



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

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

TIME: 5:30 P.M. Executive Session

6:00 P.M. Regular Session

LOCATION: Powder Mill School Cafeteria

Powder Mill School, 86 Powder Mill Road, Southwick, MA 01077

NOTE LOCATION

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 5:36 p.m. a motion was made to go into Executive session and reconvene in open session.

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

Motion by Petschke, seconded by Berry 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; Clerical Negotiations; Cafeteria Negotiations;
Paraprofessional Negotiations; Custodial Negotiations

At 6:03 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn Executive session and return to open session.
With the members Jeffrey Houle, Pamela Petschke, Chelsea Berry, Theodore Locke, Jonathan Schantz and Maria Seddon all voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

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

A. Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Houle at 6:05 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Observers:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Approximately 30</u>

B. Opening Ceremony - none

C. Secretary's Report –

2/4/2020 Meeting Minutes Accepted

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

2/18/2020 Meeting Minutes Accepted as amended with removal of Jessica Boldyga listed as an attendee in the adjournment section.

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

- D. Warrants - circulating
- E. Correspondence - none

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues
none

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Gabrielle Houle and Amelia Coviello reported:

- On Monday, 2/24/2020, grades 10-12 had a presentation from with officer Taggart and Sergeant Krutka about Massachusetts new free law and what it means for students. They reported that it was a great conversation and productive meeting;
- Last week there was no school due to February break
- On Wednesday 2/12/2020 Jack Jonah's father came to SRS and talked about his son's story of opioid addiction and overdose death. They reported that it was an impactful presentation with a Q&A session at the end with students able to write anonymous questions;

V. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

A. Teacher Feedback Findings, Superintendent Willard and Jenny Sullivan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Superintendent Willard explained that she and Ms. Sullivan held grade and department level meetings with teachers throughout the District. The premise of the meetings was to talk to teachers and find out what supports they need in moving the District forward according the strategic plan and the Commissioner's directive.

She highlighted the feedback she received, summarized by school. Woodland and Powder Mill had similarities in that they'd like to see some clear expectations outlined for students, academically and behaviorally and some additional curriculum supports related to ELA and SRS teachers asked for additional professional development in their core content areas. From each of the schools there was a common message from related to supporting the social emotion needs of all students and teachers would like to see all students participate in more curriculum related to social emotional mindfulness with clear expectations.

Superintendent Willard then highlighted some next steps including the creation of vertical teams to set expectations between grade levels, pilots of supportive curriculum for ELA and targeted professional development.

Ms. Willard stated that participating in these meetings was one of the most insightful and beneficial exercises she had participated in as a Superintendent.

Ms. Petschke asked how content specific professional development would be implemented. Ms. Sullivan responded that she is planning to have some break out sessions in content areas during professional development days, where teachers can experience model lessons in their subject area.

Mr. Schantz asked about the ELA pilots and if Lexia would be used at Woodland. Ms. Willard and Ms. Sullivan responded that the exact program has not yet been identified, but they would work to review the State approved programs and have some pilots in the fall.

VI. Budget Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Willard and Mr. Presnal presented the FY2021 Budget Hearing information.

Superintendent Willard began by discussing the timeline of school budget development, highlighting that throughout the process new information arises and the information for the budget is changing and fluid. She then talked about the educational initiatives the District is undertaking, including Social Emotional Support of the whole child; a Math program with Mt. Holyoke; and 1:1 computers.

Ms. Willard then defined the Foundation enrollment, the number used by the State to calculate aid, and its continued decline. She stated that school choice numbers continue to increase but this year STGRSD is doing more sending and virtual high schools account for that.

Mr. Presnal discussed the Budget Summary and fixed cost increases/decreases. For Group health insurance, he stated that while rates increase, participants are decreasing; Contractual Retirement Obligations are the severance packages available depending on collective bargaining agreements; the Pension assessment is the District's contribution to the Hampden County Retirement Board. Mr. Presnal stated that the FY21 budget is based on the governor's budget which was released in January 2020. As part of that budget, the required local contribution has increased but not as much as originally projected. Chapter 70 is the state aid and the District has received an additional \$30/per student in the foundation enrollment vs. FY20.

Mr. Presnal then discussed the option of transportation outsourcing and explained the background and that the union was notified during negotiations. He explained that, as the only regional school district that is currently self-operating, the School Committee asked District to look at outsourcing of transportation.

He explained that, after a long and in-depth analysis, several benefits were revealed including.

- Fixed annual cost for transportation – billed monthly , other trips, etc, extra.
- Significant streamline on central office workflow
- Cost avoidance – vehicle purchase would still happen – bought by LPVEC and billed, but no facility maintenance, including the underground oil storage tank which is nearing the end of its life.
- STGRSD is a member of LPVEC, the selected vendor, and has a seat at the table of the non-profit organization. All six of the other members of LPVEC use them for transportation.

Mr. Presnal acknowledged the concerns that had arisen throughout the process, including perceived loss of control and level of services and employee transition to a new organization.

Ms. Willard explained the financial impact of outsourcing on the Town assessments. She explained that revenue from the sale and lease of buses results in an overall decrease of \$127,000 to the collective Town assessments.

Ms. DeMaio, Southwick, MA asked why tonight's presentation is considerably different from the presentation from 2/28/2020. Mr. Presnal explained the District revisited the allocation of the sale proceeds because the option presented on 2/18/2020 would have resulted in a volatile budget cycle for the towns from year to year. As a result, the District changed to a plan that would allow for the Towns, and the District to have a more predictable formula.

Regarding Capital, Mr. Presnal explained the capital costs that would be avoided with the outsourcing of transportation and that the capital request on Capital Debt payment vs. revenue from LPVEC Capital request will not be included in capital \$200K reduced.

Mr. Sussman, Granville, MA asked where the LPVEC would park the busses and obtain fuel. Mr. Presnal and Ms. Willard explained that the LPVEC would use the current STGRSD transportation garage and parking area, as well as the fuel tank currently at the transportation facility.

Ms. DeMaio, Southwick, MA stated that she thought capital money was already allocated for the Powder Mill parking lot. Mr. Presnal clarified that money had been allocated for the lot on Feeding Hills Road, but not the one along Powder Mill Road. He also stated that in the future, the District will also be looking to pave the student parking lot at SRS.

Ms. DeMaio, Southwick, MA asked about the capital allocation for upgrade at the SRS gym. Ms. Willard responded that the main gym at SRS was not included in the MSBA project and the floors are in need of refinishing, bleachers and scoreboard replaced.

Mr. Sussman, Granville, MA stated that the previous (transportation) study said the District was cheaper. Mr. Presnal responded that the results of the previous transportation study showed that the District operated an efficient program but the costs were very close and the difference was not significant

Mr. Sussman, Granville, MA asked if costing was obtained using a private operator. Ms. Presnal responded that only the LPVEC was quoted because the District is a member of the board, with input and a vote, and also LPVEC a non-profit organization.

Ms. Berndt, Granville, MA stated that years ago Granville approved capital budget for transportation based on the flexibility and asked why make the move to change that. Ms. Willard responded that the District is spending an inordinate amount of time on transportation and it is pulling District resources away from the focus of education, and education is the responsibility of the District.

Ms. Berndt, Granville, MA stated that if the transportation funding is moved to operational the Town won't have a choice in paying it. She also expressed concerns about the level of control that the District will have over transportation if it moves to LPVEC. Mr. Presnal responded that the District management team would also be moving as part of the transition and the transition would include drivers maintaining routes, at least in the first year. He also emphasized that due to a shrink pool of school bus drivers, throughout the industry, the District cannot guarantee the same level of service if it remains a self-operation. Mr. Locke responded that LPVEC actually has a greater pool of resources to draw from.

Mr. Sussman asked about the stability of LPVEC from a financial perspective. Ms. Petschke explained that she sits on the board of directors and they are very transparent and are stable.

Ms. Colson, Southwick, MA asked for additional information about the elimination of three unit A positions. Ms. Willard responded that the District is unable to offer any additional information at this time and nothing has been finalized.

Ms. Petschke asked for estimates of what the Town assessments will be in the next two, three and four years if transportation is outsourced. Ms. Presnal stated that he could provide numbers but they would be purely guesses, based on assumptions, because he has no idea what the State factors will be. 2

Mr. Sussman, Granville, MA asked how the District is doing educationally. Ms Willard responded that based on the teacher feedback meetings the District will be adding supports to Tier 1 and that the Math initiatives are hugely successful.

In conclusion, Ms. Willard thanked everyone for coming and their continued support of the District. She also invited them to come to upcoming School Committee meetings, especially the March 17, 2020 meeting to be held in Granville, at which she is scheduled to present a "State of the schools" with a question/answer session.

VII. POLICIES

2nd Reading JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services – no comments

2nd Reading JFABE: Educational Opportunities for Military Children – no comments

2nd Reading JFABF: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care – no comments

2nd Reading JLCA: Health Requirements – Ms. McLaughlin explained that the only difference in the 2nd reading version is that the reference to the school dentist was removed, instead of strike through – no comments

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve SRS Program of Studies

Move to approve the Southwick Regional School Program of Studies for the 2020/2021 school year.

Mr. Houle asked what is being done to change graduation requirements now that the additional math options in the program of studies have been created.

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

Approved contingent upon looking at graduation requirements and updating the policy accordingly

B. Approve SRS Athletics Co-Op for Boy's Track beginning with the 2019/2020 spring season

Move to approve hosting a Boy's Track Co-Op for Southwick Regional School Athletics beginning with the 2019/2020 spring season with Westfield Technical Academy and St. Mary's High School of Westfield, MA.

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

C. Accept donation

Move to accept the generous donation from Exxon Mobil Corporation's Exxon Mobile Educational Alliance, through a nomination by Scibelli's Inc, in the amount of \$500.00.

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

D. Approve Fundraisers

Move to approve the 19/20 school year fundraisers for Southwick Regional School: GSA Club T-Shirt Sale; National Honor Society Bake Sale; and National Honor Society Raffle.

Ms. Berry expressed concerns about the appropriateness of a raffle for students under 18. Mr. Houle made motion to modify action item to eliminate the NHS fundraiser raffle

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

Revised Motion: Move to approve the 19/20 school year fundraisers for Southwick Regional School: GSA Club T-Shirt Sale and National Honor Society Bake Sale.

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

School Committee also stated that the District should purchase NHS stoles and other graduation adornments for class officers, top three and NHS. The proceeds of the bake sale to go towards the general NHS fund.

Move to approve the 19/20 school year fundraisers for Powder Mill School: Student Council Bake Sale.

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

IX. REPORTS

A. Superintendent

Ms. Willard reported that at her recent conference she found that social emotional issues are not limited to our District. She is planning to share a full report at an upcoming meeting.

B. Director of Finance and Operations

No report

Ms. Willard commended Mr. Presnal on the hard work and time he put in to budget preparations and his responsiveness to changing information throughout the process.

X. SUB COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Subcommittee Assignments

Negotiations: Locke, Berry, Schantz – A meeting is needed to give District guidance on upcoming contract negotiations, Ms. McLaughlin to set up.

Finance: Boldyga, Locke, Houle – Budget presentation is update

L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Directors: Petschke – Meeting scheduled tomorrow

L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Governors: Houle – Meeting scheduled tomorrow

Policy: Schantz, Berry, Seddon – Meet prior to school committee and discussed restraint policy

Buildings and Grounds: Houle – Meeting scheduled next week

Transportation: Locke, Boldyga – ongoing

Liaison Assignments

(ILT): Petschke, Boldyga, Berry – Meeting scheduled next week

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 that the winter carnival was a huge success and thanked the District for the use of the Southwick Regional School. She mentioned that the custodial staff was amazing and helpful.

Legislative Liaison: Rotating attendance at MASC– no report

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

None

XII. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

A. Old Business - none

B. New Business –

There is a full schedule of School Committee meetings in March.

March 3, 2020 Regular Meeting

March 17, 2020 Regular Meeting held in Granville with a “State of the Schools” presentation by

Superintendent Willard to follow. State of the Schools will be separate from the Committee meeting.

Executive session: 5:30-6:00; Regular session: 6:00-7:00 and presentation begin at 7:00.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:16 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chelsea Berry', with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

Chelsea Berry, Secretary

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

- Agenda for the February 25, 2020
- Minutes for February 4, 2020 meeting
- Minutes for February 18, 2020 meeting
- Teacher Feedback Findings
- 2nd Reading JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
- 2nd Reading JFABE: Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- 2nd Reading JFABF: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- 2nd Reading JLCA: Health Requirements
- Budget Presentation
- Budget Summary
- Exxon Mobil Corporation letter dated 10/14/2019
- Fundraiser Applications: Southwick Regional School: GSA Club T-Shirt Sale; National Honor Society Bake Sale; and National Honor Society Raffle; Powder Mill School: Student Council Bake Sale
- Southwick Regional School Program of Studies changes for the 2020/2021 school year