



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

**\*\*DATE: Tuesday, January 10, 2017\*\***

**TIME: 6:00 PM**

**LOCATION: Auditorium, Southwick Regional School, 93 Feeding Hills Road, Southwick, MA 01077**

**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 6:03 pm

The Following were present:

School Committee:	Jeffrey Houle, Chairperson
	George LeBlanc, Vice Chair
	Theodore Locke, Secretary (Tolland Rep.)
	Jean McGivney-Burrelle
	Kelly Clendenin
	Pamela Petschke (Granville Rep.)
	Maria Seddon
Administration:	Jennifer Willard, Superintendent
	Stephen Presnal, Business Manager
	Amy McLaughlin, Recording Secretary
Student Representatives:	Margaret Drohen
News Media:	Southwick News, Westfield Evening News
Observers:	approx. 150

**B. Opening Ceremony – Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Secretary's Report**

12/20/2016 Meeting Minutes: Accepted as written

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

**D. Warrants - Circulated**

**E. Correspondence – On December 21, I received in the Superintendent's Office an email with letter attachment from Richard Buley, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Robert Horacek, Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Town of Southwick informing us**

"that the Finance Committee recommends closing the Granville Village School in this year by reason of extraordinary circumstances."

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Cook, Granville, MA asked what are the extraordinary circumstances that are referred to in the correspondence?

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT**

Margaret Drohen reported that students are studying for finals which are taking place next week; winter athletics are underway and the teams are doing well; the winter concert and a pep rally were held before the winter break and both were a success; auditions for the spring musical, *The Adams Family*, had taken place; Ali Scharman has been appointed to model congress.

**IV. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

A. ~~Amy Fouracre, Ph. D., Principal, Woodland School~~ Dr. Fouracre's presentation has been moved to a later meeting.

B. Jennifer Willard, Superintendent, Best Use of Facilities Implementation Options

Superintendent Willard and Jenny Sullivan, Director of Instructional Programs and Grants, presented the District configuration Options for the 2017/2018 school year in relation to the Best Use of Facilities Study. Superintendent Willard recognized the community and emphasized that the administration and the Committee are listening to the feedback. Two options were presented. The first Option reviewed reallocation of funds and student configuration if the Granville Village School closes. The second option described Granville Village School if it remains open. Option 2 featured combined grade level classes.

Ms. Petschke asked about the current differences in Special Education at GVS vs. Southwick campus schools. Ms. Noell Somers, Director of Special Education, responded that there is 1 special educator at GVS and all services are pull-out with very little inclusion. Southwick has more inclusion and co-teaching.

Ms. Petschke asked Superintendent Willard to elaborate on the teacher leader position that would replace the Principal, in Option 2. Ms. Willard responded that, depending on enrollment, the teacher leader would possibly do ½ special educator duties and ½ principal duties.

Ms. McGivney-Burrelle asked if, in Option 1, there is enough building space to lower class size average by increasing staff. Superintendent Willard responded that yes, the operating capacity exists in both Powder Mill and Woodland to add additional classes if needed.

Ms. Petschke stated that building capacity numbers provided by NESDEC are different from MSBA which are lower.

## V. ACTION ITEMS

1. The School Committee tabled the discussion related to the most recent Massachusetts minimum wage increase to \$11.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2017.

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

## VI. REPORTS

- A. Superintendent - none
- B. School Business Manager - none
- C. Sub Committees and Liaisons
  - *Negotiations*: Transportation Negotiations next meeting scheduled for 1/25/2017.
  - *Finance*: Next meeting scheduled for 1/18/2017 at 8:30 a.m.
  - *L.P.V.E.C Bd. Gov and Bd. Dir*: Mr. Leblanc will provide committee with a copy of the LPVEC Annual report at the next meeting.
  - *Policy*: Next meeting scheduled for 1/25/2017 at 8:00 a.m.
  - *School Building Committee*: no report
  - *Technology*: no report
  - *Curriculum and Instruction*: no report
  - *Legislative Liaison*: no report
  - *SPED Liason*: no report
  - *Southwick Capital Committee*: Mr. Houle will attend the next meeting on January 26, 2017 at the Southwick Town Hall. The Southwick Town Administrators will tour the Southwick campus on 2/21/2017.

D. Policies

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Cook, Granville, ask what grade levels do the Gladwell study relate to? Superintendent Willard responded that the Gladwell study results were particularly applicable to lower grades and lower socioeconomic status.

Jenny Francis, Granville, stated that she believed that population projections have historically not come to fruition and closing GVS will not eliminate the cost of educating these students.

Kevin Ellinger, Granville, asked if \$977,000 is the true amount of money to be spent if GVS closes. He also stated that he believes that Tolland and Granville voted on a different building project than what was presented.

Mr. Cook, stated that he believes the MCAS data for the Granville Village School cannot be used because the sample size is too small.

Bill Fluhr, Granville, stated that Malcom Gladwell is not trained in education and should not be used as a credible source for class size data.

Charles Macintyre, Granville, stated that he appreciated Superintendent Willard's presentation of a Plan B and that when Granville and Tolland voted on the building project, they voted on a higher capital needs budget.

Brian Falcetti, Granville, asked the Committee members to identify themselves. The committee members and administration all identified themselves.

Bill Stevenson, Granville, stated that District busses should be used to transport Southwick students to the Granville Village School.

Joe Bianchi, Granville, stated that he believes kids from Southwick should be brought to Granville to school and kids from Tolland should also have the option to attend Granville. He stated that students will need to be added to the District to pay for repairs to buildings.

Roxanne Blaze, Granville, asked why the NESDEC capacity numbers were so different from the MSBA capacity numbers.

Tracy Flarida, Southwick, stated that she is a Southwick resident whose children attend Granville Village School. She stated that Southwick parents aren't aware that their children can attend GVS. She asked what would happen if a bubble occurs again.

A Granville resident suggested a survey be conducted on Southwick and Tolland parents to find out if they'd send their children to GVS.

Laurie Season, asked what the enrollment was in 1930 to cause the construction of the Granville Village School.

A Granville resident stated that she just moved to Granville six months ago and she feels that teachers should be expected to keep up their own education, certification and professional development during their summers. Superintendent Willard stated that the District teachers are dedicated, appreciated and valued and in no way should any discussion of the District providing additional Professional Development be taken as a statement against the teachers.

Frank Wolak, Granville, asked if there are some target statistics of how scores will be raised if the GVS is closed and money is spent on Professional Development. He asked if the quality of education will be measurably improved.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

### **A. Old Business**

#### Building Use Study

Ms. Petschke stated that the Regional Agreement calls for a fiscal analysis to be done before closure of any school. She requested more detailed information from Superintendent Willard who said she would send that to the Committee.

Ms. Petschke stated that there was confusion in the process by which the Town of Granville approved the Building Project vote, because the amount of the capital was changed from \$600,000 to \$350,000 for the District. Mr. Houle stated that the Building Project was voted separately from the School Budget and that the Capital Improvement amounts were identified in School Budget votes only.

Ms. Petschke stated that when Granville voted for regionalization, they thought they were getting capital improvements. Mr. Houle stated that money was spent on capital improvements, and monies were also required to be spent on busses.

Ms. Petschke asked why the MSBA and NESDEC building capacity numbers are so different. Mr. Houle stated that the reason is that the methodology was different. The MSBA numbers were identified based on funding.

Mr. Houle stated that the January 24, 2017 meeting will have an action item to address clarification of the study timeline.

Mr. Houle stated that, in response to a meeting request by the Granville select board, select board members from each of the three towns, Southwick, Tolland and Granville had been invited, by letter and email, to attend the January 24, 2017 meeting to openly discuss the Building Use Study.

### **B. New Business - none**

## **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 7:56 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, Pamela Petschke, Kelly Clendenin, Jean McGivney-Burrelle and Maria Seddon being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

At 8:36 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theodore Locke, Secretary

## STAFFING

Appointments

Resignations

1. Karen McKinney Paraprofessional, WS January 13, 2017

Retirements