

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

October 8, 2013

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Dr. Garry P. Murphy, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent, Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Ed Cronin, Business Manager, Tristan Smith, Student Representative. Ms. Amy OConnor was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann congratulated the cross country team on their recent trip to Vermont. She also read a letter which had been circulating on the internet regarding MCAS and looking at the students versus the test.

Mr. Delano stated that Ms. OConnor was absent due to a family emergency and added that their thoughts and prayers were with her. He also stated that there would be a public forum held on October 24th for the beginning of talks regarding the succession of the Superintendent. Mr. Delano stated he met with the Removable Energy Committee to get a dialogue going with Ms. Angelakis and Mr. Younger regarding the generator. He further recognized the teachers present receiving their Professional Status awards and Mr. Ratley on his Educator of the Year award.

Mr. Smith also congratulated Mr. Ratley and spoke of his trip to Nicaragua with him through World Challenge. She spoke about the many opportunities at SHS on a global level that many may not know about.

Mr. Kraft reminded all of the walk to school event on October 8th and also the Taste of Swampscott event on October 13th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Kraft and seconded by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann to accept the meeting minutes of September 24, 2013, as amended.

Mr. Kraft requested the minutes be amended to delete the word "the" in the second sentence before "Dr. Murphy" of the paragraph entitled "Lori Erlich, State Representative" and that the minutes be accepted as amended.

VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed 4-0.

SMS/SHS – Field Trip to Beijing, Xian and Shanghai

Dr. Murphy stated the information for the trip was in the Committee packets and that he was requesting the Committee approve the trip.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Mr. Delano to approve the SMS/SHS field trip to Beijing, Xian and Shanghai.

Ms. Marshall asked if the District had ever traveled to China. Ms. Albert stated it had, two years ago. Mr. Kraft questioned the cost of the trip and Dr. Murphy stated there would be fundraising done by the students and that the trip would cost \$2,727 per student.

VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Educator of the Year - Christopher "Dr." Ratley

Dr. Murphy called for Mr. Ratley to present the Educator of the Year award. He stated that Mr. Ratley was richly deserving of this award and that he was a very, very talented and dedicated teacher and that the District very fortunate to have him in Swampscott. He thanked Mr. Ratley for being a part of the District Staff. Mr. Ratley thanked the District for the award and stated he was very lucky to have such a great group of students and teachers to teach and work with in Swampscott.

Recognition of Teachers awarded Professional Status

Dr. Murphy explained that Professional Status is an important milestone in ones career and that the District is pleased to announce the following teachers had achieved Professional Status. He added that the District is committed to these teachers and hoped they were with us for many, many years. Dr. Murphy awarded Professional Status to Stanley School teachers Christine Collins, Liam Hurley and Erin Larkin. Hadley School teachers Heather Carr, Meghan Gibbs and Julie Lever. Middle School teachers Mary Flaherty and Kimberly Moore. SHS teachers Melissa Albert, Peter Bush, Lauren Skelton, Michelle Yanofsky and Michael Moulison.

MCAS Results given by building principals

Dr. Murphy explained that each of the building principals would present a report for their respective buildings and that a more detailed report would be given for the parents at a later date at each individual site. Ms. Angelakis added that at the last meeting she gave an overview of the District results but that a lot of work was done at the building levels. She added as was cited in the document that Ms. Speranza-Hartmann read at the beginning of the meeting that the scores are attached to students and are not simply numbers. Dr. Murphy recognized the three elementary principals to come forward to present a report which represented all three schools. Mr. Daniels began by presenting the grade three ELA results. Mrs. Longin presented grade three Math scores and stated improvement was shown due to the new enVision math program as well as interventionists at all three schools. Mrs. Rivers explained grade four ELA which results weren't as great as the two but were still higher than the state when advanced and proficient were added together. Mr. Daniels presented grade four Math scores which advanced and proficient were ahead of the state but added work needed to be done at that level. He added that the District-wide math team is working on alignment with math MCAS to look forward to that improvement on those scores. The team also presented what they felt was the District elementary strengths and weaknesses and there was discussion around professional development to address the weaker areas. Mrs. Rivers concluded by adding that the children do very well and reminded again that children are more than a score or number and that social and emotional health is more than any MCAS score.

Dr. Murphy introduced Mr. Murphy from the Middle School. Mr. Murphy presented the scores for the Middle School and compared each of them to the previous grade level scores. He also gave an overview of the student growth percentiles which he explained was individual growth from year to year. He also added that the growth from year to year shows that students are being prepared to move on to High School. He further gave an overview of the STE scores which he explained the test is given in 5th and 8th grades and that each test covers the previous three years of science curriculum and he explained ways which the teachers provide refreshers for students. Mr. Murphy also presented the highlights and areas of focus.

Dr. Murphy introduced Mr. Rozmiarek from the High School. Mr. Rozmiarek began with results from the ELA test which he explained compares yearly but with different students. He did explain however that the numbers were staying consistent year to year. Mr. Kraft stated that he liked seeing the number trend over time to see the consistencies. Mr. Rozmiarek also presented the Math scores which he pointed out a dip in combined advanced and proficient but the scores were still above stage averages. He added that he would like to see more of the needs improvement scores move over to proficient. In the Science scores he explained there had been a big jump from 2010 to 2011 but that most scores had stayed consistence since then. He also explained that teachers are alert to the failure numbers and work to get those students ready for graduation. Mr. Rozmiarek also provided a chart which compared Swampscott's combined advanced and proficient to other like school districts and also presented his observations for analyzing the High School's scores. Mr. Rozmiarek further announced that he had awarded 57

John & Abigail Adams scholarships to seniors which consists of free tuition to any state school if the student chooses and the qualifications for the scholarship are directly related to their MCAS performance.

A parent in the audience questioned how Massachusetts stands on a broader scale among different states. Dr. Murphy stated that often Massachusetts does very well and is often very high throughout the country. He added that he felt parents should be very pleased but not satisfied with the results and that it was important we're doing all the right things for our students. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann added that it was difficult to compare state to state because the tests are different. Dr. Murphy agreed and added that statistical analysis is helpful but that you have to know what you're actually looking at. Mr. Kraft stated that he would encourage having trend data available and that it was good to see five years or so over time to get a sense of if we are improving or not and that information would be helpful in the future. He thanked all for their presentations.

ELL STAFFING

Dr. Murphy updated the Committee on a recent meeting with ELL staff. He explained that there is a need for an additional ELL teacher, preferably a Russian speaking teacher. He outlined some of the state requirements and explained that in some instances the District does not meet the requirements and in others where they do meet them, it is at a minimum. He explained that in meeting with the teachers a need for an additional teacher became obvious due to an increase in ELL population. He stated he was requesting the approval of the Committee to post and hire an additional ELL teacher. There was discussion with Mr. Cronin regarding the possible expense of the additional teacher and Dr. Murphy stated he was confident he could fill the position within the current budget.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Mr. Delano to add an additional ELL teacher, preferably fluent in Russian. The motion passed 4-0.

Dr. Murphy stated the position will be posted and he would begin the recruiting process.

Personnel Report

Dr. Murphy presented an updated personnel report to the Committee.

Crossing Guards

Dr. Murphy updated the Committee on information received from Rose Cheever regarding the crossing guards and stated it was his recommendation to add an additional crossing guard at Walker Road and Banks Road. There was discussion regarding cost of the additional crossing guard with Mr. Cronin. Mr. Kraft stated he felt it was an operational issue but a good thing. Mr. Cronin stated he felt there may be some additional money within that line item. Dr. Murphy agreed to go forward with the additional crossing guard.

MASC Nov. Conference

Dr. Murphy presented information regarding the MASC Annual Conference to the Committee. He stated if the Committee was interested in sending a member that MASC asks that one person be elected as designee. Mr. Kraft stated members had attended in the past and thought it was a good thing if anyone had the flexibility to attend. Dr. Murphy left the information for the Committee to think about.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Delano stated he had updated in committee comment. Mr. Kraft questioned if the Finance Subcommittee was working on a new financial report. Dr. Murphy stated a new format would be seen at the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Marshall updated that she would be moving over to the Regionalization Committee for Ms. O'Connor starting at their next meeting.

Mr. Kraft updated on the Negotiations Subcommittee and stated the attorneys were working on language and that he hoped to have a draft shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

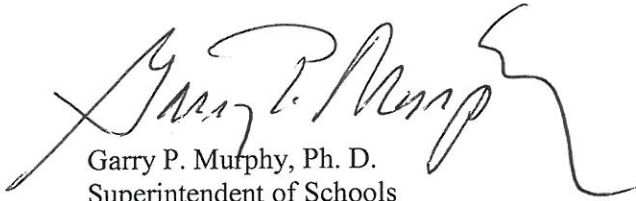
There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:35 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Garry P. Murphy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Garry P. Murphy, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Approved: Oct. 8, 2013