

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

June 25, 2015

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Carin Marshall, Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Vice Chairman, 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. Ted Delano and Mr. Evan Katz, School Business Administrator were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Cooper commented on Mrs. Phelan's state of the school address at Hadley last week and said it was very informative and that parents appreciated the update. She also said that she missed the recent production of Peter Pan, but heard great things about it and thanked the YMCA for partnering with the schools. Ms. Cooper also spoke about a recent communication from Mr. Murphy regarding band as well as the 4th grade visit with parents to the Middle School. She heard great feedback from parents on how it went.

Ms. Wright thanked Ms. Longin for the recent PD Fair. She added she excited to hear feedback from the teachers and Ms. Longin.

Ms. OConnor said she was sorry to have missed the PD Fair, but she heard great things from some teachers who were genuinely excited about it and felt it was time well spent. She also thanked Ms. Longin for putting it all together.

Ms. Cooper stated she also attended the PD Fair and thought it was very well put together.

Ms. Marshall stated she attended as well and said she was amazed at all the projects and looked forward to Ms. Longin's update.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. OConnor to accept Consent Agenda containing the meeting minutes of June 8, 2015 and Warrant #'s 15-48, 15-49, 15-50, 15-51 and 15-52. The motion passed 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

METCO Academic Report 14-15SY – Jason Greene

Ms. Angelakis explained that she received the 2014-2015 METCO Academic Report and introduced Jason Greene to come forward to outline the report for the Committee.

Mr. Greene came forward and gave the Committee an explanation of the background of the METCO program as well as his position within the program and District. Mr. Greene also introduced Latoya Ogunbona who is the program's Academic Support Specialist and was present. He also stated Miriem Arachiche is the program's bus monitor and support person. He stated that the purpose of his presentation was to share with the Committee the information he provided to Ms. Angelakis on the academics as well as the activities that the students in the program participate in.

Mr. Greene gave an overview of what his plans and thoughts for the program were going forward. He explained that he set an expectation that moving forward students will work hard at their achievements. Mr. Greene gave a summary of the academic progress of the students. He reviewed each grade level 5-12 and explained there were students in the elementary levels, but their grades were harder to quantify as opposed to the 5-12 grading system. He also reviewed the extracurricular activities that the students are involved in. Ms. Angelakis pointed out the difficult position Mr. Green came into last year following the death of Tara Sisco and commended him for his work. She stated she was very impressed with the statistics and thanked them both for their hard work.

Ms. OConnor questioned how a determination was made for students entering the program every year. Ms. Angelakis explained that a lot of work is done with the Administration to locate space and that it was easier to focus on the Middle and High School. Mr. Greene agreed and there was discussion about students entering at elementary versus high school level. Ms. Ogunbona said it was more beneficial for students to enter the younger grades, but understood the difficulties for the District as well as students and their families.

Ms. Wright commended Mr. Greene for his work with the program. She wondered how the Committee and the community could do more to support the program such as with host families. Mr. Greene said he spent this year focusing on the students and figuring out his new role and that he planned to grow the host family program next year. Ms. Angelakis agreed and felt that was an area that could be strengthened.

Ms. OConnor commented on the great numbers of students who have repeated successes. There was discussion on building relationships with students and keeping them engaged. Ms. Angelakis thanked Mr. Greene and Ms. Ogunbona for the report and their work in the District.

Extended Day Update

Ms. Angelakis gave some background on the proposed changes to the Extended Day program. She stated she met with Mr. Katz, Ms. Longin and Ms. Stone and revisited the changes and explained there was an adjustment to the tuition increase and that they would only be adjusting rates by \$1.00. She added that as to the issue of programming changes, she felt there may have been a wrong choice of wording in that it was meant to be planned activities for students who wanted to participate. She further added that she and Ms. Longin met with the Extended Day staff and that they were still working on some issues, but they recognized the value of the staff working in that program.

Professional Development Fair Update

Ms. Longin explained that the PD Fair was a culmination of the work that had been done through the year by each of the groups and that the Fair served to showcase the projects and interaction between staff. She stated there were 216 staff who participated ranging from Pre-K to 12th grade. She added that after the Fair, staff were called to the auditorium to complete reflection sheets which were returned to her. She said that she had read through all of them and that they provided for a lot of valuable information and that it was great to see what others found informative in their colleague's projects. She added that one question was would it be done yearly and that she felt this year was a baseline and they felt that for this type of fair to be effective it would be done once every three to four years. Ms. Angelakis thanked Ms. Longin for all of her work.

Ms. Cooper wondered if a lot of the projects were in digital format and could be used that way to share material. She added she was impressed with the interaction between the teachers. Ms. Longin stated she knew a lot of teachers were sharing through Google docs and that Mr. Kaczynski was in the process of obtaining Google accounts for all staff, but she would look into that option more and felt it was a great idea to share projects. Ms. OConnor added that anything that is exciting for teachers becomes exciting for the student and that she would love to track the projects into next year. Ms. Longin said that was a great suggestion that she would give it some thought too.

Ms. Angelakis concluded her report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Student Transportation in Private Vehicles - vote requested

Ms. Marshall explained that there was some confusion about the policy and what currently existed. She stated she had spoken to legal counsel last week to clarify the policy. She was advised that one did exist and that it may need to be tweaked somewhat, but that the District wasn't lacking in a formal policy. She further explained that the policy only needed to cover travel that was school related during the school day. That it would not cover travel after school to sports practices, etc. There was discussion regarding permission slips. Ms. Wright felt the policy was fine with a small wording change and expressed a desire for there to be one uniform permission slip. Ms. Marshall stated they would make the small changes and bring it back at the next meeting for approval. There was discussion regarding the permission slips and where they are housed and Ms. Angelakis stated they would be worked on through her office.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Marshall reminded when we went through policy review there was a list of policies that needed to be looked at separately. She stated that those attached were for first read. Ms. Angelakis stated that Mr. Delano expressed an interest in being on a Committee for ADD – Safe Schools if such a Committee was formed.

AD Philosophy of SPS Policy Review – first read

Ms. Wright she received a suggestion from Mike Gilbert regarding policy AD and that his suggestion was it read more of a mission or vision and that his suggestion was to keep two paragraphs and to delete the bullet points. There was a discussion on what should be included and Ms. Wright clarified that if it was a vision it needs to be a vision versus a policy. Ms. Angelakis suggested the Policy Subcommittee go back and rework the wording. Ms. Marshall suggested emailing input to Ms. Wright.

ADD Safe Schools Policy Review – first read

Ms. Wright stated Mr. Gilbert said that Committee stated in the policy should be identified. Ms. Angelakis stated it read differently than the District Crisis Team and that this would deal with day to day safety operations within the District. Ms. OConnor questioned if this policy was in existence. Ms. Wright stated it was but no Committee exists. Ms. OConnor felt it was more operational and didn't feel a Committee member needed to be involved. Ms. Marshall suggested Ms. Angelakis come back with her recommendations.

Ms. OConnor reported for Communications and stated that it was suggested at the Tri-Chair meeting to put together resources on getting messages to the community and Ms. OConnor felt that this Committee would be interested and would keep everyone up to date in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation – SEF/Light Up Swampscott

Ms. Angelakis stated she had worked with SEF on the Light Up Swampscott campaign and that they had committed to fill any gap up to \$10,000. She thanked them for their support and requested the Committee to accept the gift of \$7,965.00

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. OConnor to accept a \$7,965.00 donation from SEF for Light Up Swampscott. The motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Angelakis also explained that the money raised through the UNO program was \$3,002.24 and requested the Committee accept this gift as well toward the purchase of the projector.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to accept a \$3,002.24 donation from UNO Restaurant for Light Up Swampscott. The motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Marshall recognized Phillip Berault for public comment and explained the purpose for public comment. Mr. Berault commented it was his first time attending a meeting and commended them for all of their work. He came forward with a question regarding the changes to the Extended Day program. Ms. Angelakis explained the District met with the Extended Day staff and that information had been released prematurely. She explained there would be some changes but not to the extent first released. She added they would continue to iron out the issues and would make any changes slowly as to not disrupt the program or the students. Mr. Berault stated he felt it was a great program with wonderful, caring staff and he thanked Ms. Angelakis for answering his questions.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:55 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
/pan

8/3/15

Date: