

Regular Session Meetings

February 12, 2020

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B129 at Swampscott High School commencing at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Gargi Cooper, School Committee, Ms. Suzanne Wright, Ms. Amy OConnor, Ted Delano, and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools, Martha Sybert, Business Administrator, Jean Bacon, Director of Teaching & Learning, Martha Raymond, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services, and Max McDonough, Student Reps. Greg Vinitsker, student rep was absent.

Public Comment:

NA

Community Announcements:

Ms. Wright thought the kids did a great job at the Visioning workshop.

Ms. Marshall mentioned the Visioning workshop went well. The students were great and her daughter loved doing it.

Ms. OConnor gave a shout out to school nurses dealing with so many people out sick.

Max McDonough mentioned that the Interact Club made valentines for seniors, the Bigblue network was introduced to students today, and tomorrow is a robot reveal.

Ms. Cooper came from the Sophomore parent night. She noted the great job done by Ms. Zotto-Barnum the guidance team. Ms. Cooper felt it was unfortunate that it was not well attended. Ms. Cooper heard concerns that the Educational Visioning workshop did not have a lot of elementary teachers. Ms. Angelakis noted that she had been speaking with Ms. Wright regarding the limited volunteers. Ms. Angelakis will hold her March 5th joint elementary faculty meeting at Hadley. The Education Consultant will meet with the teachers for their input. Ms. Wright suggested a Google form do some brainstorming ahead of the meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Ms. Angelakis' report will be posted on the Superintendent's Page under the Swampscott Public School's web page.

Ms. Angelakis provided an overview of the NEASC report based on their Collaborative Conference Visit on November 18 & 19, 2019. She reviewed the five foundational elements/standards areas and our ratings. We received four "meets" standards and two "does not meet". The "does not meet" were in Learning Culture 1B Vision of a Graduate which is in progress. The other "does not meet" score was under Student Learning for not having written Curriculum maps which are also in progress.

Ms. Angelakis reviewed the five priority areas and goals. She reviewed the numerous commendations such as the safe, positive, respectful, and inclusive culture at SHS, the integration of growth mindset in the culture of the school, and the multiple intervention strategies that support students' personal, social, emotional, academic, career, and college counseling needs.

The report contained three recommendations: Ensure building leadership team members feel like valued and important members of the school's leadership, Develop and implement a plan to re-open the library for daily student use, and Examine the leveling structure of the school in regards to access and equity for students.

Ms. Angelakis stated there were no surprises, a lot of positives and the report shows why we are retaining our students.

HS Library/Media Center: Ms. Angelakis reviewed the vision for the HS library/media center. They are looking at developing the space into a Center for Innovation and using the classroom inside the Library as a collaborative workspace supported by a Digital Learning Specialist.

Big Blue Network: Ms. Angelakis talked about the opening of the network for students throughout the school.

Ms. OConnor asked if the library vision could be communicated to parents since there has been so much concern and questions. Mr. Delano asked about the Vision of a Graduate. Ms. Angelakis stated that the next NEASC visit is Fall 2021. There is a Vision of a Graduate team at the HS. Ms. Angelakis feels it would be great to have outside support to move it along.

20-21 SY School Calendar/Early Release Days -Vote requested: Ms. Angelakis' presented the 20-21 SY calendar with note revisions since the first read.

Ms. Cooper asked if we were keeping an extra MS parent conference. Ms. Angelakis responded that the MOU with the MS teachers for an additional evening conference had expired so they will not be adding the extra meeting back in.

Ms. OConnor mentioned Rosh Hashanah falls on the weekend this year. There was a motion to amend the calendar to add a notation on Rosh Hashanah to the legend.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Marshall to accept the calendar & seconded by Ms. Wright

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Accelerated Repair Program for MS Roof - vote requested:

Ms. Angelakis provided background on the MS building assessment and rationale on why they were submitting the roof versus roof and windows or roof and boiler. She thanked Max Casper for his assistance with the statement of interest.

Ms. Wright brought up the boilers. Ms. Angelakis stated that they would have the final copy of the report tomorrow. Ms. Wright mentioned that the elementary solution may alleviate MS space issues so it makes sense not to touch some repairs yet.

Ms. Cooper asked if repairs were summer projects. The timing is still to be determined. Ms. Cooper noted the need for a joint Director of Facilities.

Ms. Cooper read the statement below:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 12, 2020, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Swampscott, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 13, 2020, for the Swampscott Middle School located at 207 Forest Avenue, Swampscott, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. The District is requesting funding for only a roof replacement project at this time. Large sections of the roof have experienced major leaks and water pooling. Many areas of the roof have been identified as saturated by an infrared scan. The town has had multiple roofing specialists examine the roof and recommend replacement; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. OConnor to submit the SOI & seconded by Mr. Delano.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Wright: yes

Ms. Cooper: yes

Ms. Marshall: yes

Ms. OConnor: yes

Mr. Delano: yes

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Documentation of Vote: Signatures were taken for Gargi Cooper, School Committee Chair, and Pamela R.H. Angelakis, Superintendent of Schools. Signature required for Sean Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Office.

School Business Administrator:

FY21 School Budget -Vote requested: Ms. Sybert noted the FY 2021 budget is \$30,690,887 a 3.6% increase or \$1,070,484 over FY20 budget. She reviewed the Unfunded Capital Request for technology (tech) which totals \$230,000.

Ms. Angelakis discussed the timing of the Capital request and the past process of tech funding. Ms. Angelakis knew of two requirements for Capital requests: over \$20,000 & a 3-year lifespan. In her mind, the tech requests fall under capital but were not submitted due to an August 2019 memo from the town administrator about tech and capital requests.

Ms. OConnor stated that she doesn't see how updating fiber is not a Capital request. Ms. Cooper reached out to the select chair to

understand how to handle the tech request. Ms. Cooper stated that SC does not have these funds. She feels the Mac Lab & fiber fall under Capital. Ms. Cooper stated there would be an opportunity to speak further at Tri-Chair. Ms. Cooper mentioned the concern with sustainability. She discussed the miscommunication and the directive without communication/discussion.

Ms. Marshall brought up the One to One Chromebooks Phase 1 as Capital. Ms. Angelakis discussed Chromebooks being tied to MCAS. Ms. OConnor stated it was a conversation with the Capital group.

Ms. Sybert stated that she has seen tech requests in both the Operating budget line and under Capital. Ms. Marshall asked if the Capital budget had already been reviewed. Ms. OConnor likes the idea of including tech in Capital.

Ms. Marshall stated that we are constantly told to plan but then rules change. Ms. OConnor noted that to some degree we held back tech from the Capital improvement request creating the limbo. Ms. Angelakis stated we held back the tech portion due to the memo. Ms. Cooper wants to be respectful of town leadership and the 2.88% but wants to support students.

Ms. Sybert stated that the \$1.9M Capital Improvement request submitted included a \$1.3M placeholder for MS repairs. They will be submitting for MSBA reimbursement so may not need all of the \$1.3M. The request included \$500,000 for a boiler at Clarke which is getting ready to go out to bid. Ms. Sybert stated there is an opportunity to have a more thoughtful capital conversation.

Mr. Delano asked when we had the last communication with FinCom. Ms. Angelakis stated that Monday evenings meeting was canceled. Ms. Cooper had discussed postponing the meeting with Tim Dorsey as the budget had not become the SC budget yet. They are tentatively scheduled to meet with FinCom on March 2nd.

Ms. Marshall expressed concern about timing. Ms. Wright questioned where they would get the money if not from Capital funds. Ms. Marshall mentioned asking for free cash at the town meeting. Ms. Wright discussed the computer needs for MCAS. Ms. Cooper stated that MCAS is the argument to Capital Improvement. Mr. Delano mentioned historically going back to the CIC in Nov/Dec. Ms. Marshall asked if people are feeling comfortable with the request. Mr. Delano noted he had wanted clean and concise but is Ok with it. Mr. Delano questioned the ERate for the fiber. Ms. Sybert stated that it is our belief that ERate will provide half of the \$100,000.

Ms. Sybert recommends approving the budget with the guidance and to amend the Capital request. Ms. Angelakis also recommends revising the capital request versus putting tech in the operating budget.

A FY21 Budget vote was requested on the following cost centers for the FY21 Budget: Administration, General Education, Special Education, School Facilities, Districtwide programs. Ms. Cooper entertained a separate motion on each cost center after each prior cost center vote.

Administration: \$1,364,939

Motion: It was moved by Ms. OConnor to accept the FY21 Administration and seconded by Wright.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

General Education: \$15,907,526

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Delano to accept the FY21 General Education and seconded by Ms. OConnor.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Special Education: \$9,439,463

Motion: It was moved by Ms. OConnor to accept the FY21 Special Education and seconded by Mr. Delano.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

School Facilities: \$2,295,202

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wright to accept the FY21 School Facilities and seconded by Ms. OConnor.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

District-Wide Programs: \$1,683,756

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wright to accept the FY21 District-Wide Programs and seconded by Ms. OConnor.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

FY21 School Budget: \$30,690,887

Motion: It was moved by Ms. OConnor to accept the FY21 School Budget and seconded by Mr. Delano.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Vote to amend the Capital Budget to include Technology needs in the amount of \$230,000.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. OConnor to amend the Capital budget and seconded by Ms. Marshall.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Ms. O'Connor asked when the Capital improvement would be completed. Ms. Sybert will revise the plan and bring it back to the SC for a final vote.

Mr. Delano asked about communication with stakeholders. Ms. Cooper stated that the issue is on the Tri-chair agenda for the 28th.

Chair:

A. Updates: Ms. Cooper noted that the February 26th SC meeting is canceled. The next meeting is on March 11th.

Sub Committee:

School Building Committee (SBC) Updates: Ms. Wright mentioned the Educational Visioning Workshop (1st of 3) that took place on Tuesday evening. The Visioning Workshop was run by New Vista Design and Lavallee Brensinger Architects. The next meeting is Tuesday after February break. There is a community forum on March 5th.

Ms. OConnor stated that the negotiation team had a productive meeting with SEA.

Consent Agenda:

Ms. Cooper read the purpose of the consent agenda and the items on the agenda.

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Motion: It was moved by Ms. Wright to accept the agenda & seconded by Mr. Delano.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Next meeting to be held on March 11, 2020

Adjournment:

Motion: At 8:35 p.m. It was moved by Ms. Marshall to accept the motion to adjourn & seconded by Ms. OConnor.

Vote on Motion: The motion passed 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.

Superintendent of Schools

/dmm

Date: 3-Apr-2020

Supporting Documentation:

 2019-SOL_Vote_Language_and_Guidance_School Committee updated.pdf 

 Agenda February 12, 2020, School Committee Meeting.pdf 

 Approved February 5, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final.pdf 

 DRAFT 20-21 School Calendar & Legend Rev 3 - 5-Feb-2020.pdf 

 February 5, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Final.pdf 

 SPS FY21 Budget 02.12.2020.pptx 

 Superintendent's Report to SC 2.12.20.pdf 

 Swampscott CC Final 2-10-20.docx 

 Swampscott HS FINAL CC Report 2-10-20.pdf 