

Swampscott School Committee
Regular Session Minutes
February 8th, 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, and Ms. OConnor. Also Present: Ms. Pamela Angelakis, Superintendent, Ms. Cheryl Herrick-Stella, Director of Finance and Student Representatives Noelle Diehl and Samuel Oubala.

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

Ms. Diehl - Raised over 15,000 for the band trip. Model UN trip is coming up.

Mr. Paster - Last school committee meeting, it was nice to see a large audience. An individual reached out with language about how the committee spoke about special education. Mr. Paster rewatched the meeting and felt that it was handled well. Last week voted on bringing circuit breaker to a warrant article in the spring. Mr. Paster did talk to council and there are two ways to get an article on the warrant. Ms. Wright said because it wasn't on the agenda could not discuss, but will add it to the agenda.

Mr. Giantis - None

Ms. OConnor - None

Mr. Oubala - Basketball game between students versus teachers is coming up in March. Tickets are now on sale. Townwide heritage festival on May 17th, more information will come out soon. This month SOCA will be doing a collaboration with the senior center for Black Heritage month to talk about METCO then and now.

Ms. Wright - None

Ms. Angelakis requested to move up vote on the baseball field trip.

VII. ACTIONS AND VOTES (Votes and Donations)

A. [SHS Baseball Field Trip](#) - Overnight for Scrimmages

Coach Caponigro is requesting permission for an overnight trip for the Varsity Baseball team on March 29th to go to Sandwich High School to scrimmage then on to Plymouth. They will stay in

Plymouth overnight and play Plymouth and Malden the following day. Will have at least 5 coaches as chaperones.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms.OConnor and seconded by Mr. Paster to approve the SHS Baseball Field Trip. The motion passed unanimously.

II. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

SUPERINTENDENT

- A. [SY 24-25 Program of Studies Presentation](#) - Mr. Kohut and Ms. Sturma
- [DRAFT 24/25 PROGRAM OF STUDIES](#)

Mr. Kohut presented the program of studies for the high school 24-25 school year. Mr. Kohut discussed the changes of move away from class rank, grade weighting, grade scale and social studies course progression. Ms. Sturma discussed the first change of class rank. Ms. Sturma explained that most other high schools do not have class rank and most colleges are not looking for it anymore. Mr. Paster asked if we take it away would it be a negative aspect removing the class rank. Ms. Sturma said it does not. Mr. Giantis asked in a college application, the top of the class would . Ms. OConnor said she was provided data on how it does more harm than good and how it helps the 90 percent instead of the 10 percent. Ms. Deihl spoke about how she agrees that class rank should be eliminated and it creates competition that is not necessary. Mr. Oubala also agrees because with such a small class, the difference between students is so small. Mr. Giantis asked about the grade weighting part of the presentation and how it will affect students who are sophomores and juniors who have been planning their class path and now it is getting changed. Mr. Kohut replied that because of the way Aspen is set up, there is no way to do it for only one graduation class and if they don't do it now, there will never be a good time to do it. Mr. Kohut then moved onto the new courses being offered for the 24-25 school year. Ms. Sturma then went on to discuss the upcoming timeline on the course selection timeline. Ms. Wright commented that it gets better every year and the course selections are improving.

B. [Superintendent's Report](#)

Ms. Angelakis discussed that there is a mock town meeting at the high school for students to learn about town government. The warrant will have two articles on it, the pickleball courts and the voting age. Ms. Wright commented that this is a great way to teach civics and a way to interact with the government. Mr. Paster agreed that this is a great opportunity and important for students to learn how to debate. Mr. Giantis asked about the pushback, Ms. Angelakis said that people thought she was trying to manipulate the vote for lowering the voting age. Ms. Angelakis moved on to discuss the visit with the principals to the new elementary school this afternoon. Ms. Angelakis discussed that the central office and the administrative team will tour next then the teachers in March. Ms. Angelakis finally wanted to give recognition to Mrs. Comparato for being interviewed by David Wade for a story about financial literacy. Ms. Angelakis said how proud she was of having the opportunity for SHS to be in news for something very positive.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR

A. Updates - None

B. Tri-Chair Updates - Ms. Wright felt that it was productive meeting with town meetings and felt they left the meeting on the same page. Ms. Wright discussed the importance of circuit breaker and the importance of creating a general stabilization fund for school extraordinary expenses. Ms. Angelakis felt very positive after Monday night, there is movement. Mr. Paster commented that listening to the FinCom meeting he felt they were really engaged and asked clarifying questions.

SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Bargaining Updates

Ms. OConnor had an executive meeting tonight about the agreement with the tutor union. Ms. OConnor mentioned next up is the custodian union.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VIII. 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 - [January 18, 2024](#)

B. Regular Session Minutes - [January 25, 2024](#)

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Paster and seconded by Ms. OConnor to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT



MOTION: At 7:27 p.m. it was moved by Ms. OConnor and seconded by Mr. Paster to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.



Respectfully submitted,







Pamela R.H. Angelakis, M.A., M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
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Date: 3/14/24


 24-25 POS presentation 



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 Athletics FT.pdf 

 DRAFT 24/25 PROGRAM OF STUDIES 

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