

## Swampscott School Committee

### Regular Session Minutes

December 6, 2023

A meeting of the Swampscott School Committee was held Virtually via Zoom only commencing at 5:37 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Suzanne Wright, SC Chair, Mr. John Giantis, SC Vice Chair, Mr. Glenn Paster, Ms. Amy OConnor and Ms. Carin Marshall.

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.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **BUDGET DISCUSSION - Next Steps**

Ms. OConnor said that she just read Ms. Wright's update and thanked her for that. She added that she felt that her honest opinion was that she felt that she was falling on her own sword. Ms. Wright agreed and said she was okay with doing that and said that they need to get what we need for the District.

Ms. Marshall asked if there were any other updates. Ms. Wright said there was nothing else new and that the Committee had seen the memo. She stated the next Tri-Chair meeting would be on the 15th and that items would be on the agenda. Ms. OConnor expressed concern that the Tri-Chair meetings are in private and that the only people who have a sense of what is going on is that team. Ms. Wright said that information is brought back to each respective Board by each Chair. She can't speak to how other Boards operate. Ms. OConnor said they can speak to a refusal to participating in closed door meetings. She expressed frustration at being painted as a last minute request and for the Town Administrator and Mr. Grishman for not clarifying that for their Committee that it wasn't a last minute ask. Ms. Wright said she cannot speak to the protocols of other Committees. Ms. OConnor said that to be fair and having sat in those meetings she agreed that she didn't always come back and report verbatim what was said. Ms. Wright said that not all the conversations are nice which is why they are behind closed doors but felt that they all want what is right for students' education.

Ms. Wright added that she felt she has been negotiating and working with other Boards in good faith. She added that what has happened in the past can't be changed. Ms. OConnor agreed that all hoped for a clean slate but the outcome had been the same as in years past. Mr. Paster thanked Ms. Wright for forwarding the update. He expressed his opinion that there was a huge trust issue with the Select Board and Town Administrator. Mr. Paster also spoke about the circuit breaker money concerns as well as the budget moving forward. He also felt that if the majority of the Committee felt a certain way then that should be the message that goes out to the public.

Ms. Wright explained that she felt the strategies that the Committee tried in the past hadn't worked and that she was trying something different. She stated there was a lot of would have, could have, should have but that we need to move forward. She stated she didn't feel the same way the other Committee members felt and that the past was the past and this is how we are going forward. Ms. Marshall stated they did try to collaborate in the past and part of her wants to trust if Ms. Wright says she has something going forward, but also feels what if it doesn't work again. Ms. Wright said she may have more faith because she's been in the room and that Ms. Angelakis and Ms. Herrick-Stella are feeling the same way. Ms. OConnor questioned how they felt as they had been painted as unprofessional and as though they had another last minute ask.

Mr. Giantis stated he didn't have an issue with a new approach; he just didn't want the Committee to be the fall guy again. There was further discussion on the direction in which the Committee should go in working with the Town and Finance Committee and discussion on commenting during the public comment section of the Select Board meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT



**MOTION:** At 6:13 p.m., it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Mr. Paster to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote; Ms. OConnor - yes; Mr. Giantis - yes; Ms. Wright, yes; Ms. Marshall - yes; Mr. Paster - yes.


Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools  
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Date: January 18, 2024

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