



# Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District School Committee

## Regular Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2020

TIME: 5:00 P.M. Executive Session

5:30 P.M. 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. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:00 p.m. a motion was made to go into Executive session and reconvene in open session.

With the members Jeffrey Houle, Theodore Locke and Chelsea Berry present and all voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Berry, seconded by Locke 3/0/0

- ☐ 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.

UFCW Negotiations; Unit A Negotiations  
Unit A Negotiations update;

At 5:28 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn Executive session and return to open session.

With the members Jeffrey Houle, Chelsea Berry and Theodore Locke all voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Berry, seconded by Locke 3/0/0

**II. ROUTINE (5:30 p.m.)**

**A. Attendance**

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, Southwick
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Petschke, Granville
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theodore Locke, Tolland
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Boldyga, Southwick
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chelsea Berry, Southwick
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Schantz, Southwick
	<input type="checkbox"/> Maria Seddon, Southwick
Administration:	<input 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"/> Amelia Coviello, Gabrielle Houle (Regular Session at 5:30 p.m.)
News Media:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Westfield Evening News
Observers:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Approximately 10</u>

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

**C. Secretary's Report**

1/07/2020 Meeting Minutes Accepted

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

**D. Warrants - Circulating**

**E. Correspondence**

Mr. Presnal reported on an email received from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue on 1/16/2020 confirming that the District's Excess and Deficiency had been certified at \$846,069.

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

None

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT**

Amelia Coviello and Gabby Houle reported that:

- New semester started today with new classes and new DLEs. All classes started with icebreakers for students to get to know one another.
- Report cards for second quarter will be distributed on Friday, 1/24/2020.
- Two weeks ago Gabby Houle attended model congress as an advisor. It was a valuable event and a lot of scholarships handed out. SRS senior Gabby Peterson was named best delegate.
- Make up finals day – The Friday of finals week has historically been a finals make up day and students who do not need to make up a final generally attend school that day. Mr. Turmel has asked for student input to identify ways to make that day more productive and a better use of time. Community service projects are one option. Ms. Boldyga and other Committee members highlighted that with the daily time constraints, it would be nice to see this become a day where the District can do some of the extra things like Life Skills, or ED Camp where kids have options of what to do. Could be volunteer at younger grades.

## V. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

- A. Wreaths Across America, SRS Students and Michael Pescitelli, Assistant Principal, Southwick Regional School  
Mike Pescitelli introduced both Clare Hanna and Grace Hanna. The sisters were part of the leadership team student group that lead the Wreaths Across America initiative at the Southwick Regional School during the 2019 holiday season. He expressed his pride, not only in Claire and Grace, but all of the students who participated. He highlighted Brenna Aylward who created the banner that hung in the SRS foyer.

Student Clare Hanna explained the Wreaths Across America event that puts a wreath on every veteran grave. She explained that they worked with Mr. Pescitelli to set goals and organize fundraisers such as Penny Wars, dodgeball tournament and local business donations. She specifically mentioned the donations by Blossoming Acres and the Summer house. She said the original goal was to raise \$700 to donate 50 wreaths but the group was able to raise over \$3000 and sponsored over 200 wreaths. She said that this year the Powder Mill School participated and they would like to go more District wide next year.

The Committee congratulated the students and Mr. Locke, whose father is buried at Arlington Cemetery, thanked them personally.

- B. VFW Essay Contest Winners, Troy Henke, Commander, District 7, VFW MA  
Mr. Henke presented awards for two essay contests sponsored nationally by the VFW.  
Clare Hanna was presented with first place for her essay on Voice of Democracy – What makes America Great? Claire won the District and will move to compete for the State. Mr. Henke presented her a check for \$125.00  
Grace Hanna was presented with first place for her Patriot's Pen essay. Grace was presented a check for \$50.00. Mr. Henke thanked the students, their families and the Committee and stated that he hoped to see increased participation in the future.

## VI. POLICIES

None

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve Fundraisers

Move to approve the 19/20 school year fundraisers for PAWS PTO: Box Tops Collection; Scholastic Spring Bookfair; Square One Art.

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

Move to approve the 19/20 school year fundraiser for Southwick Regional School GSA Club: Bake Sale.

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

- B. Approve 2020/2021 School Year District Calendar

Move to approve the 2020/2021 School District Calendar.

The Committee members expressed their interest in reducing the number of half-days in the calendar. It was explained that most are a result of contractual obligations.

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

## VIII. REPORTS

- A. Superintendent

none

- B. Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Presnal reported that, as mentioned under correspondence, E&D has been certified and stated that it is beneficial to have that certification completed before the budget. District is in good shape with E&D and reserve in case of an unforeseen expense.

He also reported that the District is continuing its work on transportation analysis and is still waiting for some definitive answers on finance questions.

Fincom is scheduled for Friday, 1/24/2020 and will discuss transportation.

Ms. Petschke asked what do we know/don't know regarding transportation outsourcing. Mr. Presnal responded that the knowns include the value of the fleet, estimated cost per bus per day at collaborative, estimate on removal of underground storage tank if needed. What is unknown is the District accounting for the operational costs of transportation, which is distributed among several line items.

## **IX. SUB COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS**

### **Subcommittee Assignments**

Negotiations: Locke, Berry, Houle – Mediation with the teachers is scheduled for Feb 6, 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
Finance: Boldyga, Locke, Houle – Ms. Boldyga reported that the subcommittee met last week and reviewed OPEB, they are waiting for actuarial firm to provide number for balance sheet; audit results and financial statements will be reviewed with the full committee at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Presnal reported that the school lunch deficit is quite large and the State has directed that they want to see a resolution. The first question is how to address the current deficit and second, how to prevent it from happening again. Ms. Berry and the Committee are concerned about kids eating and hope that the District will solicit student feedback. Mr. Sanschagrin attended the meeting and discussed some finance changes with athletics, including athletic fees and payment options.

L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Directors: Ms. Petschke reported that she attended the first meeting last week which was Andy Churchill's last meeting. LPVEC is focused on hiring a new director and they are looking for Superintendent's to sit on that committee. Ms. Petschke shared the LPVEC Mission, Vision and Values document she was given at her meeting.

L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Governors: Houle – No report

Policy: Schantz, Berry, Seddon – Ms. Berry reported that the subcommittee reviewed policies which will be revised to be more streamlined, without procedures. This includes policies on wellness, AED, Homeless, Foster and Military student rights.

Buildings and Grounds: Houle – meet next month

Transportation: Locke, Boldyga – No report

### **Liaison Assignments**

(ILT): Petschke, Boldyga, Berry

Wellness Liaison: Locke

SPED Liaison: Petschke

Technology: Petschke, Schantz

Southwick Capital Committee: Berry

Southwick 250th: Berry – Ms. Berry reported that the next event is the winter carnival in to be held February.

Legislative Liaison: Rotating attendance at MASC

## **X. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues**

None

## **XI. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

A. Old Business

B. New Business

a. Meeting Start Time – The Committee agrees to move to 5:30 p.m. start so Ms. Seddon can participate fully. Executive Session will continue to be first, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Regular meetings start at 6:00 p.m., The Policy Subcommittee, which meets prior to School Committee meetings, will begin at 4:30 p.m.

b. Upcoming Meeting Dates – A meeting will be added on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 for budget approval. For now, the other meetings will stay on the schedule.

c. Athletic Liaison - Additional position that would meet every other month with Regional School principal and Athletic Director. Not decision making but a channel. – Jessica Boldyga is interest, but would need to give up something else.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:33 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chelsea Berry', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chelsea Berry, Secretary

**XIII. LIST OF DOCUMENTS VIEWED OR DISCUSSED DURING THIS MEETING:**

- Agenda for the January 21, 2020
- Minutes for January 7, 2020 meeting
- Email from Mary Jane Handy dated 1/16/2020 regarding certification of E&D
- PTO and SRS Fundraiser Requests
- 2020/2021 STGRSD District Calendar
- LPVEC Mission, Vision and Values