



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

DATE: October 4, 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.)
	Jean McGivney-Burelle
	Pamela Petschke, (Granville Rep.)
	Maria Seddon
	Kelly Clendenin
Administration:	Jennifer Willard, Superintendent
	Stephen Presnal, Business Manager
	Amy McLaughlin, Recording Secretary
Student Representatives:	Margaret Drohen
	Carlos Pereira
News Media:	Westfield Evening News

B. Opening Ceremony – Pledge of Allegiance

Observers: 26

C. Secretary's Report

9/20/2016 Meeting Minutes: Accepted as written

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

D. Warrants

Circulated

E. Correspondence

Superintendent Willard received a notice from Commissioner Mitchell Chester regarding educator evaluations and an action plan to revise regulations on student impact rating. As part of the action plan, Commissioner Chester intends to propose eliminating the separate student impact rating from the Educator Evaluation Framework.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Burrows and Carolyn Martin commented that the Bus Drivers are concerned about the Transportation Study and the impact on drivers if a decision is made to outsource.

Michelle Parrow commented that her experience with the STGRSD Transportation Department has been a positive one over the years that three of her children have attended school in the District.

Michael Marcoux commented that his sister's family is moving out of the District as a result of personal necessity and that he hopes a School Choice seat can be provided for his niece, who is currently a senior at the Regional School.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Carlos Pereira and Margaret Drohen reported: that PlusPortal access is being rolled out this week and students and parent are excited; fall play rehearsals have begun; athletics are going well; October Club activities are centered around Breast Cancer awareness and Anti-Bullying; the Dedication at the Regional School will take place on October 27, 2016

IV. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Woodland School, Amy Fouracre, Ph.D., Principal

Woodland School Principal Amy Fouracre and Teacher Kara Welch, joined by four second grade students, presented the new Technology Curriculum, which integrates technology with media. The purpose of this new curriculum is to better prepare District students and make them 21st Century Learners. Ms. Welch stated that she is implementing this curriculum K-6, at the Woodland and Granville Village Schools.

Ms. Welch, together with the students, introduced four key areas of focus for the year:

1. Keyboarding – Not words per minute keyboarding but a focus on word processing. Beginning in Kindergarten this program will better prepare students for using computers in their writing as well as formal testing. Writer's Workshop and StoryBird will assist in word work and creative writing.
2. Spelling and vocabulary work on the computer will also strengthen creative writing
3. Computer Coding – Using a program purchased by the PTO, KIBO the programmable robot will teach problem solving and programming.
4. Digital Citizen – This portion of the curriculum will teach students how to use technology safely and respectfully and with common sense.

The students reported that their favorite parts of the new technology curriculum included: Playing typing games; Clicking; Learning; and Building Things

Ms. Fouracre invited the School Committee to come visit the classrooms to see this new curriculum being implemented.

The School Committee was positive about the changes being made in the technology curriculum.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve 1 Grade 12 School Choice Seat for the 2016/2017 School Year

A motion was made to approve:

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

- #### B. Approve 2018 Field Trip to Costa Rica – Dates are February 16-24, 2018. Ms. Mahoney from the Regional School presented the trip: It is the same tour as 2008 but because of early booking the cost is approximately \$1,000.00 less, per person, than recent trips. Ms. Mahoney stated that an early approval of the trip would allow more time for fundraising to offset the cost. Ms. Clendenin asked how many students are expected to participate. Ms. Mahoney stated that she anticipates 18-21 students and 10-12 adult chaperones. Ms. Petschke stated it would be beneficial to incorporate some Science connections in this trip.

A motion was made to approve:

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

C. Approve the contract Addendum Between District and Director of Curriculum and Instruction

A motion was made to approve:

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

VI. REPORTS

A. Superintendent

Ms. Willard reported that the water sampling results had been received by the MASS DEP from the District's voluntary participation in Lead and Copper water sampling. She stated that six (6) taps had

initial results above the State Action Level, yet it is important to note that these initial results were from standing water that had been in the fixtures for an undetermined amount of time. Subsequent tests, in which each fixture was flushed for 30 seconds, resulted in Lead and Copper levels below the State Action Level. As a result, the District has taken these fixtures out-of-service. The school community was notified by a letter of explanation on the District website, as well as via a Connect Ed Outreach Call. All Granville fixtures tested were below the State Action Level.

Ms. Willard reported that the Town of Southwick has accepted 8 bids for the Route 57 project. A decision has not been made regarding the award of the bid.

Ms. Willard reported that MCAS test results have been received. The District is a Level 2 overall. SRS is a Level 1 School with Granville and Powder Mill at Level 2. Ms. Willard stated that there is always more work to do to narrow proficiency gaps.

Ms. Willard reported that the PlusPortal, replacing EdLine, will go live at the Regional School on 10/5/2016 for all grades 7-12. This rollout is ahead of the original schedule and while the Administration anticipates some issues, overall it is optimistic about the launch. Ms. Willard commended Mr. Turmel and his team at the Regional School for their work on this project. Ms. Willard stated that availability for PlusPortal at Powder Mill is still being determined.

Ms. Willard reported that Lockdown Drills are scheduled and will take place at all four District schools on November 18, 2016. A ConnectEd Outreach call will be made prior to the drill day to notify parents of the drills and alleviated potential concerns that could result from significant police and emergency personnel presence at the District that day.

Ms. Willard reported that the Dedication of the Southwick Regional School will take place on October 27, 2016. Tours will begin at 3:30pm with the ceremony at 4:00pm.

Ms. Willard reported that she attended the Rural Schools forum at Mohawk Regional Schools. The group is examining the high cost of running rural schools.

B. School Business Manager

Ms. Presnal recognized Eric Morgan, Director of Buildings and Grounds, for his hard work on the water sampling project.

C. Sub Committees and Liaisons

- Negotiations: Transportation Negotiations took place on September 9, 2016. Next negotiation scheduled for October 17, 2016
- Finance: Meeting scheduled for October 13, 2016 at 8:00am
- L.P.V.E.C Bd. Gov and Bd. Dir: Mr. LeBlanc reported that the most recent LPVEC meetings included a tour of the brand new precision machine facility and that he was impressed.

D. Policies – No new business

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

A. Old Business

None.

B. New Business

Ms. McGivney-Burelle inquired about the availability of MCAS Data. Ms. Willard commented that the Principals will present to the School Committee at a later date, but the data is currently available to the public on the State website. Jenny Sullivan, Director of Instruction and Curriculum, stated that analysis of current data is not comparable to previous years and is therefore more difficult to read because not all Massachusetts schools participated in the testing this time. Ms. Willard reported that the results would be forwarded to the schools on 10/5/2016 and sent to parents after that.

Ms. Petschke stated that the changes in instruction of Technology, as presented by Ms. Fouracre and Ms. Welch, have been needed for a long time and commended the group on their presentation.

Ms. Petschke stated that she would like the School Committee to take an official stance on Ballot Question #2. Mr. Houle stated that this would be brought as an action item at a future meeting.

It was reported that a new School Resource Officer, Mike Taggart, has been appointed.

Mr. LeBlanc reported that he has learned that the Woodland School is partnering with the Southwick Senior Center for a Pen Pal exchange and that the program is going over very well with the members of the Senior Center. Ms. Fouracre stated that Dr. Barry had connected her with the Senior Center and she is looking forward to the program.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated Mr. Locke as being named as the District 5 All State School Committee Member. The entire Committee congratulated Mr. Locke on his achievement and thanked him for his service, since 2001.

Mr. Houle reminded the Committee that communication regarding the Feasibility and Transportation Studies must be handled with complete transparency.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION (publish only those that apply)

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 6:45 pm, a motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

At 7:04 pm, a motion was made to adjourn to the meeting. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theodore Locke, Secretary