



**Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District School Committee  
Meeting**

**DATE: Wednesday, August 16, 2017**

**TIME: 9:00 AM**

**\*\*\*LOCATION: Tunxis Club\*\*\***

**945 Clubhouse Road, Tolland, MA 01034**

**\*\*\*NOTE LOCATION OF MEETING\*\*\***

**MINUTES**

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

**A. ROUTINE**

**A. Attendance**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Houle at 9:05 a.m.

The Following were present:

School Committee: Jeffrey Houle, Chairman  
George LeBlanc, Vice Chairman  
Theodore Locke, Secretary (Tolland Rep.)  
Pamela Petschke (Granville Rep.)  
Maria Seddon: arrived at 9:10 am  
Jessica Boldyga: exit at 1:25 pm, return at 82:20 pm

Administration: Jennifer Willard, Superintendent  
Stephen Presnal, Business Manager  
Amy McLaughlin, Recording Secretary

Student Representatives:

News Media:

Observers: 0

Jenny Sullivan and Noell Somers were also in attendance.

A. Opening Ceremony

B. Secretary's Report - none

C. Warrants – Circulated

B. Correspondence - none

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues**

none

**C. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT - none**

**D. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION – School Committee Workshop**

Icebreaker: Compass Points: An Exercise in Understanding Preferences in Group Work

Superintendent Willard led the Committee and attendees in an activity which required individuals to identify their own predominant personality style. Groups then worked collaboratively to answer some questions about strengths and weaknesses of each style. Everyone came together to share their findings and discuss differences in personality styles and how each style contributes to the whole group. The Committee agreed that a strong group contains individuals with differing personality styles.

Working Collaboratively

Chairman Houle presented the committee with a picture that previously hung in the Superintendent's Conference Room. Created at the time the original District, Southwick-Tolland, was formed, it lists "Four Great

Rules for New Regionals” as well as the names of the first District School Committee Members and the Selectmen of the two towns. Mr. Houle asked the Committee to keep these rules in mind during the work of the upcoming year. “Think Regional, Respect thine Agreement, Eschew Municipal Financing, and Your on your own now.” He stated that the Committee is required to work together to make decisions and it is important to work together to support those decisions. He asked the Committee to keep the focus on students and education and to bring their passion to drive the Committee toward a successful common goal.

Ms. Seddon stated that she feels the District is moving in the right direction. Ms. Petschke agreed and stated that the best way to bring the communities together is positive experiences for students and parents.

Mr. LeBlanc asked if there was a timeline we could create for the members of the Committee outlining the schedule during the course of the year. Mr. Houle stated that he would be working with Ms. Willard and Ms. McLaughlin to bring that to the Committee.

#### District Strategic Plan

Ms. Willard presented the Committee with the updated District Strategic Plan. She highlighted the work and changes since the Committee last saw the document, including the Strategic Objectives (Levers), and the High Impact Initiatives to Support District Strategic Objectives. She stated that the next steps are for the building administrators to develop Initiatives to Support School Strategic Objectives that align with the District Goals. She stated that development would begin the next day at an administrators meeting.

Ms. Willard stated that the Strategic Plan is has been developed from the beginning to be inclusive of staff and students and create relevance and build understanding. A focus on professional development will lift the quality of education overall. Ms. Somers stated that the plan includes paraprofessionals and other support staff, fitting the pieces of inclusion together.

Ms. Sullivan discussed some of the new professional development that also includes more team leaders and resources for teachers that provide quality feedback. The District is continuing their work with the Understanding By Design (UBD) method which is intended to be used to get a handle on standards, align programs to assessments, and guide teachers in implementing a standards-based curriculum that leads to student understanding and achievement. She stated that the District is moving in to year 3 of the program which works toward development of a guaranteed and viable curriculum.

The Committee then shared some of their focus areas for the 2017-2018 school year which had common themes of Academic Rigor and Social Emotional Development of Students and Communication with Communities.

**E. POLICIES – no report**

**F. ACTION ITEMS - none**

**G. REPORTS - none**

**H. SUBCOMMITTEES – no report**

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues**

None

**J. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

**A. Old Business**

Opening Day

Amy McLaughlin reminded the Committee that Staff Opening Day is scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2017 and the Committee was invited to attend. Ms. Sullivan discussed the schedule for that day as well as the staff for the beginning three days of professional development prior to the students' first day.

**B. New Business**

Schedule of Meetings for 2017/2018

The Committee reviewed the schedule of meetings. Ms. McLaughlin will post it to the website.

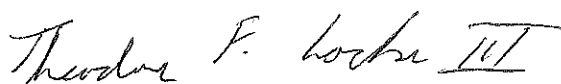
**K. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theodore Locke, Secretary

**STAFFING**

Appointments  
Resignations  
Retirements

**List of documents viewed or discussed during this meeting:**

- Agenda for August 16, 2017
- SRI: Compass Points Explanation Expanded
- The Four Rules for New Regionals
- School Committee Roles & Responsibilities
- Draft Strategic Plan, 2017-2020
- Staff PD, including Opening Day, Agenda for first three days
- 2017/2018 District Calendar

