

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
February 23, 2015

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Carin Marshall, Vice Chairman, Ms. Suzanne Wright and Ms. Gargi Cooper. Also Present: Lois Longin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Student Representative Ian Crimmins. Absent were: Mr. Ted Delano, Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools and Student Representative Megan Russo.

Ms. Marshall explained that two students were invited to come and lead the pledge of allegiance and read the Mission Statement of the District. She gave the Committee some background on each student and introduced Hadley School students Sydney Langton and Steven Lin.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Wright said she hoped Megan Russo would be in attendance to report on how the Model Congress trip went. Ian Crimmins stated he had attended and that it went very well. Ms. Wright questioned how the program is doing and Mr. Crimmins said he felt it was getting smaller. Ms. Wright said she hoped more kids would get involved.

Ms. Cooper said that she saw Hadley teacher Kellee Boudreault at My Brothers Table this past week with the girls basketball team and thought that it was wonderful to see them there getting involved.

Ms. Marshall noted that Mr. Delano and Ms. OConnor were not present tonight, but that the three members do constitute a quorum and that the meeting could be held as scheduled.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Wright questioned who was in charge of warrants before Mr. Katz starts his position. She commented that the warrants weren't loaded into the drop box. Ms. Longin stated Mr. Castellarin was still involved and she would check with him.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to accept the consent agenda. The motion passed 3-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NAEYC Accreditation (Clarke & Hadley)

Ms. Longin explained that the District first got involved with the NAEYC Accreditation because it receives money from the state for the Kindergarten program. She stated that all three elementary schools have been NAEYC accredited. She added there were letters in the Committee packets for Clarke and Hadley and that Stanley had also been accredited, but due to a payment issue their letter has not been received to date. Ms. Wright questioned who pays the membership fee and Ms. Longin states it does come out of the District budget.

Professional Development Update

Ms. Longin gave the Committee an overview of things which have been going on throughout the District since the fall and referred to a handout in the Committee's packets. Ms. Cooper questioned who was participating in the STEM standards. Ms. Longin stated there were staff from each building and that Ms.

Eisenberg, the art teacher had expressed an interest to be involved to bring in the arts to STEM as well. Ms. Longin also stated that the District PD Committee has met several times to discuss the PD priorities for the next school year. She invited the Committee to attend the PD Fair which they will be holding on the June 12th early release day and explained that there will be different projects on display which staff has worked on through the year. There was also discussion regarding balanced literacy and the comparison of using coaches vs. interventionists. Ms. Wright questioned whether that position was listed on the budget wish list. Ms. Longin stated it was. She also stated she would be going to Amesbury on March 5th to see the program in practice at their Middle School. Ms. Wright stated she thought all of the information was great and felt like great things were happening within the District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

School Committee Norms

Ms. Wright commented on the document which each member had reviewed and stated she hadn't heard back from Mr. Delano or Ms. OConnor on their thoughts. There was a lengthy discussion on goals and how they should be implemented. There was discussion regarding the website and communicating the information out to the public. Ms. Wright stated she would review the document and make further changes and bring it forward for the next meeting. Ms. Cooper suggesting putting it on the agenda as an action item to follow up at the next meeting for discussion.

Meeting date for joint meeting with School Committee & Board of Selectmen

Ms. Marshall stated that Mr. Delano was working with Matt Strauss to determine when the Selectmen were available and were willing to meet. She suggested if anyone had agenda items they could forward them to Mr. Delano.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

SC Policy – Section A / vote requested

Ms. Marshall explained at this section of the policy needed to be approved in accordance with the Compliance Review. She stated that Ms. Wright had provided a spreadsheet which outlined any changes to each subsection of Section A. Ms. Wright reviewed the changes which were recommended and explained that all of the changes have been made to the document which the Committee received in its packets. Ms. Cooper asked whether Ms. Angelakis had seen the changes. Ms. Wright stated she has. She further explained that there were a few that needed to be discussed, but that the entire Section A could be approved and those sub-sections pulled out for review at a later time.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cooper to accept Section A as amended and revised. The motion passed 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

2015-2016 School Calendar – First read/vote requested

Ms. Marshall suggested to have the calendar as a first read and to hold off on the vote for the full Committee. Ms. Longin explained that the Calendar Committee met to compile this draft of the '15-'16 calendar. She explained that due to the SEA contract they were unable to start school before the first Monday before Labor Day. She added there was discussion on starting earlier given the winter and snow days and that the union felt that could be brought up at the next collective bargaining session, but that at this time the contractual terms would remain. Ms. Longin reviewed the calendar dates and explained the change in the early release days being proposed as 12:30 versus 12:45. She added there would be a full day PD day on Election Day in November. She explained that other Districts have inquired into possibly doing combined PD days and stated also it works well with the Middle School as a polling place to have students out of the building. Ms. Marshall questioned whether there had been any discussions about having one spring vacation as opposed to the two. Ms. Longin stated it had been discussed as well as discussion of religious holidays. She added that those discussions could continue during the next round


of negotiations with the SEA. Ms. Wright expressed concern about going too late into June as those days aren't great for student learning and Ms. Cooper added that the buildings do get hot. Ms. Longin stated there wasn't a lot of choice due to what the contract states, but that it could be discussed for the '16-'17 school year. Ms. Cooper questioned the change in the early release and wanted to make sure there was no issue with time on learning. Ms. Longin stated she would go over it again with Mrs. van der Berg and if there were any issues it would be looked at again. Ms. Cooper also questioned the blizzard bags and whether that was discussed. Ms. Longin stated she knew that Ms. Angelakis had looked into that issue and that it may come up for discussion at a future meeting. Ms. Marshall stated the calendar would be put on the next agenda for further discussion and vote.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 8:41 p.m., it was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Wright to adjourn. The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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