

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
March 23, 2015

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B208 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Ted Delano, Chairman, Ms. Amy OConnor, Ms. Suzanne Wright and Ms. Gargi Cooper. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, M.A. M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools, Lois Longin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Evan Katz, School Business Manager and Student Representative Megan Russo. Ms. Carin Marshall, Vice Chairman, and Student Representative Ian Crimmins were absent.

Ms. OConnor 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 Clarke School students Sarah Leone and Aydan Wulf.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Ms. Wright said that she and Ms. OConnor attended the "Together in Harmony" concert and thought it was fantastic and that Mr. Pearse should be commended for a great show.

Ms. OConnor referred to Ms. Angelakis' weekly report and stated it was great to see that we have a great group of athletes who also have high GPA's. She also reminded all of the upcoming fundraiser for the Tara Sisco Metco Scholarship which will be held on April 12th. She also reminded all of Swampscott's Got Talent this Sunday the 29th and said she was looking forward to that. She also commented on recent fundraising at the Stanley School which provided two beds for homeless children and wondered if there was a way to collect information such as that from all the schools and share it with the community.

Megan Russo stated that she went to the recent STEM night and it was a really good night and had a great turnout.

Ms. Cooper added to Ms. OConnor's comments on community service and said she too would like to see that highlighted for the community.

Mr. Delano welcomed Mr. Katz to the meeting and to the District. He said he was excited to begin working with Mr. Katz. Mr. Katz said he had a great first day and that the staff has been very helpful and that he looked forward to working with everyone. Mr. Delano also spoke about Swampscott's Got Talent and reminded all that the money supports the Robotics program and the Class of 2015. He also referred to recent news that Coach Dembowski would be stepping down from the football program and stated that he would like to come together to think of a formal recognition from the Committee. Mr. Delano also commented on the National Honor Society program and stated it was a terrific night and congratulated all involved. He also reminded seniors that it's only March and they still need to finish strong to the end of the year.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. OConnor to accept the consent agenda.

Ms. Wright questioned the warrant item for principal training and whether it was routine for new principals. Ms. Angelakis stated it was and that it was written as part of their contract.

VOTE ON MOTION:

The motion passed 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

President's Volunteer Service Award – Moira Landry

Ms. Angelakis invited Mr. Rozmiarek forward to present the President's Volunteer Service Award. Mr. Rozmiarek stated he was happy to present the Presidential Volunteer Service Award to Moira Landry. He presented her with a certificate and a letter from President Obama and thanked Moira for all her hard work and for being a wonderful representative of Swampscott High School. Ms. Angelakis also presented her with a certificate from the School Committee.

AP Test Rule Change

Ms. Angelakis explained that the Committee had a proposal in their packets from Mr. Rozmiarek in regards to the AP test. She invited him to present to the Committee. Mr. Rozmiarek explained that the current handbook recommends, but does not require a student to take the AP test, he is proposing that it become a requirement. He explained that there is no risk to the students, but that it would enable the school to put it on their profile that we offer these classes and that students participate in the test. He explained the process which brought them to this decision. He also addressed the issue of the cost of the test which is currently \$91.00 and that they have already put together ideas for assisting students who may need scholarships for the test fee. Ms. OConnor questioned whether it could discourage some students from taking the AP class. Mr. Rozmiarek said that concern was raised, but that he thought overall it wouldn't have an overall effect. Ms. Wright questioned whether the tests were all offered close together. Mr. Rozmiarek stated they were usually within the first two weeks of May and the schedule is set by College Board. Ms. Wright expressed a concern about senior English and the lack of an Honors class. She explained that with her own student there's some stress involved with the AP class and lack of challenge of the CP1 class. She added that some Districts designate the class as Honors if a student elects not to take the AP test. Mr. Rozmiarek stated they were thinking of doing something like that with French, but thought they may run into a problem with that in English and planning to get a two for one in one class. Mr. Delano stated he was happy that there were plans in place for any financial hardship. Mr. Rozmiarek stated they already did and that wouldn't really change. Ms. Cooper questioned whether College Board came in to promote the AP classes? Mr. Rozmiarek stated they would be willing to do whatever the District wanted. Ms. OConnor suggested that for the parents as well. Mr. Rozmiarek stated guidance meets with students to review what they can handle individually. He also added that the test provides a better measure of teaching if kids are taking the test.

NEAYC Accreditation – Stanley

Ms. Angelakis stated that Stanley received their formal accreditation from NEAYC and also added that she had received information that Governor Baker is proposing to stop funding full day Kindergarten programs. She stated it is a concern and that she would request the public to contact their representatives to get the word out that that cut would be devastating to Districts. Ms. OConnor asked whether there was any timeline to that decision. Ms. Angelakis stated she had not heard anything concrete yet.

Enrollment of Non-Resident Teacher's Student(s) Procedure

Ms. Angelakis explained that the procedure which the District created for enrolling students of non-resident teachers was complete. She added that Mike Gilbert had explained that it was a procedure versus policy. She reviewed the policy and its guidelines for enrollment. Ms. Angelakis stated there were no new applications and Ms. Cooper asked when the deadline was. Ms. Angelakis stated they had until April 15th and at that point they would look at class sizes. Ms. Cooper expressed a concern about class sizes especially at the Middle School. Ms. Angelakis stated they would not increase class size with outside students.

Superintendent's Entry Report

Ms. Angelakis referred to her entry report and stated the Committee could review and submit any questions to her. She added that this report follows up her entry plan and this is a follow up as part of her induction plan. She added her report is meant to talk about the strengths and areas for growth as opposed to an action report. Mr. Delano stated that it could be added to a future agenda if needed and Ms. Angelakis stated she could put a power point together if there were any questions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

School Committee Protocols – vote requested

Ms. Wright stated the current copy was ready for signature. Ms. Angelakis added that the Committee should vote to adopt the protocols as well.

MOTION:

It was moved by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. OConnor to adopt the School Committee protocols. The motion passed 4-0.

Technology Survey Results

Ms. Longin introduced Kevin Kaczynski to introduce the members from each team who will present their school's results. He introduced Sue Comparato from the High School, Natalie Paine, Adam Scharfenberger and Elly Mullins from the Middle School and Janet Frasca from the elementary. Mr. Kaczynski explained that they had issued the survey to all faculty and staff, not administration, and explained that each group would review their results. Ms. Comparato gave an overview of the devices and spoke about the computer labs and carts available. She explained that the Foreign Language lab is not currently useable due to outdated technology. She reviewed the staff wish list as well. Ms. OConnor questioned curriculum based learning. Ms. Comparato explained teachers were requesting software to go with their curriculum. Ms. OConnor added she thought there were smartboards in every classroom? Mr. Kaczynski stated there were only 8 in the High School.

Ms. Paine reviewed the Middle School survey. She spoke about the use of the labs and carts and stated that more teachers would like the ability to work in their classrooms with carts. Ms. OConnor questioned the tech that the PTA purchased and Ms. Paine said she would get to that later in the presentation. Mr. Scharfenberger stated that the technology available in the Middle School is in very high demand and very frequently booked out far in advance. Ms. Mullins spoke about the chromebook pilot and explained how the 7th grade is utilizing them and explained that the kids seem more engaged and that it adds variety to the classes. She also said that other teachers have been interested in them and they would love to expand the program into other grade levels. Ms. Paine added that the lack of wifi and network stability is an issue at the Middle School. Ms. Wright questioned using chromebooks or converting to more cloud based software down the road. Ms. Paine stated that everything has its place and that the more talk about devices is better because it provides information in purchasing technology in the future but that there were immediate needs that need to be discussed.

Ms. Frasca gave an overview of the elementary responses. She spoke about the need for professional development and how to bring technology to curriculum. She also said she wants kids to be ready for the technology they will have at the middle and high school as its continually changing. She reviewed the comments from the teachers and agreed that she would like to see iPad carts available at the elementary levels. Ms. Cooper questioned the grade levels they would be used at. Ms. Frasca stated she would like to see them K-4. Ms. Cooper expressed concerns over screen time at the Kindergarten level and felt they should be very careful about elementary school aged children and their tech needs.

Ms. Angelakis thanked everyone for their presentation. Ms. Longin added it as a great survey and that they would next look at where to go from here and would come up with a tech plan to present. She added they would also be surveying Administrators and Administrative Assistants as well. Ms. OConnor questioned if there were any surprises in the survey. Ms. Longin thought it was that there was not a lot of interest in the "bring your own devices" as well as the amount of requests for tech professional development. Ms. Paine added it was nice to have validation for the District needs. Ms. Cooper questioned any grants that could be obtained for tech. Ms. Angelakis said that there are some state grants available but that they need the backing of the town. She added that the survey will help them figure out the direction and priorities for tech. Ms. Angelakis thanked all for their great presentations.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Cooper reported on the Joint Task Force Subcommittee and stated that Mr. Strauss had forwarded a timeline for the next steps and added that the next steps would be for Ms. Angelakis and Mr. Younger to draft an MOU to

be presented to the Board of Selectmen on the 15th and then to the School Committee. She added that Mr. Younger and Ms. Angelakis will also give an update at Town Meeting.

Ms. Wright stated they were waiting to hear back from Mr. Gilbert on policy. She added that she and Ms. OConnor had met with Ms. Angelakis to review a state of the school address for Town Meeting. Ms. Angelakis stated it would stem from her entry report.

Ms. OConnor said she would report back on Master Planning at the next meeting.

Ms. OConnor questioned the progress of the new school Task Force and whether there was any update on that. Ms. Angelakis stated she had hoped to have people selected and contacted this week. Ms. OConnor also questioned the Athletic Director position. Ms. Angelakis stated within a few hours of posting they had received 15 applicants. Ms. OConnor questioned if there were any internal or female candidates, Ms. Angelakis stated not as of yet.

Mr. Delano stated the Finance Subcommittee would schedule a meeting with Mr. Katz soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation – Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation/Light Up Swampscott

Mr. Delano requested a motion to accept a donation from Eastern Bank towards the high end projector for the High School.

MOTION:

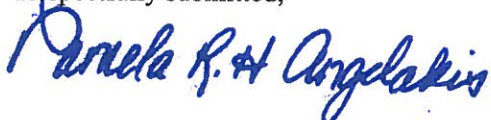
It was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to accept a donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Eastern Bank towards Light Up Swampscott. The motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

At 9:11 p.m., it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Ms. Cooper to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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