

## REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

May 12, 2014

Amended

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. Ted Delano, Chairman; Ms. Carin Marshall, Vice Chairman; Ms. Amy OConnor, Ms. Gargi Cooper and Ms. Suzanne Wright. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools; Wayne White, School Business Administrator; Christopher Thomsen and Tristan Smith, Student Representatives.

Mr. Delano 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 student and introduced Clarke School 4th grade students Charlie Locke and Camy McCathern.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Marshall said goodbye to Tristan Smith and Chris Thomsen as it is their last meeting. She congratulated them and wished them the best. She also welcomed new members Suzanne Wright and Gargi Cooper to the Committee and stated she hoped the team continues to do good things in the future.

Ms. Wright thanked all for welcoming them and said she was excited to start the process and learn from all and the community. She also recognized Will Green and Matt Zimmer, two sophomores at SHS who recently placed third in the state science fair. She added that it was impressive in that it was the first time that SHS had attended and the students were able to make it to third place. She added that it might be nice to highlight students and staff's achievements at the meetings as was done with the pledge and mission statement.

Ms. Cooper thanked all for welcoming her as well and said she was excited to join the process and was looking forward to working on different things. She added that she recently attended the poetry contest at the Library which had over 300 contestants.

Ms. OConnor stated she was glad that Mr. Delano was sitting as Chair and that she felt they had been through a great past year and is looking forward to moving forward with the new Committee.

Mr. Delano also wished Chris and Tristan good luck in the future and stated their input was refreshing to the Committee. He also welcomed Ms. Cooper and Ms. Wright and said he looks forward to working with them. He reminded the community of the forum for the three finalists for principal at Clarke School on May 13th, the Clarke Country Fair on June 8th, the upcoming Cable Club TV Auction, May 19th to May 22nd; and the play "Chicago" at the High School on May 15th to 17th. He reminded all students and staff that the end of the year is approaching and he hoped all would finish strong.

Mr. Delano asked Ms. Cooper and Ms. Wright to give the community a little information on why they decided to run for School Committee.

Ms. Cooper stated she is a parent of three students at Hadley School and a family Nurse Practitioner. She is a large community advocate and has worked on the PTA at Hadley and always involved in hearing what was going on in the District and decided to run when the opportunity came up.

Ms. Wright has four children in the schools and is also a former Hadley parent. She stated she was involved as a community representative to Hadley before she had children in the system. She feels that it is a great place to raise children with a great school system. She added she is active in town politics as well as volunteering in the

schools. She currently teaches reaching at KIPP Academy in Lynn and felt now was a good time to progress into something more.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. Cooper to move up item VII B in the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SHS Student Recognition**

Ms. Angelakis stated that the next couple of meetings she would be recognizing some of the District's students for their accomplishments. She called forward Zach Levenson, a junior at SHS and read his biographical information and congratulated him for being nominated to Congressman Tierney's Congressional Youth Cabinet. She also called forward Austin Sagan, a senior at SHS, gave the Committee an overview of Austin's accomplishments, and congratulated him for being awarded the 2014 North Shore Community Heroes Award.

### **ASSIGNMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Mr. Delano gave an overview of the function of subcommittees. Ms. OConnor suggesting moving the discussion of Assignment of Subcommittees under item IX, Subcommittee Reports. It was agreed.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Wright to move Item IV to be discussed under Item IX. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to accept the meeting minutes of April 28, 2014 and May 6, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **High School TV Auction - May 19th to May 22nd - Local Channels 15 & 40 - Mr. Reid**

Ms. Angelakis invited Mr. Reid to come forward to talk about the TV Auction. Mr. Reid explained that the auction helps to fund the annual operating budget for the Cable Club and that in his first year the auction raised approximately \$1,000 and last spring it was up to \$15,000. He added this year would be the 15th year. He explained that it would run from May 19th through May 22nd and was a great learning experience for the students. He invited all to contact him to sponsor the auction or donate auction items.

#### **Recognition of Student Representatives**

Ms. Angelakis called forward Tristan and Chris and recognized them for their dedication and professional service to the School Committee. She added that she looked forward to following their accomplishments and wished them luck. Ms. OConnor asked each of them where they would be attending college. Chris will attend Syracuse and Tristan will attend Fairfield.

#### **Clarke School Principal Update**

Ms. Angelakis stated there would be a community forum with the three finalists on Wednesday, May 13th. She added there would be site visits to each potential candidate's school in the coming weeks and that she expected a decision shortly after. Ms. Angelakis encouraged parents as well as staff to attend the forum.

#### **Hadley School Update**

Ms. Angelakis gave the Committee an update and advised that she would like to meet with Deacon Andy from St. John's Church to discuss any further arrangement. She added that the District has short-term emergency evacuation plans but no long-term plans. There was discussion regarding the District Crisis Team and the Town's Crisis Team. Ms. Cooper questioned if the District had a P.R. person and Ms. Angelakis stated it did not but that she had an idea she wished to discuss with the Communications Subcommittee. Ms. Angelakis stated they would be revisiting the recent events and protocol for future situations.

**Personnel Report**

Ms. Angelakis reviewed the personnel report which the Committee received in its packets.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. OConnor stated the Finance Subcommittee met earlier today and that the new members have the updated budget report which would be online as soon as possible. Ms. OConnor referred to a pie chart which Mr. White stated was in draft form and would be distributed as soon as it was finalized. Ms. OConnor said the most interesting piece to her breaks down the budget in full and she wished to point out that central office staff consists of only 8% of the total of the 81% budget assigned to salaries. Ms. OConnor added that she had done some research and was looking into the possibility of having a five-person non-voting finance subcommittee in which all members could attend and share information. She felt it would be more time effective for Ms. Angelakis as well. She added they would need some guidance on how to proceed but wished to look further into the possibility. Ms. Angelakis gave an update to the budget which includes a weekly check of payroll and accounts payable. She added there had been a freeze to spending since February. Ms. Wright questioned what was included in the freeze and Ms. Angelakis stated it was critical need only.

Ms. Marshall gave an update to the Policy Subcommittee. She explained that Mike Gilbert had all of the information for the policy review. Ms. Wright stated she had looked at the information online and thought it was a good use of time and money to have the review performed. Ms. Marshall said she expected the review to take ten months or so.

Ms. Marshall also reported for the Negotiations Subcommittee and stated the contract with the Teachers' Union was signed. She said there was some language that still needed to be cleaned up and that would be looked at in the fall.

Mr. Delano stated that the Communications Subcommittee would set a date for their next meeting. Ms. Angelakis stated she had submitted the chain of command to them and wanted to talk about another possible idea.

Ms. Wright questioned whether the Grants and Student Life Subcommittee was still in existence. Ms. OConnor thought it had been disbanded. Ms. Marshall stated it hadn't formally been disbanded. There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether the Grants Subcommittee should fall under Ms. Angelakis as opposed to the School Committee and it was agreed to disband the current Subcommittee and have a new subcommittee under Ms. Angelakis. Ms. Angelakis said anyone interested in joining the Grants Subcommittee could contact her by email.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. OConnor to disband the current Grants and Student Life Subcommittee and to have it fall under the Superintendent's responsibilities with the assistance of members of the community. The motion passed unanimously.

**ASSIGNMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Mr. Delano stated with respect to the Communications Subcommittee he would be stepping down and Ms. Wright would fill that spot with Ms. OConnor as Chair and Ms. Wright as Vice Chair. Ms. OConnor requested not to be Chair and the positions will be reversed. Ms. Cooper questioned how the Subcommittees interact and Mr. Delano gave a brief overview of their functions and responsibilities. There was a lengthy discussion on response to communication from the community.

Mr. Delano said that he would remain on the Finance Subcommittee for the present time with Ms. OConnor. He wished to follow through with the product they had been working on but would possibly step down at the beginning of next year's budget process to allow a new member to step in. There was further discussion on the possibility of the five member non-voting committee.

Mr. Delano stated Ms. Marshall would be the Chair with Ms. Cooper as the Vice Chair on the negotiations Subcommittee.

Mr. Delano stated Ms. Marshall would be the Chair and Ms. Wright as Vice Chair of the Policy Subcommittee. He added that Ms. Speranza-Hartmann would volunteer as well due to her a being a part of that Subcommittee in the past.

Mr. Delano said that Ms. Marshall would remain as the Committee representative to the MSBA.

Mr. Delano stated that Ms. Speranza-Hartmann was the prior Committee Liaison for Special Education and Ms. Angelakis explained that liaison would meet with members of the SEABoard and communicate back to the School Committee. Ms. Wright stated she was interested but was also interested in the infrastructure plan. There was discussion regarding the Infrastructure Task Force and there was lengthy discussion regarding the coordination of infrastructure along with the town side of government. Ms. OConnor questioned whether that had been discussed at the Tri-Chair meetings and Ms. Angelakis stated it has. Mr. Delano returned the discussion to the issue of the liaison for Special Education. Ms. Cooper stated she would volunteer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Delano requested a vote to move into Executive Session. He informed the Committee he would be recusing himself from the vote & attendance in Executive Session due to his employment.

**MOTION:**

At 8:47 p.m. it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Marshall to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect. Collective bargaining may also be conducted - Threatened Litigation - Extracurricular/Athletic Suspensions - discussion would have detrimental effect on School District's position. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Cooper -- yes; Ms. Marshall -- yes; Ms. OConnor -- yes; Ms. Wright -- yes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela R. H. Angelakis*

*5/21/14*

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

Date

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