



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

DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2020

TIME: 5:30 P.M. Executive Session

6:00 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 (5:30 p.m.)

At 5:32 p.m. a motion was made to go into Executive session and reconvene in open session.

With the members Jeffrey Houle, Chelsea Berry, Theodore Locke, Jonathan Schantz, Jessica Boldyga, Maria Seddon and Chelsea Berry present and all voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Berry, seconded by Schantz 6/0/0

- ☐ 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; Cafeteria Negotiations

Ms. Petschke arrived at 5:34 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn Executive session and return to open session.

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

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

II. ROUTINE (6:00 p.m.)

A. Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Houle at 6:02 p.m.

The Following were present:

School Committee:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Houle, Southwick
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Petschke, Granville (arrived at 5:34 p.m.)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theodore Locke, Tolland
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Boldyga, Southwick
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chelsea Berry, 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"/> Amelia Coviello, Gabrielle Houle (Regular Session at 6:00 p.m.)
News Media:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observers:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Approximately 12</u>

B. Opening Ceremony – Pledge of Allegiance

C. Secretary's Report

1/21/2020 Meeting Minutes Accepted

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

D. Warrants - Circulating

E. Correspondence

Superintendent Willard reported on a letter received from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education dated January 24, 2020. The letter notified the District of an additional \$19,835 the District will receive in Rural School Aid for the FY19 school year. This additional funding means the total Rural School Aid the District will receive is approximately \$110,00.00. Ms. Willard is working with Mr. Presnal to determine the allocation of these funds.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

Mr. Houle reviewed the School Committee procedures for public comment.

Brandon Haseltine, Southwick, MA – Mr. Haseltine introduced himself as an SRS student and the sole organizer of the movement to show support for teachers in contract negotiations. Mr. Haseltine stated that he reviewed the teacher contract online and he and other students are alarmed by the contract.

Griffin Parrow, Southwick, MA – Mr. Parrow introduced himself as an SRS student and also a supporter of the teachers in contract negotiations. Mr. Parrow stated that he was there to speak out against the 50/50 health care in the teacher contract. He highlighted the positive impact that teachers have on all students, including himself, and expressed his recognition for their hard work.

Superintendent Willard thanked the students for coming to the School Committee meeting and for using their voices to be proactive for the teachers who are the backbone of school and for showing their support for the teachers.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Gabrielle Houle and Amelia Coviello reported:

- MCAS testing will begin on Wednesday and Thursday for Biology
- Saturday 2/8/2020 is an APBIO test prep day
- the week of 2/3/2020 – 2/7/2020 is School Counseling week and the board outside guidance includes notes from students to counselors and messages from Counselors to students
- Mock Trial and Math Team are both competing this week
- A new initiative has started with NHS and is called Seniors helping Seniors. This partnership has been established with Mr. Pescitelli and Council on Aging in Southwick and has SRS 12th graders doing odd jobs to help senior citizens in the community.
- Last week the Superintendent met with six students in Grades 9-12 for lunch and to get their feedback on SRS
- Stephanie Marcil and Adam Sherlin were both named to All State Chorus
- Yearbook is looking for families to place ads to honor their seniors

V. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Woodland School Data, Kimberley Saso, Principal, Woodland School

Mr. Saso took the committee through her presentation of data review that has recently taken place at Woodland School. She first talked about data gathered related to student Reading. The data showed the 19/20 progress from September-November and September through January. Ms. Saso explained the different assessment tools being used at each grade level and the expected growth. She highlighted that the largest growth in student reading is expected in Grade 1. She explained that assessments are completed approximately every month and that frequency seems to help teachers support students and identify the needs.

After her presentation of the Reading data, Ms. Saso then reviewed Woodland School math data. She highlighted the newness of both the curriculum and the assessments. She described two assessment tools, screeners and unit assessment with examples of each. The screener is a simpler assessment and the unit assessment is a bit higher rigor. Screener and unit assessment data is being gathered on the power standards. Ms. Boldyga asked if teachers are feeling like they are getting the information they need from these assessments and that they are valuable. Ms. Saso explained that because the assessments are so new, teachers are still working through the data. Ms. Willard also explained that the teacher feedback she's received has been that the math unit assessments are overwhelming but primarily because teachers didn't understand the implementation. Ms. Berry cautioned that that added language in assessments does not necessarily equal increased rigor.

B. Southwick Regional School Athletics Update, David Sanschagrin, Athletic Director, Joseph Turmel, Principal Boys Outdoor Track

Mr. Sanschagrin explained that, due to declining numbers, SRS would like to host a Boy's Outdoor Track Co-Op with St. Mary's and Westfield Technical Academy. Currently there are only 14 SRS boys participating and while, that is enough to participate, SRS is not represented in all the events and many boys are doing multiple events. If the program drops to below 10 participants, it would no longer be viable.

Mr. Sanschagrin stated that agreements with the other two schools would be similar to the arrangements that currently exist with the Ice Hockey Co-Op.

Mr. Sanschagrin explained that, with the Committee support, the MIAA is scheduled to vote on approval of the Co-Op at an upcoming meeting and that, if approved, the Committee would need to vote to approve the Co-Op at their 2/25/2020 meeting.

The Committee collectively gave their approval to Mr. Sanschagrin to bring the Co-Op to the MIAA for approval.

Booster Club

Mr. Sanschagrin gave an update on the formation of a new Booster Club. Mr. Sanschagrin explained that the organization is working to become an independent 503C Non-Profit and he would like to model the Agawam Public Schools Policy on Booster Clubs.

He explained that fundraising activities would be approved by the Committee and then donations accepted.

Mr. Sanschagrín also explained that the Booster group has some members coming together to fill administrative roles and he does see a need for liaison roles including a liaison from the School Committee. Next steps for the Boosters is policy subcommittee.

Family ID

Mr. Sanschagrín stated that for the 20/21 school year Family ID will be used to collect athletic fees from families. This new practice will eliminate the handling of money between players and coaches. A charging policy is needed for policy subcommittee.

Ms. Seddon reminded Mr. Sanschagrín that the new procedures ensure refunds are made in a timely manner and there is an option for parents who want to pay by check.

Athletic Participation Fees

Mr. Turmel explained that the currently SRS fees are low in comparison to other Districts and the current funding sources are falling short of the initiatives that SRS would like to offer students. He explained that Athletic Fees is not a policy but is a practice and, looking at the history at SRS, in approximately 2006 user fees changed to Athletic fees and reduced from \$100 to \$50. There has not been an increase since 2006.

Mr. Turmel explained the justification for an increase in athletic fees and that it includes:

- increased number of sports offered to students
- increased cost for game officials, noting that these costs are determined by MIAA, and often require multiple officials per game
- change in school name to Southwick Regional School in 2015 means that uniforms have had to be replaced to reflect current brand
- transportation is more expensive, gas increased
- more supplies are needed for sports
- new teams have rental expenses associated with them and rental fees are increasing
- higher expectations see students participating in extra outings associated with tournament play

Mr. Presnal highlighted that during lean budget years, programs like these are less vulnerable when they are more self-sufficient.

The Committee gave their verbal approval for the athletic fees to be increased but asked that the proposal includes a possible cap on the number of sport seasons families may need to pay for and consideration of families with multiple students.

New Sports Update

Unified Sports – Mr. Sanschagrín reported that a Unified Sports team will begin in the coming spring with track season and that 10 athletes are committed.

E-Sports – Mr. Turmel reported that Mr. Pescitelli is leading teams in e-sports and it is interscholastic video game competition sponsored by MIAA. The season starts on 2/27/2020.

Gabrielle Houle asked about the RAMS initiative that took place a couple of years ago and how that fits into Mr. Sanschagrín's branding and plans. Mr. Sanschagrín responded that he is planning to resume the RAMS initiative but wants the boosters to get going first. Ms. Houle expressed that students should also be involved in the booster.

Mr. Turmel reviewed the proposed changes to the Program of Studies as well as the rationale for each change. He highlighted that the Southwick Regional School is working on adjusting the course levels and how to provide information to colleges that is in alignment with the information they need to make admission decisions. He also highlighted a general change in terminology from "Guidance" to "School" Counselors.

Ms. Petschke asked if the changes reflect the possibility of an innovative pathway for SRS. Mr. Turmel responded that more planning is needed and there will not be any big changes until after the planning phase.

Mr. Houle asked if AP Government will be a full year course and Mr. Turmel said that, in consultation with the teacher, it is planned to remain a half-year course.

VI. POLICIES

1st Reading JLCA: Health Requirements

Ms. Petschke asked for clarification on the activity limitations and if the policy needs to list dates related to limitations. Ms. McLaughlin and Superintendent Willard clarified that any statement from the physician would include all of that information.

Noell Somers, Director of Special Education reported that all three of the following policies are being proposed based on the results of the recent Tiered Focused Monitoring. As a result of that review, STGRSD needs to revise the policy for Homeless Education and add policies for Military and Foster Care. She then highlighted the information in the proposed policies.

1st Reading JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services – In this revision, the language is more pointed in services received as well as expanding the ability of students to stay. The new policy will help clarify disputes.

The Committee noted some typos with numbers, but otherwise, no comments.

1st Reading JFABE: Educational Opportunities for Military Children – New policy to meet the needs of this population.

1st Reading JFABF: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care – New policy to meet the needs of this population.

Mr. Houle asked if there is a deadline for the approval of school committee and Ms. Somers stated that she contacted DESE and explained the plan for the three readings and DESE approved that plan.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve Town Reports

Move to approve the Annual Town Report for the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District for FY19 to be submitted to each of the three member towns.

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

B. Approve Fundraisers

Move to approve the following fundraiser for the 2019/2020 school year: Global Glimpse Concession Stand Sales at SRS Athletic Events.

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

C. Approve Out-of-State Field Trip

Move to approve the 2019/2020 Southwick Regional School Out-of-State Field Trip for Wright Flight to go to Air Museum in Windsor Locks, CT.

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

D. Approve School Choice Seat

Move to approve one grade 1 school choice seat for existing student beginning with the 2019/2020 school year.

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

VIII. REPORTS

A. Superintendent

Ms. Willard reported on the transition plan for Director of Special Education with Ms. Somers scheduled to retire at the end of the 19/20 school year. She stated that the position would be posted in the upcoming week.

Ms. Willard reported that she and Jenny Sullivan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, have been meeting with teachers at grade and department levels as a "listening tour" to get teacher feedback on their needs to meet the expectations set forth in the District Strategic Plan. Ms. Willard stated that the key learnings of those meetings will be reported to the Committee at an upcoming meeting and that the FY2021 budget will reflect some findings.

Ms. Willard reported that she and several representatives from the District had just attended DESE Training on Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) over the last two days. She stated that the training reinforces for her that the District is moving in right direction but needs to shore up the core instruction (tier1)

Ms. Willard reported that she met with SRS students for a conversational lunch. She was pleased to meet all the students and that one of the pieces of feedback is that the students would like more inclusion with their special needs peers.

B. Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Presnal reported only that he is continuing work on budget development and transportation research.

IX. SUB COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Subcommittee Assignments

Negotiations: Locke, Berry, Houle – Teacher mediation scheduled for Thursday, 2/6/2020

Finance: Boldyga, Locke, Houle – Ms. Boldyga reported that at the last meeting, the subcommittee reviewed budget revenue sources, discussed enrollment decline and the consequences if teacher negotiations are not resolved by the end of the school year.

L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Directors: Petschke – Ms. Petschke reported that the executive director position was just posted and they anticipate selection of a candidate during the first week of May 2020.

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

Policy: Schantz, Berry, Seddon – Next meeting at 4:30 on 2/25/2020

Buildings and Grounds: Houle – Thursday – Mr. Schantz asked the subcommittee to consider repairs to the woodland sidewalk

Transportation: Locke, Boldyga – Mr. Locked reported that transportation research is in its final stages and LPVEC has been very cooperative. Mr. Presnal reported that the District is still working to get some answers on the financial management to protect District. The District is also waiting for DOR to weigh in on some outstanding issues.

Liaison Assignments.

(ILT): Petschke, Boldyga, Berry

Wellness Liaison: Locke

SPED Liaison: Petschke

Technology: Petschke, Schantz

Southwick Capital Committee: Berry – Next meeting is Thursday 2/6/2020

Southwick 250th : Berry – Next event is the Winter Carnival at SRS on 2/15/2020 – Mr. Presnal reported that he and Mr. Turmel and Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Erik Wincander met with Town of Southwick officials to talk about specific needs for the Winter Carnival..

Legislative Liaison: Rotating attendance at MASC

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

XI. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

A. Old Business

Mr. Schantz stated that there continues to be an issue with parents dropping off their students at Woodland School who do not stop and park at the Rec Center. He asked if Officer Taggart could help remind parents of the correct parking location for drop off.

B. New Business

None

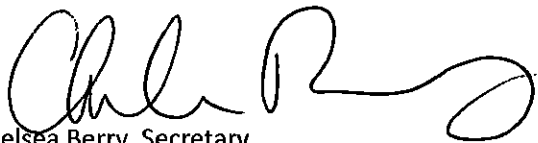
At 8:12 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chelsea Berry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chelsea Berry, Secretary

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

- Agenda for the February 4, 2020
- Minutes for January 21, 2020 meeting
- Letter from Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding Rural School Aid – Additional Funding
- Woodland School 2019-2020 Mid-Year Data: Reading Math
- SRS Athletics Update – School Committee Meeting
- Athletic Fee Justification
- Southwick Regional School Program of Studies 2020-2021
- Policies: 1st Reading JLCA: Health Requirements, 1st Reading JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services, 1st Reading JFABE: Educational Opportunities for Military Children, 1st Reading JFABF: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District Report of the School Committee FY2019
- Fundraiser for the 2019/2020 school year: Global Glimpse Concession Stand Sales at SRS Athletic Events
- Southwick Regional School Out-of-State Field Trip for Wright Flight to go to Air Museum in Windsor Locks, CT
- School Choice application for Grade 1

