

## MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

A meeting of the School Committee was held at the Administration Building on Monday, September 10, 2018.

Members Present: Tina Bell, James Carvalho, Eric Graham, Scott Rowland, Joseph Salpietro.

Superintendent of Schools John J. Robidoux, Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth White, and Student Representative Chloe Shea were in attendance.

Visitors included: Bill Hall of The Spectator, Tom Cabral, SEPAC Representatives Sonya Barbosa and Craig Warner, and Debbie Kelley (videographer).

Chairman Rowland opened the meeting at 6 p.m.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), any person in attendance who wanted to record any portion of the meeting must notify the Chairman. School Committee meetings are broadcast live and recorded for broadcast on Sunday at 10 p.m., Monday at 6 p.m., Tuesday at 2 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., Thursday at 10 p.m., Friday at 6 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. on Swansea Cable Access Channel 15. Meetings can also be accessed over the internet at [swansea.cabletv.com](http://swansea.cabletv.com).

There will be no executive session.

Mr. Carvalho led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Graham offered a moment of silence for those who lost their lives on 9/11/01 and first responders and also for the military men and women serving our country and their families.

### Consent Agenda

Chairman Rowland established a Consent Agenda consisting of #5 Correspondence, #6 Informational Items, #8 Approval of Minutes, and #9 Approval of Bills.

Mr. Salpietro had discussion on #4 Personnel Items to recognize long time teachers.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS.

#### Opening of School Discussion – Superintendent John J. Robidoux

Supt. Robidoux advised that there was a staff meeting on August 22. Seven new members were welcomed. Since then an 8<sup>th</sup> person was hired. Most of the positions are due to attrition. They visited all the schools on the “magic school bus tour.” The administrators’ retreat was on August 23. There was a lot of rich discussion. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, he had a power point presentation for staff. The first day of school was August 28 and August 29 for kindergarten. Asst. Supt. White greeted kindergarten students at Gardner School and he went to Hoyle.

Several projects going on during the summer. A lot of painting was done. With one maintenance man down, Lance Machado and Garrett Hajder did a great job. Bus drivers also helped.

Supt. Robidoux said the window project at Brown School couldn't have been any better. The company did a phenomenal job. The project started and ended on time. He is working with the principal to have a day when students could write thank you notes and maybe a group picture taken outside to show appreciation to residents who supported the project.

The high school track is almost done. Lines will be done next weekend. He thanked people for their patience.

Mrs. Arruda has paperwork for MSBA funding for the high school boilers. She will go to Boston and, hopefully, get an answer. They could begin the bidding process.

Supt. Robidoux thanked parents, staff, and students for their cooperation during the hot days. Principals and staff made sure students had breaks and they were brought into cool areas. Water was available. Asst. Supt. White and Supt. Robidoux went into the buildings.

They are working on community building – “Students Come First” and “We are all Cardinals.”

Supt. Robidoux talked about great things going on in the schools – collaborative grouping, flexible seating, and professional development. He communicates on his Twitter account and it is also on the website.

The Superintendent noted it would be cost prohibitive to put air conditioning in the schools.

Mr. Salpietro said it was a successful summer. Supt. Robidoux and Asst. Supt. White did a tremendous amount of work.

Mrs. Bell liked the new entrance at the front of the junior high school.

Mr. Graham pleased with what is going on. He asked about busing.

Supt. Robidoux said there were a few problems at the beginning.

Mr. Carvalho asked how many days over on completion of the track.

Supt. Robidoux said it was supposed to be completed by August 27. There are penalties associated with that.

Mr. Carvalho would like to see all elementary school gyms air conditioned.

Supt. Robidoux said it has been discussed. He noted the Luther School is an old building.

Chairman Rowland echoed recognition of Lance and Garrett for doing work during the summer. The Brown School windows look great. He is looking forward to see the lines on the track.

He noted that the PD in Supt. Robidoux's report looks like the Police Department rather than professional development.

Applicants for Vacant School Committee Appointment to Swansea Recreation: Mr. Patrick Higgins and Ms. Lynn Nahas

Supt. Robidoux advised that both applicants withdrew. It will be reposted. Anyone interested should contact the School Department.

Mr. Graham asked about the term.

Supt. Robidoux said it is the remainder of Katie Grillo's term that expires on June 30, 2019.

School Committee Sub-Committees (Action Item)

Financial Quarterly Report Q4 Fiscal Year 2018

Supt. Robidoux said the \$32,000 left over is a result of retirements. That amount goes directly to the town.

Joseph Case High School Marching Band Trip to Allentown, PA – National Marching Band Competition, November 2 to 4, 2018

Request from Band Director Richard Cordeiro. Supt. Robidoux said the band members go every year. It requires two days out of school. It is supported by the principal. There are twenty two students, 12 adult chaperones, and 7 staff members. The cost is about \$395 per person.

Mr. Salpietro noted it is almost a 1:1 student/chaperone. He wanted to make sure the money raised by CHAMPS is not being used for chaperone expenses. He requested that Mr. Cordeiro come before the Board. He wanted to find out why there are less members of the band every year.

Mr. Graham did not have a problem with the number of chaperones as long as they are paying their own way.

Mr. Carvalho asked if it would require hiring substitutes.

Supt. Robidoux said no. He noted that he has had discussions with Mr. Cordeiro.

Chairman Rowland felt it is important to find out why band participation is low.

ACTION ITEMS

Vote to Appoint Applicant to Swansea Recreation Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Salpietro, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To table the appointment of a Swansea Recreation Commission member.

Vote to Accept School Committee Sub-Committees

A motion was made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Bell, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the Budget Finance Sub-Committee with Eric Graham and Joseph Salpietro.

A motion was made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Salpietro, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the Contract Sub-Committee with James Carvalho and Joseph Salpietro.

A motion was made by Mr. Salpietro, seconded by Mr. Carvalho, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the Policy Sub-Committee with Albertina Bell and Eric Graham.

A motion was made by Mr. Salpietro, seconded by Mr. Graham, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the Sick Leave Bank - Union Personnel Secretaries with James Carvalho and Scott Rowland and a union member to be determined.

A motion was made by Mr. Salpietro, seconded by Mrs. Bell, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the Sick Leave Bank – Union Personnel Teachers with James Carvalho, David Farrell, and Scott Rowland.

A motion was made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Salpietro, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept James Carvalho as the School Committee representative on the Town Hall Building Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Bell, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To appoint James Carvalho and Eric Graham to the Hoyle School  
Access Road Sub-Committee.

Vote to Approve Case High School Marching Band Trip to Allentown PA for the National  
Marching Band Competition November 2 to November 4, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Bell, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To table approval of the Case High School Marching Band trip on  
November 2 to 4, 2018

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Mr. Salpietro acknowledged the retirement of the following long time Joseph Case High School staff:

Edward T. Pettine, Guidance  
Craig Rosen, Automotive Technology Teacher  
Charles Shaker, Computer Teacher

He thanked Mr. Shaker for his 42 years with Swansea Schools. He noted that Mr. Shaker introduced computers into the high school.

School Committee members thanked them.

Ms. Shea said that Mr. Pettine helped her in a good way.

Asst. Supt. White wished them well.

Supt. Robidoux added his best wishes. He said they were in Swansea for many years and gave a lot to the high school and district.

Chairman Rowland was a student when computers were introduced. He noted that Mr. Pettine helped his children when they were at the high school.

Supt. Robidoux said that Danielle Santos resigned as paraprofessional at Hoyle School because she accepted a teaching job elsewhere.

The job didn't work out for Donna M. Madsen.

NEW BUSINESS: FUTURE DISCUSSIONS BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Salpietro felt it was a great beginning to the school year. He enjoyed the football game on Friday night. The team looks strong. He welcomed back students and staff. A lot of projects were completed in the summer.

He mentioned that the School Committee follow the Board of Selectmen and establish priorities – starting with a new school.

Mrs. Bell welcomed everybody back.

Mr. Graham also welcomed them back. He agreed with Mr. Salpietro's comments.

Mr. Carvalho would like to see a School Resource Officer in schools every day. Funding would have to be discussed with the police chief.

Ms. Shea said it has been great so far.

Chairman also welcomed everybody back. The sports team looks good. He felt the Committee will continue to move forward.

Supt. Robidoux said teachers, trainers, and coaches made sure students were hydrated during the hot days. None of the students complained about the heat.

He has been talking to Chief Arruda about SROs. It depends on how the town responds to his request for additional officers.

Supt. Robidoux would like to have SROs in the schools full time Monday through Friday.

There has been outreach with SEPAC.

Asst. Supt. White was at Gardner School on the first day of school. Chief Arruda was there. She added there are a lot of new things going on in the schools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular School Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 24, 2018, at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Bell, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Graham – Aye; Mrs. Bell – Aye; Mr. Carvalho – Aye; Mr. Salpietro – Aye;  
Chairman Rowland – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Gamer  
Secretary

Items Distributed at the September 10, 2018 School Committee Meeting

Report from Supt. Robidoux on Opening of School 2018-2019

Applications from Lynn Nahas, Patrick Higgins, and Craig and Becky Rosen for Swansea Recreation Commission

Quarterly Financial Report – April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018

List of Sub-Committees

Richard Cordeiro, Band Director, Request for authorization to attend National Marching Band competition in Allentown, PA

Edward T. Pettine – Notice of retirement as of June 30, 2018

Charles N. Shaker – Notice of retirement as of June 30, 2018

Craig S. Rosen – Notice of retirement as of June 30, 2018

Donna M. Madsen – Resignation from Lead Cook position

Danielle H. Santos – Resignation as paraprofessional at Hoyle Elementary School

Michaela Goncalves – Letter of appreciation

Jennifer Santos – Letter of praise for Gardner School staff

Herald News – Copy of article on Passion Days

Rep. Steven S. Howitt – Support of request for funding through MSBA

Rep. Patricia A. Haddad - Same as above

Jason Arruda – Letter of appreciation for camp out on Cabral Field

MA State Science & Engineer Fair – STEM Super Stars from Joseph Case Junior High  
Trenton Pacheco  
Armand Cabral

MassInsight.org – 2018 AP scores



Joseph Case High School – Newsletter – August 2018

Principal Robert F. Silveira – re: Annual Eight Grade trip

Principal Robert F. Silveira – Letter to parents

Chartwells – June 2018 Newsletter

Principal Brian McCann – Newsletter – August 2018