



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

DATE: Tuesday, December 15, 2020

TIME: 5:30 P.M. Executive Session

6:00 P.M. Regular Session

LOCATION: ZOOM Webinar

When: Dec 15, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: 12/15/2020 School Committee Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85238085944?pwd=SXJkZUpONmd2ZDJWM3UwMHZnMGVHUT09>

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US: +13126266799,,85238085944#,,,,,0#,,812061# or +19292056099,,85238085944#,,,,,0#,,812061#

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NOTE WEBINAR

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 5:30 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, Maria Seddon and Ryan Korobkov present and all voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- Move to go into Executive Session to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information; and to reconvene in Open Session.

Negotiations: Paraprofessional , Clerical, Custodial

At 6:01 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn Executive session and return to open session.

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

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

II. ROUTINE (6:00 p.m.) – BEGIN ZOOM WEBINAR ABOVE

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Houle at 6:08 p.m.

A. Attendance

The following were in attendance.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| School Committee (Participants): | <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"/> Ryan Korobkov, Southwick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chelsea Berry, Southwick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Schantz, Southwick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maria Seddon, Southwick |
| Administration (Participants): | <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"/> Annette St. Jacques, Timothy Gerrish (arrived at 6:50 p.m.) |
| News Media: | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown |
| Observers (Attendees): | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Approximately 34</u> |

B. Opening Ceremony

Mr. Houle apologized to the audience for the delay in starting the meeting which was due to technical difficulties. Mr. Houle reminded the Committee and audience members that the meeting was being recorded. Mr. Houle reminded the Committee and audience members of the Public Comment procedures for the virtual meeting format.

C. Secretary's Report

12/1/2020 Meeting Minutes

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

D. Warrants

Mr. Houle reminded the Committee that warrants had been emailed and asked everyone to please review and sign.

E. Correspondence

MCAS Update from Commissioner

Ms. Willard reported on an update received from Commissioner Jeffrey Riley on December 7, 2020. In the update, Commissioner Riley notified districts that students in grade 11 will no longer participate in testing in January and the testing window for the ACCESS tests is being extended until May 20.

Student Learning Time Survey

Ms. Willard reported on the results of the Student Learning Time survey that were received from DESE on December 10, 2020. She explained districts were required to submit student time on learning information to DESE for the fall semester. The data collected included synchronous and asynchronous learning. The notification received indicated that STGRSD is preliminarily cleared to meet the new SLT standards set by DESE

Excess and Deficiency Calculation

Mr. Presnal reported on an email received from the MA Department of Revenue on December 11, 2020 which indicated that the #STGRSD was certified as of July 1, 2020 for the amount of \$998,293.00.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the committee have a chance and to insure the ability of the committee to conduct the district's business in an orderly manner, members of the public viewing online may make comments by sending their comment, along with their name and address, in an email, in advance of, or during, the meeting to superintendent@stgrsd.org. Comments will be read aloud at the meeting during Public Comment. Any comments received after the first comment period will be read in the second Public Comment period.

Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Comments may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session, the committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.

Evan Iglesias, Southwick, MA

To the superintendent and school committee,

As one of the seniors and captain on my team this year I will make sure we follow and that we are all willing to follow the rules placed by MIAA and any additional rules that the school chooses to add on. I'm asking for you all to look at this more in depth and open minded than with fall sports. This is many of our last years to get the high school sports experience and to get our names out there.

Thank you

Desiree Phillips, Southwick, MA

Good evening,

I have to say that as a parent who has children in the district, I don't think that the decision to go back to in person learning was wise and you should have stayed full remote until after Christmas break. Now the poor kiddos that attend Powdermill are yet again going back to full remote just after being in person for 2 days. It's not fair to the staff or the children to have to pivot so often and so quickly. It's confusing for everyone to keep switching schedules, different remote groups etc. There are far too many changes occurring and as an adult I have trouble keeping track of what's going on.

My children were excited to be back but they are going to experience another disappointment after they find out they need to stay home again. None of this is fair and I suggest that these decisions to go back and forth based on the MOA data should be given more thought in situations like this past weekend. How many times are you going to expect the staff and kids to do this ?? Come back to school for a day or two and then, just kidding ! You have to go back to full remote. It is more difficult for them to pivot all the time than it is for them to just stay home until things settle down.

Our cases as a county, town and district are at their highest and will continue to get worse after each break and holiday. Why is it safe to attempt to go back at all now but it wasn't safe to be in school back in March when it was just starting?

Keep everyone home until cases decrease significantly.

Thank you

Robert Stevenson, Southwick, MA

Good Evening School Board Members:

There are currently two vital issues that you are involved in that the members of our communities are watching very closely: Deciding on district participation for Winter Sports and when our children will be able to return to school. I urge you on both topics to make your decisions based on facts, instead of making these decisions based on fears or worries.

With respect to the decision being made tonight concerning Winter Sports, there are so many additional facts that you were presented with by the AD at the last meeting. There have not been any significant transmission issues during the Fall season in our area due to students playing sports. MIAA has created sport modifications for each allowed sport and the AD has created a plan to implement all these recommendations. All the Superintendent's fears that were presented to you in the fall have not come true. You are also aware that if our communities are in the RED then sports will be put on hold. I am disappointed that when you had the opportunity at the last meeting to ask Principal Turmel directly, whether he supported the children in his school to participate in this winter session, none of you took advantage of this at all. With all of this additional information this decision should be very easy for you this time. The facts strongly support, and the state of MA has recommended, that these sports are safe to play if the recommendations are followed. Even the majority of the teachers in our district believe that the AD can safely implement these protocols.

LET THEM PLAY.

Concerning when our children can go back to in-person school, here are the facts that are now public knowledge. Nationally and in Mass., children have been shown to not be in a high-risk level for contracting COVID in school and there have not been any significant issues with teachers contracting COVID from the students. Even our own data, that the Superintendent has been sharing supports these findings. The major challenge that we are facing is that the communication that we have received from the Superintendent on this topic over the last couple of months has been far less than ideal. She has failed to inform us of vital information contained in the first MOA until the last minute. Failed to clarify how she will be making her decisions to return our children to school in the new MOA. She informed us last week that both Woodland and Powder Mill have no teachers or students with COVID but did not clarify why only one group of children at Powder Mill could return to class and not the others. Last week we also received conflicting information about when the Regional school students could go back to school. Now today, she refers to the MOA again without any detail, that because there was a positive case, the children at Powder Mill need to go back to remote learning with less than 24 hr notice. How is less than 24 hr notice remotely reasonable for parents to adjust their schedules. The MOA clearly states that at least 48 hrs notice need to be provided to the teachers before switching between learning models. Why the discrepancy? How is this even possible based on the MOA? This has been an extremely frustrating process and this needs to be addressed immediately. Someone on this board need to hold her accountable for the conflicting messages and lack of detail that she is providing. She reports to you. Chairman Houle, you are part of the Safety Committee. If the Superintendent is refusing to release this information, than you should. There should be no reason not to inform the parents of the communities, that you have been elected to serve, what the criteria is that will be used to allow our children to return to school. You have stated before that you have felt that the committee has been transparent throughout this process. You need to start living up to that statement.

Thank You

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Annette St. Jacques reported: SRS GSA t-shirt sale is ongoing; Seniors Helping Seniors has 26 students participating and students are planning to help with snow removal during the anticipated storm coming up; Wreaths Across America donated 92 wreaths with the \$1380 raised; National Honor Society and Students Against Destructive Decisions sent holiday cards to the Holyoke Soldiers Home; MCAS is postponed for grade 11; e-sports Rocket League had 14 participants and placed third place.

V. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Southwick Regional School Site Strategic Plan: Joseph Turmel, Principal, Southwick Regional School
Joe

Mr. Turmel presented the Southwick Regional School High Impact Initiatives to Support Site Strategic Objectives. He reviewed each of the areas:

- Engaged Learning - work to provide culturally responsive instruction with integration into the UDL learning model, staff development on dynamic teaching within hybrid and remote learning and initiatives social emotional learning and tier 1 interventions.
- Shared Educational Leadership – Mr. Turmel highlighted that one positive outcome on the changes from COVID-19 has been that he has seen SRS teachers working harder and collaborating together more than ever to develop hybrid/remote learning for all students.
- Assessment for Learning – i-Ready diagnostic has begun to be implemented and the first round of data collection had 90% participation. The second assessment will be in January.
- Under Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum – continuation of hard work to develop curriculum. everyone is working so hard to continue and ensure viable curriculum.

Questions and Comments

Ms. Berry asked about tier 1 interventions. Mr. Turmel explained that they are targeted at behaviors in the middle school and work to have teachers implement strategies in the classroom. He said it was working well and they are looking to implement them at the high school level next.

VI. POLICIES

3rd Reading BEDH Public Comment

Ms. Berry mentioned that with the virtual meetings, the rules of public comment have been more difficult to enforce and Mr. Houle agreed. The members agreed that when there is a return to in-person meetings, a decision will need to be made about emailed public comments.

3rd Reading IKF Graduation Requirements

Ms. Petschke asked if the main change is related to Physical Education.

3rd Reading GCG – Substitute Teachers

No questions/comments.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote on Winter Athletics Participation for Southwick Regional School

Before reading the motion, Ms. Willard stated that when the fall athletics was voted, the District was working to open the schools and the health and safety of all the staff and students was the priority. She stated that her focus is on keeping school doors open for as long as possible. She reminded the Committee that, at the time, no one knew what the athletic season would look like during COVID-19. She thanked Mr. Sanschagrín for his winter athletics presentation which provided much detail and clarity. She stated that decisions such as those are difficult ones when they fall on an individual and she had to be sure that her recommendation to the committee was on that she believed in.

Ms. Willard read the motion:

Move to approve Southwick Regional School participation in Winter Athletics for the 20/21 season with accommodations as presented by the Athletic Director which includes adherence to all PVIAC and MIAA guidelines related to COVID-19 protocols including individual sport modifications; no practice or competition if Southwick, Tolland or Granville is “red” on the State metrics AND if Southwick Regional School is in a full remote learning status and, there will be no competitions with any towns where the opponent town is “red” on the State metrics.

The Committee then discussed the motion, specifically the language about practice if Southwick, Tolland or Granville is “red” on the State metrics. After thorough discussion with the Committee, Mr. Sanschagrín and Mr. Turmel explained that decisions to hold, or not hold, athletics have always been made by the Superintendent and would be expected to do so again. Mr. Turmel highlighted that student athletes and families know that events and competitions may be cancelled at the last minute.

A motion was made to modify the action item language to read:

Move to approve Southwick Regional School participation in Winter Athletics for the 20/21 season with modifications as presented by the Athletic Director which includes adherence to all PVIAC and MIAA guidelines related to COVID-19 protocols including individual sport modifications; there will be no competitions with any towns where the opponent town is “red” on the State metrics. The decision to participate in practice and competition will be at the discretion of the Superintendent in collaboration with the Southwick Regional School

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

Motion by Petschke, seconded by Berry 7/0/0 Principal and Athletic Director.

The modified motion was made:

Move to approve Southwick Regional School participation in Winter Athletics for the 20/21 season with modifications as presented by the Athletic Director which includes adherence to all PVIAC and MIAA guidelines related to COVID-19 protocols including individual sport modifications; there will be no competitions with any towns where the opponent town is “red” on the State metrics. The decision to participate in practice and competition will be at the discretion of the Superintendent in collaboration with the Southwick Regional School

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

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

B. Approve Site Strategic Plan for Woodland School

Move to approve the Woodland School Site Strategic Plan for the 2020/2021 school year.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

C. Approve Site Strategic Plan for Powder Mill School

Move to approve the Powder Mill School Site Strategic Plan for the 2020/2021 school year.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

D. Approve Leave of Absence for Paraprofessional

Move to approve an unpaid leave of absence for Paraprofessional Laurien Cowles for the period December 7, 2020 – August 24, 2021.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

E. Accept revised policies

Move to accept the revised policy BEDH Public Participation at School Committee Meetings.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

F. Accept revised policies

Move to accept the revised policy IKF Graduation Requirements.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

G. Accept revised policies

Move to accept the revised policy GCG Substitute Teacher Employment.

There were no questions or comments.

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

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

I. REPORTS

Superintendent

Superintendent Willard reported that she was sad to have to send a letter to Powder Mill School families and transition them all back to full remote because a student in C cohort was positive for COVID-19. She explained that the student has not been in the buildings since November 6. She did report that Woodland School is still open and students and teachers were excited. Ms. Willard reiterated her core belief that nothing takes the place of in-person learning. She thanked the community for their patience and understanding, reminding everyone that we need to work together to keep the school doors open.

Snow day – storm wed into Thursday.

Ms. Willard reported that if the upcoming storm is as big as predicted, STGRSD will have a regular old-fashioned snow day. She also notified the Committee that if a two hour delay is necessary, Woodland is in-person so they would follow typical two-hour delay schedule and remote students would also follow a modified schedule.

Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Presnal reported on Coronavirus relief grants that the District had received. He also explained that he and Superintendent Willard had met with the Town of Southwick, and he had spoken with Matt Streeter from Granville and the Towns are supportive of sharing some of their excess Coronavirus relief funds with the District.

Mr. Presnal also reported that it is possible there will be a supplemental budget in 2021 which could mean additional funding.

Mr. Houle thanked the Town of Southwick and the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Granville for their willingness to share their funding with the District.

II. SUB COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Negotiations: Locke, Berry, Schantz - No report -

Finance: Schantz, Locke, Houle – No report, the December meeting was cancelled next regular meeting in January.

L.P.V.E.C. Bd. Directors: Petschke - No report – meeting on 12/16/2020

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

Policy: Berry, Seddon – no report

Buildings and Grounds: Houle– - no report

Liaison Assignments

Athletics Liaison: Schantz – No report -

(ILT): Petschke, Korobkov, Berry – No report

Wellness Liaison: Korobkov and Locke– No report

SPED Liaison: Korobkov– No report

Technology: Petschke, Schantz– No report

Southwick Capital Committee: Berry– No report

Southwick 250th : Berry– Ms. Berry reported that the Southwick Revisited Book will be available and that the Light Up Southwick is in progress with a map on the Southwick 250 website.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – excluding personnel issues

In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the committee have a chance and to insure the ability of the committee to conduct the district's business in an orderly manner, members of the public viewing online may make comments by sending their comment, along with their name and address, in an email, in advance of, or during, the meeting to superintendent@stgrsd.org. Comments will be read aloud at the meeting during Public Comment. Any comments received after the first comment period will be read in the second Public Comment period.

Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Comments may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session, the committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.

Nathan Daugherty, Southwick, MA

We are willing to listen and follow all the rule and guide lines that the MIAA and school put in place for the hockey season

IV. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Old Business

None

New Business

Ms. Korobkov asked why Powder Mill School was closed if the student who is positive had not been in the building. Ms. Willard explained that it was in accordance with the MOA with the teachers and as specifically an exception to the closure.

Mr. Houle thanked all of the parents, teachers, community members and administrators for all of their hard work. Ms. Petschke and Ms. Berry also thanked everyone.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Berry, Secretary

VI. STAFFING

Appointments

Resignations

Retirements

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

- Agenda for the December 15, 2020 meeting
- Minutes for the December 1, 2020 meeting
- Commissioner's Weekly Update dated December 7, 2020
- Student Learning Time Survey: December 10, 2020
- Email: Excess and Deficiency – Southwick Tolland Granville dated December 11, 2020
- Southwick Regional School Site Strategic Plan for 2020/2021
- Policies: BEDH Public Comment; GCG Substitute Teacher; IKF Graduation Requirements
- Woodland School Site Strategic Plan for 2020/2021
- Powder Mill School Site Strategic Plan for 2020/2021
- STGRSD COVID-19 Related Expenditures Incurred (no charged to existing Grants)