



Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District School Committee

Regular Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, January 7, 2020

TIME: 5:30 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 (5:30 p.m.)

A. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Houle at 5:30 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 (arrived at 5:32 p.m.) |
| | <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 (arrived at 5:37 p.m.) |
| | <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"/> Gabrielle Houle and Amelia Coviello |
| News Media: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Observers: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Approximately 2</u> |

B. Opening Ceremony - none

C. Secretary's Report

12/19/2019 Meeting Minutes Accepted

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

D. Warrants - circulated

E. Correspondence - none

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

None

III. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Gabrielle Houle and Amelia Coviello reported the Southwick Regional School held a "Holiday Olympics" event before vacation. Instead of a pep rally the 7-12 event featured some Olympics inspired challenges and teacher vs. student games. Students are preparing for the end of the semester and upcoming finals and then report cards on January 24th; class ring distribution will take place on Thursday and students are excited and looking forward to that; on Saturday in conjunction with Celebrate Southwick 250, the Ice Hockey team will play at the Mass Mutual center before a Thunderbirds game; for the upcoming semester, Mr. Turmel has tasked students to come with with ice breaker ideas for teachers/students to get to know one another on the first day.

IV. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Student Opportunity Act, Stephen Presnal, Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Presnal did a presentation to the Committee about the Student Opportunity Act, recently passed by the Massachusetts State legislature and what it means for the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District. He explained that this is the first major change to the school funding formula since 1993. The implementation of the Act will be a 7 year phase in begins in FY21 and complete in FY27. The broad goal is to improve educational opportunities for all students – level the playing field regardless off socioeconomic status. Because STGRSD has a relatively low percentage of students classified as low income and ELL. Those factors contribute to the reason why this new Act does not result in an anticipated significant increase in State funding for our District. Also,

because the District is in a hold harmless for State funding, over time, it is projected that State aid will remain flat but the required local contributions of the three towns are anticipated to increase.

Mr. Presnal stated that until the Governor's Budget, which is scheduled to be released 1/22/2020, the District is currently working with preliminary estimates for funding and budgeting purposes.

Mr. Presnal explained that the State has District in a hold harmless which means that over time, state aid will remain flat but the required local contribution is anticipated to increase. Superintendent Willard stated that the new Rural School Aid is not currently part of the budget but instead comes after, which makes planning difficult. The Rural Schools Coalition is working to have that funding allocated sooner so it can be part of the budgeting process.

Ms. Petschke asked if the finance committees of each of the towns are aware of the anticipated funding changes and Mr. Presnal confirmed that it was discussed at the FY2021 budget Roundtable held in November 2019..

Steve Presnal reviewed other bill highlights including transportation reimbursement for circuit breaker out of district placements and charter school tuition reimbursement. He stated that as part of the Student Opportunity Act, all Districts in the State will be required to provide a plan and outline how funds will be used to address disparities and achievement gaps for students and he will be working with Superintendent Willard on that plan.

Mr. Houle reminded the District and the Committee of the importance of working closely with the three towns to make sure they understand and are able to plan for this.

B. Superintendent Goals Update, Superintendent Willard

Superintendent Willard presented the Committee a mid-year update on her 19/20 goals. She explained to the Committee that as part of making sure Professional Development is track with the District strategic plan, she is setting up meetings with the teachers to discuss the supports they might need.

Also, she has asked Woodland and Powder Mill School Principals to come to the Committee in February to show how they are using data to examine student growth. Improved communication is always a priority and principals are working to do shorter more frequent newsletters and the District is working to expand its Instagram and Facebook presence.

For the budget process the District is working hard to bring a balanced budget while some key items such as transportation sourcing and teacher contract are not yet finalized.

Ms. Petschke expressed interest in the teacher meetings and Ms. Willard explained that the Commissioner's paper, Our Way Forward and the District Strategic Plan will be starting points for the conversations. Ms. Berry stated that these would also be valuable tools for the Community and suggested they be put on the website in the same section as the Strategic Plan.

V. POLICIES-

3rd Reading GBEB Staff Conduct

No comments

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Accept Policy GBEB Staff Conduct

Move to accept policy GBEB Staff Conduct.

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

B. Rescind Policy IHCA-R Summer Reading

Move to rescind policy IHCA-R Summer Reading.

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

VII. REPORTS

A. Superintendent –

Ms. Willard disclosed, under conflict of interest law, that her son is home from college and working as a substitute teacher in the District. She explained that she called the State Ethics Commission and they explained

that the only conflict is if there are discussions about substitute teacher pay rates, the Committee may ask her to excuse herself from those discussions.

B. Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Presnal reported that the State is releasing supplemental funds from their FY2019. Funds are scheduled to begin to be released in late January and will be related to Regional School Transportation and Circuit Breaker. Additionally the District is waiting for the State to release information about FY2020 Rural School Aid allocation.

He also reported that he is working to file the E&D report in the upcoming week but is just waiting on the OPEB liability finalization for the audit and is also actively working with District stakeholders on the FY2021 budget development process.

VIII. SUB COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Subcommittee Assignments

Negotiations: Locke, Berry, Houle – Mr. Houle reported on a meeting today prep for Negotiations tomorrow with Unit A.

Finance: Boldyga, Locke, Houle – will meet Thursday 1/16/2020

L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Governors: Petschke – the next meeting is 1/15/2020.

L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Directors: Houle – no report

Policy: Schantz, Berry, Seddon – scheduled for 1/21/2020

Buildings and Grounds: Houle – Mr. Houle reported that he met with Mr. Presnal and Mr. Wicander. Some topics covered include a hot water system at Powder Mill School; Mr. Wicander has plans to put state mandated notifications on the website; Mr. Wicander is working on an Energy Management Policy which he will bring forth to policy subcommittee; the playground opening has been delayed due to a damaged playground piece which has recently been repaired as well as a piece of equipment which needs more safety surfacing under it. That piece of equipment will need to be disabled until the additional safety surfacing is added.

Transportation: Locke, Boldyga – No scheduled meeting, but the District met yesterday with LPVEC to discuss outsourcing of transportation. A target date of February 25, 2020 has been set to finalize numbers and answer some large outstanding questions. Votes need to be made by both LPVEC and the Committee to make the transition and then the budget will need to be adjusted to reflect any changes.

Ms. Petschke asked that the public be notified in advance of Town meetings if the decision is made to outsource and that communication helps families understand, what, if any, impact it would have on their student's transportation.

Liaison Assignments

(ILT): Petschke, Boldyga, Berry – no report

Wellness Liaison: Locke – no report

SPED Liaison: Petschke – no report

Technology: Petschke, Schantz – no report

Southwick Capital Committee: Berry – no report

Southwick 250th : Berry – Ms. Berry reported on the Southwick 250 First Night held on 12/31/2019. She said that at least 180 children were at Woodland School doing crafts, etc and it was a fun night concluding with the fireworks and a great turnout. Next Southwick 250th event is the Thunderbirds game on 1/11/2020; and coming up will be a presentation of the new book: Around Southwick 2 scheduled to be released in the late spring.

Legislative Liaison: Rotating attendance at MASC – no report

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

None

X. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

A. Old Business - none

B. New Business - none

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:59 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 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chelsea Berry, Secretary

XIII. STAFFING

Appointments

Retirements

O'Connor, Maurice

Parprofessional, SRS

1/1/2021

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

- Agenda for the January 7, 2020 meeting
- Minutes for December 19, 2019 meeting
- Student Opportunity Act Funding Projections Chart
- Superintendent's Goals for 2019/2020 School Year: Mid-Year Update
- GBEB Staff Conduct
- IHCA-R Summer Reading