



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

DATE: November 15, 2016

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Powder Mill School Auditorium, Powder Mill School

Note Location

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.
	Pamela Petschke (Granville Rep.)
	Maria Seddon – Depart 6:30 p.m.
Administration:	Jennifer Willard, Superintendent
	Stephen Presnal, Business Manager
	Amy McLaughlin, Recording Secretary
Student Representatives:	Carlos Pereira
News Media:	Southwick News
	WWLP 22 News

B. Opening Ceremony – Pledge of Allegiance

Observers: 58

C. Secretary's Report

11/1/2016 Meeting Minutes: Accepted as written

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

D. Warrants

Circulated

E. Correspondence

None

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Carlos Pereira reported: the fall sports season has completed and the fall sports banquet and individual banquets are being held, report cards are going out and term two is beginning; Tuesday the National Honor Society is hosting a volleyball tournament and everyone at the Regional School is looking forward to Thanksgiving break.

IV. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. John Kennedy, The New England School Development Council

DRAFT Presentation of the Best Use of Facilities Study

Mr. Kennedy opened his presentation by introducing himself and his colleague Anna Cross who would be assisting in the presentation. He stated that NESDEC entered into an agreement with the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District to conduct a Best Use of Facilities study for all four schools in the District. Mr. Kennedy highlighted that the NESDEC study focused on data analysis of Demographic and Enrollment Trends and also Instructional Program review and Facility Best Use Analysis. Using the information gained from the analysis, NESDEC would provide options for the District to review as it moves forward in the development of a long-range facility plan. The NESDEC study results are not an end product but a starting point for future planning.

Mr. Kennedy spoke to the Demographic Analysis of the presentation and stated that the "Baby Boomer" generation has begun turning 65 years of age at a rate of 10,000 per day, and is projected to continue for the next 13 years. Mr. Kennedy stated that in the Southwick, Tolland and Granville Communities, the average number of single family permits per year has declined from an average of 55 per year in the 2000-2006 to 18 per year in the 2007-2015 time frame and that officials from the three towns have indicated that there are no major single family sub-divisions, condominium or apartment projects under construction or in the planning process. In addition, single family home sales have average 119 per year among the three towns which is down from the 150 per year average seen during the housing boom.

Mr. Kennedy presented historical enrollment for the District from the 2006-2007 school year to the 2016-2017 school year. The data showed that PK-12 enrollment totals have gone from 1904 total students in 2006-2007 to 1580 total students in the current 2016-2017 school year. Mr. Kennedy stated that while the decline in enrollment is expected to slow, enrollment projections are expected to continue to decrease over the next ten years. Mr. Kennedy summarized the Demographic analysis of the communities by highlighting that the average number of births per year has declined for each of the three participating towns. Mr. Kennedy also stated that enrollment is declining in the surrounding communities of Westfield, Springfield and Agawam, three towns from which the District receives a number of students via the School Choice program.

Mr. Kennedy introduced Capacity Analysis by defining capacity. Mr. Kennedy defined Current Operating Capacity (C.O.C) as current building use based on class size (PK=15; K=20; Gr. 1 = 22; Gr. 2-12 = 25) and Planned Operating Capacity (P.O.C) which corrects deficiencies while keeping current programs. Mr. Kennedy and his colleague, Anna Cross, presented information on each of the four schools in the District. Information gathered came primarily from survey responses provided by building principals and onsite building tours. For each school instructional spaces, core facilities, administrative spaces, support staff, instructional and administrative technology, ADA/handicap access, major systems and maintenance, site information and storage were described.

- Granville Village School

- Grades K-6

- Built in 1933 with renovations in 1990 and 2014

- Square footage 29,700

- October 1, 2016 Enrollment = 82 students.

- C.O.C = 167

- P.O.C = 167-211

- Woodland School
 Grades PreK-2
 Built in 1957 with renovations in 1965 and 1990
 Square footage 67,709
 October 1, 2016 Enrollment = 347 students
 C.O.C = 380
 P.O.C = 380-424

- Powder Mill School
 Grades 3-6
 Built in 1953 with renovations in 1990, 2014 and 2015
 Square footage 95,775
 October 1, 2016 Enrollment = 400 students
 C.O.C = 512
 P.O.C = 512-637

- Southwick Regional School
 Grades 7-12
 Built in 1971 with renovations in 2015
 Square footage 165,475
 October 1, 2016 Enrollment = 751 students
 C.O.C = 1,085
 P.O.C = 1,085

After descriptions of each of the four buildings, Mr. Kennedy presented two options for the District as a result of the study findings:

- Option 1
 Close the Granville Village School and maintain the grade configuration at the other three schools: PreK-2 at Woodland School; 3-6 at Powder Mill School, 7-12 at Southwick Regional School.

Mr. Kennedy stated the advantages of Option 1 as cost optimization as the Granville Village School has an average operating budget of approximately \$977,580. Cost savings would include the anticipated capital improvements needed on the Granville Village School which are estimated at \$957,000 over the next three years. Those items include roof replacement, window replacement, oil storage tank, well water storage and distribution system, and parking lot. Needed phone and technology improvements are estimated between \$79,450-\$116,750. Mr. Kennedy stated that closing the Granville Village School would promote per pupil cost equity among elementary grade level students. Mr. Kennedy stated that current elementary per pupil costs:

- Granville Village School: \$11,922 per pupil
- Woodland School: \$5,875 per pupil
- Powder Mill School: \$6,649 per pupil

Mr. Kennedy stated that other advantages of Option 1 include Instructional and Social Advantages for staff and students. Option 1 would promote improved staff collaboration and shorten travel time for Instructional Specialist and allow more time for instruction. Students would have more

opportunities for small group instruction, participation in extra-curricular activities such as band and chorus, and expanded opportunities for additional social contacts with grade level students. As part of the presentation of Option 1, Mr. Kennedy stated that challenges would include increased travel time for current Granville Village School parents and students, increased transportation cost to get Granville students to the Southwick campus, increased class sizes at the Woodland and Powder Mill Schools. Mr. Kennedy noted that increases in class sizes would not cause classes sizes to equal or exceed District maximums.

- Option 2

Staus Quo- maintain current school utilization and grade configurations.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the advantages of Option 2 include maintaining an elementary school in the Granville community, save on travel time for Granville parents and students, eliminate additional transportation costs associated with transporting grades K-6 Granville students to the Southwick campus, and maintains a larger capacity cushion at the Woodland and Powder Mill Schools.

Mr. Kennedy stated that challenges of Option 2 include current operating costs of Granville Village School which results in the per pupil inequity, costs associated with implementing needed technology and capital improvements over the next three years. Mr. Kennedy additionally described the Instructional and Social challenges of Option 2 which requires more travel time for specialists, resulting in less time on instruction, and does not facilitate increased grade level staff collaboration or student access to large group activities and social contacts.

In closing, Mr. Kennedy thanked members of the District and the community for their assistance in gathering data.

Mr. Kennedy then took questions/comments from the School Committee Members;
Mr. Presnal stated that a good portion of the increased transportation costs that are associated with Option 1 include the one time purchase of a new school bus.

Ms. Petschke asked: Where is the data and information coming from especially for the capital improvements? Can we prioritize?

Mr. Kennedy answered: The capital improvement needs came from the District along with estimated costs. The per pupil expenditures came directly from the budget. Priorities for capital improvements must be defined by the District.

Mr. Presnal stated that the costs provided were estimates, not actual quotes.

Ms. Petschke asked: What percentage of the operating budget goes to salaries and heat, etc?

Mr. Kennedy answered: The budget lists all of those things. It is assumed there are other costs associated with closing the school but it is important to note that the operating budget for the school, from which numbers were obtained, excludes transportation and Central Office costs.

Mr. Kennedy stated that because the students at the Granville Village School would be split among two schools, the result would not be a significant increase in class size.

Ms. Petschke asked: Where is Option 3? What other ideas are there to increase equity?

Mr. Kennedy answered: There is no Option 3 readily available to the District. To try to, for example, recruit more students through the School Choice program would be unlikely because school choice is becoming more and more competitive and the surrounding communities are themselves experiencing decreasing enrollment. The existing schools have the existing capacity to accommodate the students. Without increased enrollment, there is no Option 3.

Ms. Petschke asked: What about Tolland students and nearby Southwick students going to Granville Village School.

Mr. Kennedy answered: Powder Mill is currently approximately 174 students under capacity and Woodland School has a maximum capacity of 424 students. Even with the addition of the Granville Village School students, those schools are projected to be below maximum capacity over the next 10 years. Without increased enrollment, three Southwick schools are still under capacity.

Ms. Petschke asked: Was the "save North Pond" project considered?

Mr. Kennedy answered: The project could be an impact but because nothing is in the works, or even in initial stages, it would not be data to be considered.

V. ACTION ITEMS

None

VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent

None

B. School Business Manager

None

C. Sub Committees and Liaisons

- *Negotiations*: Transportation Negotiations scheduled for 11/25/2016.
- *Finance*: A meeting is needed. Mr. Presnal will be in touch with Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Locke to schedule
- *L.P.V.E.C Bd. Gov and Bd. Dir*: no report
- *Policy*: no report
- *School Building Committee*: no report
- *Technology*: no report
- *Curriculum and Instruction*: no report
- *Legislative Liaison*: no report
- *SPED Liason*: no report
- *Southwick Capital Committee*: no report

D. Policies – No new business

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

A. Old Business

1. Mr. Leblanc stated that he had feedback from the director of the Southwick Senior Center and that the new music services at Southwick Regional School, Dr. Fouracre's Pen Pal project, and the Veteran's Day assembly have all be very well received.

2. Mr. LeBlanc reported that he attended the National Honor Society Induction at the Southwick Regional School and it was great to see the students and their parents in such a positive light.
3. Superintendent Willard stated that Mr. Locke was honored at the MASC Conference for all of his years of dedicated service and Ms. Willard and the Committee extended their congratulations to Mr. Locke.

B. New Business
None

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
None

At 7:19 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. With the members Jeffrey Houle, George Leblanc, Theodore Locke, Pamela Petschke, and Kelly Clendenin being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 5/0/0

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theodore Locke, Secretary

Personnel:

Appointments

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Richard Quinn | SRS Music Teacher | 11/4/2016 |
| 2. Kathryn Thompson | WS Kindergarten Teaching Assistant | 11//2016 |

Resignations

Retirements

Reassignments