

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

March 25, 2014

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:07 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Amy OConnor and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools, Wayne White, School Business Administrator, and Christopher Thomsen, Student Representative. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann was absent.

Mr. Kraft 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 girl and introduced Hadley 4th grade students Emma Poska and Angelina Calsimitto.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Tristan Smith commented that in reviewing the budget he noticed an item for asbestos removal and wondered if Ms. Angelakis could give an update to that item. Ms. Angelakis stated that it is part of a long-term plan in which the District requests money and is allocated certain amounts for removal. She added that it is not dangerous and that all areas are covered within the buildings that still have it. Ms. OConnor added that the new budget format allows people to see more detail and will be more aware of where monies go.

Ms. Marshall commented on the recent National Honor Society presentation and added that she was struck that it seemed to be overwhelmingly female students and wondered whether that was normal. Mr. Rozmiarek commented that he felt that it varies from year to year and added that there were a large number of girls in this year's class.

Ms. OConnor stated the Finance Subcommittee has made a lot of progress on the budget and she would add more during Subcommittee reports.

Mr. Delano stated that the Committee has been very busy and had recently met to work on goal setting. He added that the Finance Subcommittee recently met on the 24th and it was a very productive meeting. He stated that Ms. Angelakis and Mr. White have done a tremendous amount of work on the budget. He reminded all of the upcoming STEM night as well as the "Swampscott's Got Talent" show and encouraged all to attend.

Mr. Kraft commented on STEM night as well and added that there are activities for students from K – 12 and encouraged all to come. Ms. OConnor questioned whether an invitation had been extended to Mr. Gelfand and Ms. Angelakis stated she had.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the meeting minutes of March 11, 2014. The motion passed 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

President's Volunteer Service Award – Moira Landry

Ms. Angelakis and Mr. Rozmiarek welcomed Moira Landry and asked her to come forward. Ms. Angelakis read a bio of Moira to the Committee and presented her with a certificate of recognition. Mr. Rozmiarek presented Moira with the certificate from President Obama for her volunteer work within the community.

6th Congressional High School Art Show – Second Prize, Colleen Curtis

Ms. Angelakis stated that Colleen couldn't be present this evening but announced that she placed second among submissions of 124 pieces from 25 high schools at the 6th Congressional High School Art Show.

2014-2015 School Calendar – vote requested

Ms. Angelakis explained that the only change to the calendar from the last meeting's draft was that the full-day professional development day previously scheduled for January 5, 2015 was moved back to January 2, 2015 allowing students to return on Monday, January 5, 2015. Ms. Angelakis added that she had received an email from a parent who expressed concerns with the elementary schools and middle school having the same dismissal time. She explained that issue would be looked at over the summer as it didn't affect the calendar dates. Ms. OConnor mentioned that she had received some correspondence from parents regarding the Jewish holidays. She added that she hadn't done much research but that it was brought to her attention that in Newton, which has a larger Jewish community than Swampscott, they only give a single day for Rosh Hashanah and she wondered if the issue had ever been explored or if a vote on the final calendar should be held until there was some time to do a poll among staff and families for feedback. Ms. Angelakis stated the issue had come up in the past. Tristan Smith commented that each of the last two days of school were Mondays depending on snow days and that may have weight for families if losing one day of the holiday meant gaining three into their summer vacation. Ms. OConnor added maybe there was no harm in leaving it but to possibly explore the issue for the following school year. Ms. Angelakis stated she knew that many in the community were anxious for the calendar to be approved and further that she would prefer to devote time to gather the information. Mr. Kraft stated we could proceed with the vote and start the process into gathering some additional information. Ms. Angelakis agreed.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar as recommended. The motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Angelakis stated the calendar would be posted as soon as possible.

Coordinated Program Review

Ms. Angelakis explained that the DESE would be conducting its Coordinated Program Review in May and gave the Committee an overview of the process. She explained that during this review they would look at the District's Special Education, civil rights documents and ELL. She thanked the Committee for authorizing the hire of a new ELL teacher this year because she felt without that the District would not be in compliance. She added at the conclusion of their review they would present the District with a report and findings which the District would have one year to correct any deficiencies. Ms. Angelakis also read a draft of a press release which would go out in early April as the DESE does solicit input from the community in its review. Ms. OConnor questioned if the District had been reviewed in the past. Ms. Angelakis stated it had and she believed it takes place every five to six years.

SAFIS Program

Ms. Angelakis gave an overview of the new state SAFIS program and included deadlines for employees to be fingerprinted under new state laws. She explained at the next Committee meeting they would need vote on a list of positions and whether they would need to be included and fingerprinted or not. Mr. Delano questioned the mechanism on how an employee would be dealt with should something arise from the fingerprinting. Ms. Angelakis referred to the process for CORI's and that they are dealt with on a case by case basis. Ms. OConnor questioned whether this process took place of CORI's and Ms. Angelakis stated it was another piece in addition to. Mr. Delano expressed concern regarding the procedure if something came back on a teacher who had been a long-time employee. Ms. Angelakis stated there was not an "I've got you" intent to the law and it would be up to the District on a case by case basis. There was discussion regarding clarification of paperwork and locations for the testing. Ms. Angelakis stated that Mrs. Caron and Mrs. van der Burg were scheduled today and would be bringing back more information and she would advise the Committee.

Clarke Principal Search

Ms. Angelakis distributed a draft of the timeline for the principal search. She gave an overview of the search committee as well as described how the process would proceed. Mr. Delano questioned the date assigned for the community interview as being in conflict with a scheduled School Committee meeting. Ms. Angelakis stated those dates were fluid and could be changed as needed. Ms. OConnor added she was disappointed that there were no internal candidates. Ms. Angelakis explained she had some great conversations with some internal people that she would expect to be in leadership positions in the future but that the timing wasn't right for them at the moment.

Budget FY15 Update

Ms. Angelakis updated the Committee on the FY15 budget. She stated they met with the Finance Committee last week and will meet again next week. She explained that there was a deficit that they are working on closing and that she had recently met with the Leadership Team to outline proposed reductions. Ms. Marshall questioned if there was a list of the proposed cuts and Ms. OConnor felt it was too soon to make those public as they were still in process. Mr. Delano added that a lot of work has been ongoing and he hoped to schedule another Finance Subcommittee meeting next week to answer some questions. Ms. OConnor added that the gap that Ms. Angelakis is trying to close doesn't include what they hope to add to the budget.

Ms. Angelakis concluded her report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Kraft referred to the last meeting in which the Committee had voted to appoint Mr. Jackson to another term as representative to the North Shore Vocational School District School Committee. He explained that in processing the paperwork it was discovered that Mr. Jackson's term hadn't in fact expired and in speaking with legal counsel it was suggested that the cleanest way to address it would be to rescind the appointment and leave in place his current appointment.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. OConnor to rescind the previous vote of the Committee to appoint Mr. Jackson, but leave in place his current appointment. The motion passed 4-0.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Delano stated that they would be setting a new date for the Finance Subcommittee. He further stated that Communications was working on the chain of command and Ms. Angelakis added they had a new draft they hoped to present at a future meeting. Ms. OConnor added they were working on simplifying it.

Ms. Marshall stated the policy review had begun and once the first stage was complete she expects they will report back for input.

Mr. Kraft stated the Negotiations Subcommittee was in the process of cleaning up language for consistency in regards to the teachers' contract.

NEW BUSINESS

School Committee Calendar Dates for remainder of SY13-14 and for SY and next year 14-15

Mr. Kraft explained that the Committee would be moving its meetings to Monday nights as one of the incoming members works on Tuesdays and Monday was the best day all around for other members. Mr. Kraft read the proposed dates where were included in members' packets.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Mr. Delano to approve the meeting dates for the remainder of SY13-14. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Kraft also stated there were proposed dates for SY14-15 and adjustments could be made if necessary in the future.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the meeting dates for SY14-15. The motion passed 4-0.

Consolidation of Facilities Management for Schools and General Government

Mr. Kraft explained that the town has been exploring ways to consolidate services, especially for functions which happen on both the school and town government sides which would open us up to better services and cost savings in the future. He added that there would be an article on the Town Meeting warrant to authorize consolidation of facilities management. There was discussion regarding how the process will work and how it will affect the budgets of each department. Ms. Marshall stated she would like to hear some more information before voting. Mr. Delano suggested possibly having Mr. Younger attend a meeting to explain the information further. Ms. Angelakis stated that Mr. Younger had drafted a presentation and that it might be nice to have him come present the information. Mr. Kraft stated he would speak to Mr. Younger and it was decided to postpone the vote.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to defer action on the consolidation of facilities management for schools and general government. The motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:00 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Delano to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela R.H. Angelakis 4/15/14

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

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