



## Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District School Committee

### Regular Meeting

DATE: Thursday, December 19, 2019

TIME: 5:00 P.M. Regular Session

Executive Session to Follow Regular Session

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.

Agenda times are estimates.

#### I. ROUTINE (5:00 p.m.)

##### A. Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Houle at 5:05 p.m.

The Following were present:

School Committee:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Houle, Chairperson, Southwick
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Petschke, Vice Chairperson, Granville
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theodore Locke, Tolland
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Boldyga, Southwick
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chelsea Berry, Secretary, Southwick
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Schantz, Southwick
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maria Seddon, Southwick
Administration:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Willard, Superintendent
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Presnal, Director of Finance and Operations
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy McLaughlin, Recording Secretary
Student Representatives:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houle, Gabrielle
News Media:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observers:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Approximately 8</u>

##### B. Opening Ceremony - none

##### C. Secretary's Report

12/10/2019 Meeting Minutes Accepted

Motion by Petschke, seconded by Berry 6/0/1 (Seddon abstain)

##### D. Warrants - circulated

##### E. Correspondence –none

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

None

#### III. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Gabrielle Houle reported:

- The Drama trip to Broadway was a complete success with close to 60 students attending. The trip got off to a little bit of a late start due to weather but Mr. Turmel and Superintendent Willard kept families informed.
- The SRS Winter Concert saw a packed house! Both the middle band and chorus played and sang as well as the High School Band and Chorus. The concert ended with all grades onstage singing and playing together. Two student conductors Morgan Grilli and Noah Stevenson did a great job.
- Chorus went to the Senior Center for the Council on Aging's holiday luncheon on 12/18/2019 and was well received
- Youth Leadership Conference at WSU - Six middle school students attended the Youth Leadership Conference at Westfield State University with Mrs. Deery. Attended by middle school students from all over Western Massachusetts, the keynote speaker's message highlighted "why youth leadership is important"

now more than ever." Students learned about strategies to improve leadership and participated in team building exercises/ice breakers.

- Wreaths Across America – SRS students raised over \$3,000.00 which purchased 202 wreaths for Wreaths Across America. Students participated in laying wreaths at the Agawam Veteran's Cemetery.
- Club Photos will be taken on Friday, December 20, 2019
- Olympics – As an alternative to a winter pep rally, students and staff will participate in a Winter Olympics spirit event.
- Naviance for Juniors – Naviance is a software program offered by Southwick Regional School. It provides an account for each student for helps students get the information they need in college selection process.

#### IV. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

##### A. Southwick Regional School, Student Awards Recognition

Superintendent Willard presented the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence is given to **Evelynn Schoenthal**. Evelynnn was recognized as a high school student who has distinguished herself in the pursuit of excellence during her high school career.

##### A. Southwick Regional School MCAS Data Overview, Joseph Turmel, Principal, Southwick Regional School

Mr. Turmel took the Committee through all of the grade and subject level SRS results of the MCAS testing for spring 2019. He reviewed accountability data and the points for different achievements/demographics/numbers, compared to last year and highlighted improvements as well as areas of opportunity. Mr. Turmel reminded the Committee that the ELA 10 students took the new test which was on the computer for the first time. Mr. Turmel explained to the Committee that with the new test also come changes for what qualifies as "passing for graduation requirement" No student failed ELA MCAS test where they would not be able to graduate.

Ms. Petschke asked about sub group data. Mr. Turmel responded that SRS doesn't have a lot of sub-groups but girls are out-achieving boys, Special Education and economically disadvantaged students performed well

Mr. Turmel also provided a summary of where the school has come over past few years, reflecting on where deficiencies were and what has been and is being done to correct/change practice and monitor progress. He stated that SRS is continually making new steps to look at the data and use it to improve instruction.

##### B. Southwick Regional School Timeline Update for Program of Studies, Joseph Turmel, Principal, Southwick Regional School

Mr. Turmel explained to the Committee that SRS is already looking at courses for the upcoming year and reviewed some adjustments that they hope to make the Program of Studies. Among the changes, they hope to bring improved participation and test scores in the AP offering. Other changes will are being examined on a long and short-term timeline and will need to be aligned with the graduation requirements. Those changes include Math and Science.

One of the possible additions in two years could be a Manufacturing, Health or IT pathway that can be offered for students. This pathway offering is already being done at neighboring districts. The new pathway would include partnerships with High Education Schools and also with local business. RS has begun looking at IT and Health Careers Pathways. There is a calendar for implementation for 21/22 school year and the next step is for Superintendent Willard and Mr. Turmel to meet with a representative from DESE to talk about a plan.

The Committee offered their support of the programs while emphasizing that they'd like students to receive real world, life skills learning opportunities.

##### C. Educational Update, Superintendent Willard, Jenny Sullivan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Superintendent Willard referenced for the Committee, the Commissioner's Report: "Our Way Forward". She explained to the Committee that the Admin Team is familiar with this report and the District strategic plan is based on it. She then explained that her goal is to get the report into the hands of the teachers so they know



that this isn't just an STGRSD initiative, but a statewide initiative: Deeper, Rigorous, Authentic Tasks, Understanding and Application in multiple scenarios.

Superintendent Willard reviewed with the Committee the District's curricular journey of the past four years. Ms. Sullivan reviewed the Commissioners report and highlighted how STGRSD is in alignment with the Commissioner's initiatives.

Ms. Willard and Ms. Sullivan then reviewed the District's Professional Development Plan and implementation over the past few years. They also talked about their sense that teachers are feeling overwhelmed and that they are planning to set up times to meet with grade and subject level teachers directly to get their feedback. Ms. Sullivan explained that Instructional Coaches offer job-embedded, differentiated professional development and shared examples of that offering.

Ms. Willard and Ms. Sullivan then discussed the Curriculum review cycle and the plan for how new curriculum is reviewed and implemented, and how priorities shift based on the release of new State standards.

Ms. Boldyga asked how the professional development and curriculum updates intersect with the testing. Ms. Sullivan explained that student performance data is the driving factor behind the decisions that are made and as a team, the administration and coaches look at the data and identify opportunities for improvement. The District is implementing other assessment tools, not just standardized testing, to help teachers diagnose, plan and make adjustments. She also stated that using the data is a skill that needs to be developed among the majority of the staff and that is also part of the continual development of the curriculum.

## V. POLICIES

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading revised JF School Admissions

On hold pending further review by policy subcommittee.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading GBEB Staff Conduct

## VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Woodland School Site Strategic Plan

Move to approve the Woodland School Site Strategic Plan for the 2019/2020 school year.

Motion by Petschke, seconded by Berry 7/0/0

B. Retirement Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School Committee hereby extend their congratulations to Karen O'Connor in recognition of ten years of paraprofessional excellence, and we hereby convey our sincere appreciation for your valuable efforts, dedicated service, and assistance rendered, which has enhanced the image of the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional Schools, and a record of these resolutions shall be permanently entered into the minutes of this School District.

Motion by Petschke, seconded by Berry 7/0/0

## VII. REPORTS

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Willard reported that she attended the Town of Southwick, Council on Aging's Jinglebell Jubilee. She was joined by SRS Assistant Principal Pescitelli and they enjoyed the SRS Chorus performance. She stated that the SRS Chorus was a gifted group of students.

Ms. Willard also reported that tryouts for the SRS spring Musical, *Newsies*, took place on 12/18/2019.

Ms. Willard reported that she and Mr. Presnal joined the Transportation Department at their annual holiday breakfast. She stated that she informed the group that the Committee is in conversations with LPVEC to explore the outsourcing of transportation. She stated that currently nothing is definite but the District will hold a meeting as new information comes available.

B. Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Presnal reported that the Audit team from Powers and Sullivan was at the District this week and wrapped up their field work. He stated that a draft audit is scheduled to be available in mid-January and the next step is for a limit scope audit for the end of year report, to verify accuracy of data that is submitted to DESE.

He stated that the finance subcommittee was scheduled to meet with Mr. Sullivan but the meeting was cancelled because of the snow day.

**VIII. SUB COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS**

Subcommittee Assignments

- a. Negotiations: T. Locke, C. Berry, J. Schantz – Teacher Mediation is scheduled for 1/8/2020. Ms. McLaughlin was asked to see if Attorney Dupere is available on 1/7/2020 to meet with the subcommittee.
- b. Finance: J. Boldyga, T. Locke, J. Houle – Next meeting 1/16/2020 at 9:15 a.m.
- c. L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Governors: TBD
- d. L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Directors: J. Houle - No report.
- e. Policy: C. Berry, J. Schantz – Ms. Berry updated that several policies were reviewed and are anticipated to be brought to the Committee in February.
- f. Buildings and Grounds: J. Houle – next meeting January 7, 2020
- g. Transportation: T. Locke, J. Boldyga,

Liaison Assignments

- a. Curriculum & Instruction (ILT): P. Petschke, J. Boldyga, C. Berry – No report
- b. Wellness: T. Locke – No report
- c. SPED Liaison: P. Petschke – No report
- d. Technology: P. Petschke, J. Schantz – – No report
- e. Southwick 250<sup>th</sup>: C. Berry – Ms. Berry thanked the District for their help an cooperation in planning the First Night activities on 12/31/2019.
- f. Southwick Capital Committee: C. Berry – No report
- g. Legislative Liaison: rotating attendance at MASC meetings

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues**

Jennifer Willard, Westfield, MA – Ms. Willard thanked the Houle Family for their generosity and providing food for the Committee during the meeting.

**X. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

A. Old Business – None

Subcommittee discussion

Mr. Houle stated that the District is still not represented on the LPVEC board. Ms. Petschke volunteered to serve for the remainder of the school year.

B. New Business None

None

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None**

To follow Regular Session

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.

UFCW Negotiations; Unit A Negotiations

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:15 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

With the members Jeff Houle, Pamela Petschke, Theodore Locke, Chelsea Berry, Jonathan Schantz, Jessica Boldyga and Maria Seddon all voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes

Motion by Petschke, seconded by Berry 7/0/0

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chelsea Berry, Secretary

**XIII. STAFFING**

Appointments

Gendron, Caroline	Paraprofessional, PMS	12/9/2019
Viens, Abagale	Paraprofessional, PMS	1/2/2020

Retirements

Ash, James	Teacher, SRS	9/5/2020
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**XIV. LIST OF DOCUMENTS VIEWED OR DISCUSSED DURING THIS MEETING:**

- Agenda for the December 19, 2019 meeting
- Minutes for December 10, 2019 meeting
- MCAS Data Presentation for Southwick Regional School
- Program of Studies 2020-2021
- Welcome to Advanced Placement Language and Composition – Course Description
- New Course Proposal: Advanced Math Topics
- Holyoke Community College and Southwick-Tolland Regional High School Articulation Agreement for Forensic Science
- High-Quality College & Career Pathways
- The commissioner's Report to the Board: Our Way Forward
- Coaching Activities September –November 2019
- Curriculum Review Cycle
- Woodland School Site Strategic Plan for 19/20
- JF School Admissions
- GBEB Staff Conduct

