the 4<sup>th</sup> grades at the elementary levels to create an easier transition. Mr. Murphy stated there were and they were looking at ways to bring back more interpersonal discussions to identify student strengths and weaknesses as opposed to just paper reporting. Will Green commented on the schedule and making more time for band and chorus. Ms. Angelakis stated they have been looking at the schedules for a long time and working toward a better alignment.

Ms. Phelan presented the Hadley School plan and identified four priority areas which included work on writing across grade levels in looking ahead to PARCC, strengthening math skills, student wellness/psychological safety and assessment and data. She explained that teachers have been working vertically across grade levels to try and be more specific with writing as that is where it will connect to PARCC testing. She also detailed the student wellness/psychological safety goals and work being done by that team. Ms. Wright said she appreciated the benchmark information being contained in the report. Ms. Phelan stated the School Improvement Team meets regularly and their voices were strong in the plan.

Mr. Daniels reviewed the plan for the Stanley School. He spoke about student wellness and safety, literacy and STEAM goals. He reviewed the work that Mr. Hurley had done in regards to bullying and social emotional support of students. He detailed work being done on the literacy goal with a focus on reading as well as the STEAM goal and explained that Ms. Porter who is now the District-wide STEM teacher had done an inventory of supplies in the building and will be working to roll out the next generation science standards at all three elementary buildings. Ms. Cooper commented she appreciated the STEAM goal. Ms. Angelakis thanked all for their presentations and requested any questions be forwarded to her. She explained it was the job of the Committee to approve the plans so she felt it would be helpful to see the questions ahead of time before it is brought back for vote requested.

### **16-17SY School Calendar – first read**

Ms. Longin reviewed the draft of the 16-17 school year calendar. She explained they would be keeping Tuesday for staff meeting and early release days and said that after discussion and review they would be going back to the 12:00 dismissal time for early release. There was discussion about time on learning hours at the elementary and Ms. Longin stated they would review the hours and report back. Ms. Longin also commented on the Jewish holiday days in October and Ms. Angelakis stated they would be meeting with local rabbis to discuss the possibility of observing only one day for Rosh Hashanah versus two and stated while it may not change for this year it is something they discuss every year. Ms. Cooper questioned how other Districts deal with religious holidays. Ms. Angelakis stated there were a lot of discussions on the ListServ surrounding the holidays and that there doesn't seem to any pattern and they hoped for more information after their meeting with the rabbis. Ms. Longin reviewed the remainder of the months including early release, school vacation and conference dates. Ms. Marshall reminded it was marked as first read and said it should be reviewed before the next meeting for vote. Ms. Wright added she would like some further information on time and learning and the Rosh Hashanah dates. Ms. Angelakis said it would be brought back for final review and vote.

**Clarke School Building Update**

Ms. Angelakis gave an update on the Clarke ABA project. She explained there had been some delay due to the fire alarm panel and stated she would get a more accurate timeframe on finalizing the project and would pass that along as soon as she had more information.

**Director of Facilities Update**

Ms. Angelakis stated that four final candidates had been forwarded to Mr. Younger and herself and that they hoped to get the position filled ASAP.

*At 8:31 p.m. Mr. Delano left the meeting.*

**SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMININSTRATOR**

**FY17 Budget – first read**

Mr. Katz reviewed budget highlights and explained they were able to fill the gap identified at the previous meeting. Ms. Marshall questioned the salaries covered under the Gelfand Fund and whether the District would need to absorb those salaries after next year. Ms. Angelakis stated it would. Ms. Cooper questioned the shared library teacher position and Ms. Angelakis stated they were looking at Ms. Frasca’s position as well to potentially have 2.0 positions shared among the elementary schools. There was discussion regarding fee increases and Ms. Cooper brought up parent concerns over fee increases in athletics. Ms. Angelakis stated she was not comfortable looking at an athletic fee increase at this point. Mr. Katz reminded all that the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting would be for the public hearing on the budget.

**SUBCOMMITEE REPORTS**

**JKAA Physical Restraint of Students – vote requested**

Ms. Wright explained that policy JKAA had been reviewed at the previous meeting and the version to be approved had been reviewed by Ms. Blumstein and Ms. Raymond and reflected the MASC policy.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve policy JKAA Physical Restraint of Students. The motion passed 3-0.

**EBC Emergency Plans – vote requested**

Ms. Wright explained the change to the Emergency Plans which includes a review process as well as updated legal references. She stated it could be voted at the next meeting if there were no issues.

**JICFB Bullying Prevention – vote requested**

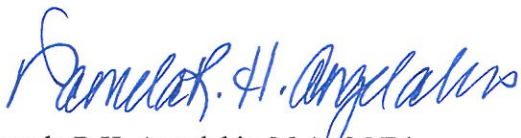
Ms. Wright explained there was some confusion regarding the version of the policy which was online. She stated she did not think that action was needed as the correct version was online. Ms. Angelakis stated she would verify that the link to the correct policy was online.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

At 8:53 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Wright and voted by roll call vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining.  
Ms. Wright – yes; Ms. Cooper – yes; Ms. Marshall – yes.

Respectfully submitted,



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