

Swampscott School Committee
Regular Session Minutes
January 11, 2024

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held in Room B129 at Swampscott High School in Swampscott, MA commencing at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Suzanne Wright, SC Chair, Mr. John Giantis, SC Vice Chair, Mr. Glen Paster, Ms. OConnor and Ms. Carin Marshall. Also Present: Ms. Herrick-Stella Herrick-Stella, Director of Finance and Student Representatives Noelle Diehl.

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.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Ms.OConnor - None

Mr. Giantis - None

Mr. Paster - None

Ms.Marshall - None

Ms. Diehl - First time having midterms in a very long time. Raised over \$9,000 for the band.

REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

A. Discussion of [FY25 Budget Book](#)

Ms. Herrick-Stella presented the FY25 Budget Book presentation. She stated that the new school and transportation are the big line items in the budget. There will be lots of efficiencies with the new school, but there is a 19% tuition increase in special education. Ms.OConnor asked about \$200,000 additional transportation costs. Asked about reimbursement costs for special education for in district students. Ms. Herrick-Stella clarified that it's a savings of \$50,000 and we would not get that money reimbursed if we kept the buses separate.

Ms. Herrick-Stella then went over slides. Ms. OConnor asked what the extended day was, Ms. Herrick-Stella said it is the YMCA. Mr. Paster asked about Nahant revolving fund. Ms. OConnor asked about grant funded positions , and ESSER grant if those positions will be absorbed. Ms. Herrick-Stella said some will be. Mr. Paster said he is uncomfortable with dipping into circuit breaker funds. Ms. OConnor said that she is tired of the town not discussing the tax levy with the town. Ms. Herrick-Stella suggested Suzanne write an email to call the tri chair together. Discussed if this budget was what the district actually needs versus what the budget is. Ms. OConnor said that by underfunding our tax levy, a change in leadership with the select board. Suzanne agreed. Ms. Herrick-Stella moved on to compensation for the budget. This slide shows

that even though the district are giving increases, the percent increase is kept low due to efficiencies. Mr. Paster asked Ms. Herrick-Stella to go to Ms. Amy Sarro to get comparable information to slide 17 for police, fire, and administration. To get comparable information to the salary for school.

Ms. Herrick-Stella stated that the district will have 13 FTE reductions for FY25. She went over a chart that shows with the enrollment going up, the staffing is going down. Ms. Herrick-Stella discussed the slide about net school spending per pupil. Swampscott is below the state average. Ms. Wright said this slide should be more prominent and town members should be aware because the perception of residents is the opposite. Ms. Herrick-Stella then discussed the budget by each school. She started with the new elementary school with only a .5% increase due to efficiencies. She went over the goals to keep the kindergarten aides, to assist with kindergarten staff and duties. Moved onto the Middle School with a 7.3% increase due to special needs and curriculum. The High School has a 2.1% increase with a focus on MTSS. The preschool has a 9.2% increase due to out of district tuitions, transportation. The committee had discussion about substitute teachers. It was pointed out that it is very difficult to budget for depending on who goes out on leave and how much sick time teachers have. Ms. O'Connor asked to move the special education budget items out of the appendix and more upfront. Mr. Paster asked for students who are on IEPs, for the age group of 18-22. Questioning if the district knew at what age they will be leaving, since it will vary if they leave at 19 versus leaving at 22. The committee appreciated how easy the book was to understand and thanked Ms. Herrick-Stella for doing such a good job. Ms. Wright said they were waiting for the superintendent to come back next week to ask questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT



MOTION: At 7:42 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Paster and seconded by Ms. O'Connor to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.



Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
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Date: January 25, 2024

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 Agenda - January 11, 2024 

 FY25 SPS Superintendent Recommended Budget Books 01.08.24.pdf 
