

Swampscott School Committee
Regular Session Minutes
April 11th, 2024

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B129 at Swampscott High School in Swampscott, MA commencing at 6:02 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. John Giantis, SC Vice Chair, Mr. Glen Paster, and Ms. OConnor. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent.

The public will be able to attend virtually in accordance with the Executive Order issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020, and extended by Governor Healey through March 31, 2025, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L c. 304, Section 20. The meeting was recorded and broadcast live on the local cable station.

I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mr. Paster - Assistant Coach Robert Hopkins came to talk about the possibility of starting a girls wrestling team. Mr. Hopkins mentioned that it has become popular across the states. He is hoping that the school committee will discuss the possibility of adding it to Swampscott and maybe as a co-op team with Marblehead.

Mr. Giantis - Went to the Lived Experience working group which is involved in discussing how the money that Swampscott receives for the opioid epidemic is spent and how it can be involved in the schools.

Ms. OConnor - Added about the topic of opioid with her work on the committee with Jeff Vaughan, the Public Health Director of Swampscott. The committee's next step is to start the brainstorming process to look at a long term educational plan.

II. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Angelakis discussed how the METCO director search first round interviews have begun. She gave a shout out to Temi Bailey and Krista Lynch who ran a meet and greet for incoming families for the high school and middle school level. They both did a presentation and had staff and current METCO students there to meet with families. Ms. Angelakis then gave an update on the elementary school. Continued meeting with traffic consultants and was able to secure a fourth bus. Ms. Angelakis also showed an internal website to assist staff and teachers of the new elementary school. Ms. Angelakis also went over the future presentations for the school committee.

A. School Calendar/Early Release Days, First Read

Ms. Angelakis went over the first read of FY 24-25 school calendar. Ms. Angelakis pointed out that kindergarten visitation day was moved to September instead of June. Also that at the

elementary level only will have early release days for the first 2 days of school. Ms. Angelakis also mentioned that the district will be going back to fall and spring conferences. Ms. Angelakis also pointed out that the high school will be closed on election day, and they will go an extra day in June.

B. [State of Student Services Presentation](#) - Martha Raymond

Mrs. Raymond presented about the current state of the student services. Ms. Raymond reported that there were no tiered focus findings this year. Mrs. Raymond pointed out that Swampscott does have slightly higher numbers than the state, mostly at the Middle School. Some causes could be pandemic related, mental health, and the new tools for dyslexia. The graph shows that even though numbers have increased the staff has not. Mrs. Raymond went over the students who are multilingual learners. Pocketalk is a new system to help with translations and new student registrations. Mrs. Raymond went over the indicators under the DEA. Mrs. Raymond went over the drivers of the special education budget. Mr. Paster pointed out that the out of district costs are a large part of the school budget. Mrs. Raymond discussed that Swampscott has a strong Language based program and have invested into the program so that students don't have to tuition out. Ms. OConnor asked if we would be able to have students from neighboring schools come into our district. Mrs. Raymond wants to wait for the new elementary school to open and it would be something to look at. Mrs. Raymond went over the challenges of the department and how it is difficult to know with COVID if it was learning loss or would there have not been a learning disability if there wasn't the three year gap. Ms. OConnor gave praise to the department on how grateful she was with the lack of findings that other districts are facing. Ms. Angelakis also gave praise to Mrs. Raymond on her knowledge and dedication to the special education department.

C. [State of SEL and Mental Health](#) - Craig Harris

Mr. Harris presented about SEL and why we do it in schools. Mr. Harris pointed out that if you invest in prevention and mental health it makes financial sense to intervene early to prevent issues with students down the road. Mr. Harris discussed SEL at the elementary level and are using the Harmony program. Elementary teachers do a meet up Monday and use a lesson plan to teach students how to get to know each other. Mr. Harris also discussed that Mrs. Casper at Clarke school started a mindfulness program that teachers have implemented in the classroom. Mr. Harris then contented to talk about mental health screenings for grades 6-8 and 9 and 11 at the high school. Now with three years of data, he can now see trends. Mr. Harris pointed out he has seen a decrease in depression and mental health issues that he credits the school psychs and adjustment counselors at the school. Mr. Harris then discussed that the district participates in IDecide program that is an anonymous survey and the results were very similar to the data collected at the schools. Mr. Harris pointed out that they are doing a lot of training across the district with work around attendance, handbook revisions, executive functioning, incident debriefs, social emotional, MTSS work, and data in special education. Mrs. Raymond pointed out that these programs have identified students that were not on anybody's radar and were able to get help that was needed that they might not have necessarily known about which makes all this work worth it.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR

A. Updates - None

SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Bargaining Updates - Ms. OConnor gave an update that they are bargaining with the Administrative Assistants and Custodians unions.

B. Policy Update - Mr. Giantis is working on the policy updates.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

IV. ACTIONS AND VOTES (Votes and Donations)

A. [Award Food Service Management Contract](#) - Vote Required

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Paster and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the Food Service Contract to Chartwells. The motion passed unanimously.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda is designed to expedite the handling of routine and miscellaneous business of the District. The School Committee may adopt the entire Consent Agenda with one motion. At the request of any committee member, any item(s) may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion.

A. Regular Session Minutes - [March 28, 2024](#)

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Paster and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the Minutes from March 28, 2024. The motion passed unanimously

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:30p.m it was moved by Mr. Paster and seconded by Ms. OConnor to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date: April 25, 2024

	Previous
	20240411_Agenda_School Committee.pdf 
	Agenda - April 11, 2024 
	COPY FOR 24-25 School Calendar & Legend - NJKAug-15-2023.pdf 
	Copy of Food Service contract award memo.pdf 
	Minutes March 28, 2024 
	State of SEL/Mental Health Services April 2024 
	State of Student Services FINAL UPDATED 4.11.24.pdf 
	Superintendent's Report 04.11.24 Updated.docx.pdf 
	Untitled document 