



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

DATE: Tuesday, January 2, 2018

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Superintendent's Conference Room

Powder Mill School, 86 Powder Mill 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 Mr. Houle at 6:00 p.m.

The Following were present:

School Committee:

- ☒ Jeffrey Houle, Chairman, Southwick
- ☒ George LeBlanc, Vice Chairman, Southwick
- ☒ Theodore Locke, Secretary, Tolland
- ☒ Pamela Petschke, Granville exit at 7:06 p.m. return at 7:09 p.m.
- ☒ Maria Seddon, Southwick
- ☒ Jessica Boldyga, Southwick
- ☒ Amy Stack, Southwick

Administration:

- ☒ Jennifer Willard, Superintendent
- ☒ Stephen Presnal, Director of Finance and Operations
- ☒ Amy McLaughlin, Recording Secretary

Student Representatives:

News Media:

- ☒ Southwick News

Observers:

Approx. 2

B. Opening Ceremony – none

C. Secretary's Report

12/5/2017 Meeting Minutes: Accepted as written

Motion by LeBlanc, seconded by Locke 6/0/1 (Seddon Abstain)

D. Warrants – circulated

E. Correspondence

Superintendent Willard reported on a letter received from Governor Baker's Office acknowledging receipt of letters that the District and Committee sent regarding the regional transportation reimbursement.

Superintendent Willard also reported on correspondence received from the Southwick Rotary Club announcing a forum that has been schedule to address the opioid addiction crisis in Southwick and surrounding communities. The forum will be held on February 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Southwick Town Hall. The keynote speaker at the forum will be Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi. Ms. Willard will attend along with Southwick Regional School Principal Joseph Turmel.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

None

III. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

None

Mr. Houle asked if the students would again be attending the Committee Meetings. Ms. McLaughlin responded that Mr. Turmel stated that the student representatives will be present at the February 6, 2018 School Committee Meeting.

IV. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

none

V. POLICIES

None

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Woodland School Strategic Plan

Move to approve the Woodland School Site Strategic Objectives for the 2017/2018 School Year.

Mr. Houle asked if the objects had been brought forward at the Woodland School Council meetings. Ms. Willard responded that she did not believe they have, but will ask that they be added to the agenda of the next Woodland School Council meeting.

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

B. Approval of Powder Mill School Student Council Fundraising

Move to approve 2017/2018 Student Council Fundraisers for the Powder Mill School.

Mr. Houle asked for a reminder to building principals that fundraisers need to be approved in a timelier manner.

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

C. Approval of Powder Mill School Out-of-State Field Trip

Move to approve the 2017/2018 Out-of-State Field Trip for Powder Mill School.

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

D. Approval of Interim Principal Contract

Move to approve the agreement between the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School Committee and the STGRSD Interim Principal for the period January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

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

VII. REPORTS

A. Superintendent

Preliminary sending/receiving school choice numbers as of December 2017

Superintendent Willard reported that the state provided preliminary sending/receiving numbers for school choice based on the October 1, 2017 SIMS data. She reported that the District has an approximately 3:1 ratio for receiving/sending which is a positive reflection on the District.

Committee members asked for clarification on the tuition rates for sending/receiving and Ms. Willard stated that it is the same. They also discussed retention rates for students who attend the District under School Choice. Ms. Willard responded that when students are accepted they are accepted until they graduate. For the vast majority, students stay through graduation.

NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Superintendent Willard highlighted for the Committee the NESDEC Enrollment Projections that were received in November 2017. NESDEC is the group that performed the Best Use of Facilities Study and provided updated enrollment information. Copies of the data, included in Committee member packets, were provided based on Committee discussion surrounding enrollment projections related to budgeting.

B. Director of Finance and Operations

Transportation: Bus Bids

Mr. Presnal reported that due to an error in the original purchasing bid specifications, it was necessary to rebid the purchase of the three (3) mid-sized buses. The new bid deadline is January 11, 2018.

MSBA Closeout

Mr. Presnal reported that the MSBA closeout for Woodland School is scheduled for the State's 2/14/2018 board meeting. Powder Mill School and Southwick Regional School are scheduled for the State's 4/10/2018 board meeting. Mr. Presnal stated that it was his understanding that District representation is not required for the closeout process to proceed.

Transportation: Weather Delays

Mr. Presnal reported that due to the extreme cold temperatures, there were a few transportation delays for students in the morning. These delays were due to the cold temperatures and thickening of the bus fuel on one Granville Bus. Ms. Petschke asked what is being done to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Presnal responded that the transportation department is doing it's best to utilize block heaters, provide ample time for vehicles to warm up and add anti-gel to the fuel. He also reported that the transportation department made every effort to notify all affected families.

Digital Connections Partnership Schools Grant

Mr. Presnal reported that the District applied for the grant and was selected with 25 other districts which comprise 97 schools. The selected schools will share in the \$1.7 million funding. The allocation percentages for each school has not yet been determined. Mr. Presnal stated that any funding received would go toward wi-fi access at all three schools with the biggest impact at Woodland School.

Ms. Boldyga asked about the timeline to implement improved wi-fi access. Mr. Presnal stated that once the funding is obtained, the timeline is fairly short.

Ms. Stack asked who wrote the grant for the District and Mr. Presnal and Ms. Willard recognized Ben Taglieri, Superintendent Willard and IT Director John Grimaldi.

Ms. Willard explained that the grant give the money but in exchange, the District will be required to match the investment by a percentage. In this way, the grant provides the hardware and the Districts must commit to the training and professional development to leverage the full benefits of the new hardware.

I. SUB COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Subcommittee Assignments

No reports were made because subcommittees have not met since the last meeting.

Policy: Next meeting 1/10/18 at 9:30 a.m.

Finance: Next meeting 1/17/18 at 9:00 a.m.

Transportation: Next meeting prior to the 1/16/18 School Committee Meeting

Negotiations: Next meeting 1/26/2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Liaison Assignments:

Mr. LeBlanc reported that at the last meeting of the LPVEC Board they shared information about the services offered at the Collaborative. Mr. LeBlanc noticed that while STGRSD participates in the CTEC education they use almost none of the other services, including special education. He wondered if the District could reach out to Ms. Somers, the Director of Special Education, and find out what the reason for that is.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

None

III. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

A. Old Business

Remote Participation

Ms. Stack stated that she anticipates being unable to attend the 2/6/18 meeting and may want to participate remotely.

B. New Business

None

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:42 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, Pamela Petschke, Maria Seddon, Jessica Boldyga and Amy Stack being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

- ☐ 1. Move to go into Executive Session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- ☒ 2. 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.
- ☐ 3. 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.
- ☐ 4. Move to go into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with respect thereto; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- ☐ 5. Move to go into Executive Session to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- ☐ 6. Move to go into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- ☐ 7. Move to go into Executive Session to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- ☐ 8. Move to go into Executive Session to consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of a preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- ☐ 9. Move to go into Executive Session to meet or confer with a mediator, as defined in section 23C of chapter 233, with respect to any litigation or decision on any public business within its jurisdiction involving another party, group or entity; and to reconvene in Open Session.
- ☐ 10. Move to go into Executive Session to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information; and to reconvene in Open Session.

Interim Principal Contract.

At 7:28 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn executive session. With the members Jeffrey Houle, George Leblanc, Theodore Locke, Pamela Petschke, Maria Seddon, Jessica Boldyga and Amy Stack being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

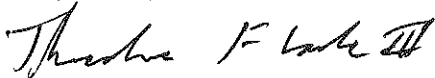
IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:02 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. With the members Jeffrey Houle, George Leblanc, Theodore Locke, Pamela Petschke, Maria Seddon, Amy Stack 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 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theodore Locke, Secretary

V. STAFFING

Appointments

1. Ronald Peloquin

Interim Principal, Woodland School

Effective 1/1/2018

Resignations

Retirements

VI. LIST OF DOCUMENTS VIEWED OR DISCUSSED DURING THIS MEETING:

- Agenda for the January 2, 2018 meeting
- Minutes for December 5, 2017 meeting
- Governor Charles Baker letter dated December 6, 2017
- STGRSD Strategic Plan; Woodland School Site Strategic Objectives
- Kimberley Saso Memorandum regarding Powder Mill School Student Council Fundraising
- Letter to Mrs. Saso from Leslie Clark-Yvon regarding grade 3 field trip
- Law Guide, October 6 2017, pages 13-15
- Interim Principal Contract
- Massachusetts DESE Office of School Finance FY18 Preliminary School Choice Sending as of December 2017
- Massachusetts DESE Office of School Finance FY18 Preliminary School Choice Receiving as of December 2017
- NESDEC STGRSD Enrollment Summary dated 11/14/2017

