



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

DATE: November 1, 2016

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Superintendent's Conference Room, Powder Mill School

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

I. ROUTINE

A. Attendance

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson of the School Committee, Mr. Houle at 6:00 pm

The Following were present:

School Committee:	Jeffrey Houle, Chairperson
	George LeBlanc, Vice Chair
	Theodore Locke, Secretary (Tolland Rep.)
	Kelly Clendenin – Depart 7:00 p.m.
	Jean McGivney-Burrelle
	Pamela Petschke (Granville Rep.)
	Maria Seddon
Administration:	Jennifer Willard, Superintendent
	Stephen Presnal, Business Manager – Arrive 7:03 p.m.
	Amy McLaughlin, Recording Secretary
Student Representatives:	Margaret Drohen
	Carlos Pereira
News Media:	Southwick News
	Westfield Evening News

B. Opening Ceremony – Pledge of Allegiance

Observers: 20

C. Secretary's Report

10/18/2016 Meeting Minutes: Accepted as written

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 7/0/0

D. Warrants

Circulated

E. Correspondence

None

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Debbie Van Etten, 6 Sterritt Drive, spoke of her concern as a parent regarding the bullying policy.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Carlos Pereira and Margaret Drohen reported: SRS students are signed up to work at the polls on Election Day; Quarter 1 ended Thursday; a blood drive and can food drive were scheduled to take place; MCAS retesting is happening; 7th and 8th graders participated in a "mix-it-up" at lunch and was very successful; the recent field trip to NYC was also successful; the playoffs are beginning for fall sports.

IV. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Kimberly Saso, Principal, Powder Mill School

Ms. Saso and 6th grade teacher, Melissa Roy presented the new guiding principles which Powder Mill School is implementing beginning this school year.

1. We're Someone You'd be Proud to Know
2. We Stretch Our Thinking
3. We are Life-Long Learners
4. We Accept Others

Ms. Saso stated that establishing guiding principles at Powder Mill was inspired by Woodland School Principal, Amy Fouracre, Ph.D., and her Woodland Way. Ms. Saso and Ms. Roy stated that the principles will be introduced to students at an all school assembly on November 23, 2016. Ms. Roy said that at the assembly the staff will share the guiding principles with the students using symbols selected to represent each principle.

- Peacock Feathers chosen to represent "We're Someone You'd be Proud to Know"
- Silly Putty chosen to represent "We Stretch Our Thinking"
- A graduation cap chosen to represent "We are Life-Long Learners"
- Diversity poster chosen to represent "We Accept Others"

Ms. Saso stated that Kindness Ambassadors will be selected by the specials teachers. The specials teachers will make the selection because they work with all the students at Powder Mill School. The name of the Kindness Ambassador will be placed on a ribbon which is added to a stick and kept in the students' class. While the class holds the stick they will work on deciding how they will spread kindness.

Ms. Clendenin remarked that she is happy about the new program at the Powder Mill School and that the Woodland Way program is well received and the kids look forward to it.

Ms. Roy also reported about the establishment of a 6th grade student council which is new this year. The student council is going very well.

B. Jenny Sullivan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Jennifer Willard, Superintendent, MCAS and PARCC Update

Superintendent Willard and Jenny Sullivan reported on recently received MCAS data for 2015/2016 School Year testing.

Ms. Willard reported on the most recent testing which included traditional MCAS testing and a selection of PARCC-like questions. The District performance is consistent with previous years on the MCAS questions but less proficiently in the PARCC-like questions. The importance of this is that upcoming changes to testing, MCAS 2.0, which is intended to contain more PARCC-like Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Level 3 and Level 4 questions. The MCAS 2.0 will feature a computer based test with much more robust tools integrated, such as electronic protractors, and rulers.

Ms. Willard and Ms. Sullivan reported that in response to anticipated changes in the tests, the District is preparing by exposing students to a variety of DOK questions. Additionally, professional development includes Teaching and Learning Alliance (TLA) which is a balanced literacy program for K-8. This program will prepare teachers and students for increased rigor with the text complexity. Ms. Sullivan stated that at the 7-12 grades, the District is bringing in Richard Dubuisson, a school change

coach, providing professional development around DOK and to assist teachers in embedding this in their curriculum.

Ms. Willard also stated that the new Instructional Leadership Team is working on identifying strategies for improving instruction and student success on higher level DOK questions. Additionally, the Administrative Leadership Team is actively collaborating to observe and model a culture of learning among the staff.

Ms. Petschke asked if the State will provide leeway in the first couple of years as far as assigning school's "Levels". Ms. Sullivan stated that the first year will be a reset year.

Ms. Seddon asked if the current curriculum supports the new MCAS? Ms. Sullivan replied that the District is actively working on it. The curriculum is aligned but the level of rigor needs to be provided.

Ms. Seddon asked if the District has the technology resources for the MCAS 2.0? Ms. Willard responded that the District is actively working to make sure that students have the resources as well as practicing basic computer skills that will be needed to take the test.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Table the approval of the resolution to Support MA Rural Schools Initiative – Superintendent Willard stated that information is still being collected and the initiative is being fine-tuned.

B. Move to waive the three (3) readings for the revised IHAMB- Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs Policy. Ms. Clendenin reported that these policies had been reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee

A motion was made to approve:

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 7/0/0

C. Move to approve the revised policy for Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs by rescinding IHAMA – Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco and adopting IHAMB – Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs.

A motion was made to approve:

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 7/0/0

D. Waive the three (3) readings for the revised JICH- Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited Policy.

A motion was made to approve:

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 7/0/0

E. Move to approve the revised policy for Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs by rescinding JICG – Tobacco Use and JICH – Alcohol Use and adopting JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited.

A motion was made to approve:

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 7/0/0

F. Move to approve the acceptance of the Medex Renewal Rates. – Mr. Presnal stated that Medex is being handled differently with a new part D prescription drug benefit. Renewal Rates change on a calendar year anniversary. Mr. Presnal stated that there is approximately 3.14% net adjusted increase. Once the rates are accepted, the retirees will be notified of the change which becomes effective December 1, 2016.

A motion was made to approve:

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 6/0/1

VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent

1. Student Recognition

Superintendent Willard presented three Southwick Regional School Students with awards of recognition. As part of the presentation, Superintendent Willard thanked SRS Principal, Joseph Turmel and his team for identifying who the recipients of the awards should be. During the presentations, Ms. Willard highlighted the academic and extracurricular activities of each recipient.

The National School Development Council Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning

This award is presented to high school seniors who have consistently pursued a high level of academic effort, and who have also served as positive role models for the student body.

Recipients of the award exemplify admirable character and accomplishment.

Presented to Dermotheo Walden and David Kolek

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence

This award is given to high school students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers.

Presented to Allison Scharmann.

National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Commendation for Outstanding Performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in 2015

Presented to Allison Scharmann.

2. NESDEC – Superintendent Willard reported that the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) will be prepared to present the draft of the Best Use of Facilities Study at the next School Committee Meeting on November 15, 2016. A public forum regarding the study will be held on Monday November 28, 2016 at the SRS Auditorium at 6:00pm (November 30 back up day in case of inclement weather). The final report will be presented at the *December 6, 2016 School Committee Meeting. (*Note this was rescheduled just after the School Committee meeting due to a conflict with the Southwick Special Town Meeting)

Ms. Willard stated that the location of the November 15 meeting should be moved to accommodate any community members who'd like to attend. Due to a possible scheduling conflict at the SRS Auditorium the location for the November 15 meeting was set for the Power Mill School Auditorium.

Ms. Petschke asked how notification of the study will be provided to the communities. Ms. Willard stated that flyers would be sent home along with newspaper announcements and a Blackboard Connect call reminder.

B. School Business Manager

Mr. Presnal stated that he is scheduled to meet with Richard Labrie regarding the Transportation Study on Friday 11/4/2016.

Mr. Presnal reported that he is working on some policy change recommendations that he will be presenting to the Policy Subcommittee.

C. Sub Committees and Liaisons

- *Negotiations*: Transportation Negotiations scheduled for 11/15/2016 and 11/25/2016.
- *Finance*: no report
- *L.P.V.E.C Bd. Gov and Bd. Dir*: Mr. Leblanc reported that the Collaborative is working on their strategic plan. Mr. Leblanc stated that Southwick has a proportionately high number of students taking advantage of the programs offered at the Collaborative.
- *Policy*: Ms. Willard stated that the Policy Subcommittee should reconvene to review policies and remove references to previous superintendent's names.
- *School Building Committee*: Still waiting for MSBA
- *Technology*: no report
- *Curriculum and Instruction*: The next meeting is scheduled for 11/7/2016.
- *Legislative Liaison*: no report
- *SPED Liaison*: no report
- *Southwick Capital Committee*: no report

D. Policies – No new business

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Houle, 28 Sheep Pasture Rd, commended the School Committee on presenting student awards. She also stated that she hoped the 6th grade Student Council could collaborate with the 7th and 8th grades.

VIII. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

A. Old Business

1. Cop Sync Software – Ms. Willard reported that the quote for the software was received and the pricing is higher than what was presented. Ms. Willard also stated that a meeting was scheduled with Southwick Police Chief Ricardi and Granville Police Chief Scott Flebotte to discuss the process of rolling out Cop Sync to Granville PD and the Granville Village School should the Committee decide to purchase.

Mr. Leblanc stated that he felt the key to the software is the response time compared to just making a 911 call. He also stated that the availability of the building floor plans and maps in the software made it unique and valuable.

Ms. Petschke asked if there were any other instances where the software would be valuable? Ms. Willard and Mr. Houle answered by describing the reverse notification system of the software.

Ms. Petschke asked if there would be drills and training? Ms. Willard responded yes.

Ms. McGivney-Burrelle stated that the presenters of the software are sales people and she'd like more information about other districts in our area that are using the software.

2. Ms. Petschke asked if the Parent PlusPortal will be available for Powder Mill School. Ms. Willard stated that availability at Powder Mill School would only be for 5th and 6th grade and the idea of

providing for some parents and not others seemed fragmented. Also, the District is moving to a standards based report card for K-6 and number grades posted on PlusPortal would not align.

3. Mr. Leblanc stated that he appreciated recent invitations extended to the School Committee to the National Honor Society Induction at the Southwick Regional School and the Veteran's Day Assembly at the Powder Mill School.
4. Mr. Houle recognized the Superintendent and her team on the success of the Southwick Regional School Dedication Ceremony. Ms. McLaughlin acknowledged that the success of the dedication was due to the hard work and contributions by District staff including: Joseph Turmel, James Ash, Melissa Trzasko, Alex Trzasko, Matt Lillibridge, Debbie Dunn, Jeannie Despard and Karen O'Connor.

B. New Business

1. Ms. Willard stated that the October 1, 2016 SIMS Data has been certified. She reminded the School Committee that the enrollment data for SIMS certification includes all students who were active at any time during the reporting period which differs from current active enrollment numbers.

Ms. Petschke stated that the low enrollment numbers at the Granville Village School are due in part to the offering of SPED services at the Southwick Campus only and also child care convenience based on offering in Southwick vs. Granville.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Move to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and to reconvene in Open Session.
2. Move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public and the chair so declares; and to reconvene in Open Session.

At 7:42 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session and not return to open session.

With the members Jeffrey Houle, George Leblanc, Theodore Locke, Jean McGivney-Burrelle, Pamela Petschke, and Maria Seddon being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 6/0/0

At 8:33 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. With the members Jeffrey Houle, George Leblanc, Theodore Locke, Jean McGivney-Burrelle, Pamela Petschke, and Maria Seddon being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 6/0/0

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theodore Locke, Secretary

Personnel:

Appointments

Resignations

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Ashley Harder | Board Certified Behavior Analyst | 10/28/2016 |
| 2. Sarah Russell | Secretary, Southwick Regional School | 10/28/2016 |

Retirements

Reassignments

