

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

September 9, 2013

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Rick Kraft, Chairman; Mr. Ted Delano, Vice Chairman; Ms. Marianne Speranza-Hartmann; Ms. Carin Marshall and Ms. Amy OConnor. Also Present: Dr. Garry P. Murphy, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent, Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Ed Cronin, Business Manager, Mr. Kevin Kaczynski, Technology Director, Christopher Thomsen and Tristan Smith, Student Representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. OConnor thanked everyone as being a new member of the Committee for giving her guidance and direction. Mr. Kraft stated it was great to have her input on the Committee.

Mr. Delano commented on the first full week of school and stated all seemed eager to start moving forward. He congratulated Mr. Chris Ratley on his award of Teacher of the Year. He further thanked Dr. Murphy and Ms. Angelakis for rectifying the situation with the field house and further wished all the fall sports teams and clubs good luck for the upcoming year.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann as well welcomed everyone back to the first full week of school. She also thanked Ms. Angelakis for bringing Calvin Terrell back to speak to the District during the full day Professional Development Day and stated it was a great way to start the new year. Ms. OConnor echoed Ms. Speranza-Hartmann's comments and stated that speaking as a parent she heard many good things about the day.

Ms. Marshall reminded the community about the upcoming public forums for the School Building Committee which would be held on 9/10; 9/12 and 9/18 at the High School and welcomed all to attend. Mr. Kraft added that these forums would be the public's chance to be heard. Ms. O'Connor asked if Ms. Marshall would like the School Committee members to attend and Ms. Marshall stated all were certainly welcome. Mr. Kraft encouraged the Committee to attend at least one meeting.

Mr. Thomsen stated it was great to be back in school.

Mr. Smith added to Mr. Delano's words about Dr. Ratley and stated that he went on a recent school trip to Nicaragua with Dr. Ratley and that he was most deserving of the Teacher of the Year award. He added that he thought the first day of school went well and that the seniors did what was asked of them. He further passed around pictures from the cafeteria and commented that he felt that it was very full and questioned capacity. He also added his concerns regarding the loss of the librarian and asked whether that would be revisited during the year. Mr. Kraft thanked him for bringing the issues to light and that others had mentioned the lack of a librarian as well. Dr. Murphy stated he would speak with Mr. Rozmiarek about the cafeteria issue.

Mr. Kraft welcomed everyone back in the new school year. He also thanked Matt Strauss from the Board of Selectmen for attending.

Ms. OConnor added that the first regionalization committee meeting would be held on Thursday and she would report back with any news.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION:

It was moved by Mr. Delano and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the meeting minutes of August 13, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Murphy commented on opening day and reports he received at the Leadership Team meeting and stated that openings at all schools went relatively smoothly. He stated that Ms. Angelakis delivered new visitor logs and badges to all schools. Ms. Angelakis stated that the idea came from the Crisis Team and that all schools were now uniform. Dr. Murphy also updated on his meeting with Rose Cheever surrounding residency issues and stated that Detective Cheever was working with the building principals to investigate any issues.

Dr. Murphy also added he would be meeting with parent leaders across the District and would report back on any concerns and issues that arise from those meetings. In conjunction he also stated he hoped to organize future Parent Forum meetings.

Dr. Murphy commented on reports which the Committee receives and stated he would be providing a monthly financial report which is more of a snapshot of where each school stands in the District as well as reporting on revolving accounts and a District personnel report. He stated he felt it was import for the Committee to be informed of the status in the District and that reporting was very fluid and could be added or changed.

FY13 Closing Report

Dr. Murphy asked Mr. Cronin to present the FY13 closing year report. Mr. Cronin highlighted some of the details and pointed out a change to the school psychologist line item and explained there was a drop off from guidance and an increase in psychology due to how staff was assigned. He also commented on the savings in the SPED out of district placements. Mr. Cronin also updated the Committee on an issue with the meter connected to the solar panels at the high school which was not functioning correctly and resulted in additional charges from National Grid. He further explained the meter had been fixed and there should not be an issue going forward. Ms. OConnor questioned the co generator issues as compared with the problem with the solar panels. Mr. Cronin explained they were different issues. There was further discussion regarding the increase in the electric bill to National Grid. Mr. Delano suggested possible discussions through the Board of Selectmen and their relationship with National Grid. Mr. Strauss commented that the Committee should speak with Mr. Younger and added that he had been pushing for synergy between the Boards and Committees within town to utilize combined town resources. Ms. Speranza-Hartmann questioned ways to prevent this from happening in the future. Mr. Cronin explained that accounts are tracked month to month at each building to watch for future and past trending of bill amounts. Mr. Kraft questioned the line item of adjustment counselors and psychologist and asked if additional personnel had been added. Mr. Cronin explained that there was no additional staff, it was just a change in the way they were accounted for.

Personnel Report

Dr. Murphy explained that the first report was in the Committee's packets and was as he had described to them earlier.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. OConnor stated that they would be setting up meetings and hope to have a financial update once a month and are working to firm up dates. She added that there was nothing to add for the Communications Subcommittee but they hoped to schedule a meeting in the near future.

Ms. Speranza-Hartmann stated they would be scheduling meetings for Policy and Grants. She asked Mr. Delano if he had received any dates from Mike Gilbert to meet with the Committee and had he had not. There was discussion on setting up a policy and training session with Mr. Gilbert and it was agreed they would contact Mr. Gilbert to get potential dates.

Mr. Kraft updated on the Negotiations Subcommittee and stated they had another session scheduled next week and hoped to get it wrapped up soon and that he would report further in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Professional Development

Ms. Angelakis gave an update to the Committee of the full-day Professional Development day held with staff which included a presentation from Calvin Terrell. She stated that the feedback that she received from the teachers and staff was wonderful and that she felt that it gave everyone a chance to breathe and then move forward into the new year. Dr. Murphy stated the reason he wanted Ms. Angelakis to report was because of how well I worked out and that his first reaction was that he was honestly not excited about the program but that as it turned out he felt the District was in a better position to move forward and get the things done that needed to be accomplished.

M.O.U. (SPS, Swampscott Police Department and Essex County D.A.)

Dr. Murphy explained to the Committee that whenever there is a change in Superintendents there needed to be new signatures for the M.O.U. Mr. Kraft explained that some members of the Committee have seen the M.O.U. but that the new members may not have. Dr. Murphy explained that it was a good way to establish a team for those that involve police and courts with the schools. He stated it was reviewed with the Leadership Team and they also agreed it was a helpful arrangement.

Mr. Kraft requested to add an item to the agenda and requested a motion to add appointment of a representative to the Renewable Energy Committee.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to add to the agenda the appointment of a Representative to the Renewable Energy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kraft explained that the Renewable Energy Committee came in last spring and was seeking to coordinate communication between its Committee and the School Committee. Ms. OConnor questioned whether the representative was needed to attend meetings or simply be a contact person. Mr. Kraft stated it was more a contact person to bring issues to the School Committee's attention and vice versa. Mr. Delano volunteered to be the School Committee representative.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Speranza-Hartmann and seconded by Ms. Marshall to appoint Ted Delano as the School Committee Representative to the Renewable Energy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

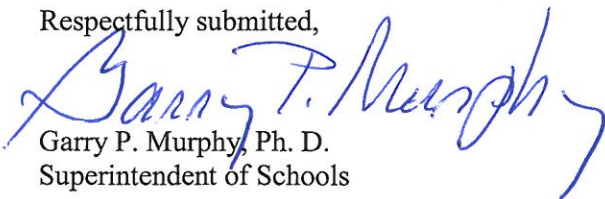
Mr. Delano added that Kopelman and Paige was available to come in for an interview at the Committee's next meeting date. He also stated he would like to contact the Hanover Group who is involved in the development of the JRC site to see if they could come in and report. Mr. Kraft stated it may be useful for them to be contacted to express the Committee's concerns and see if they are available for a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:08 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Speranza-Hartmann, seconded by Ms. Marshall and voted by roll call vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to non-union negotiations and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Mr. Delano – yes; Ms. OConnor – yes; Mr. Kraft – yes; Ms. Speranza-Hartmann – yes; Ms. Marshall – yes.

Respectfully submitted,



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

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