

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – DECEMBER 17, 2018

A regular School Committee meeting was held at the Administration Building on Monday, December 17, 2018.

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

Superintendent of Schools John J. Robidoux and Student Representative Gabby Bello were in attendance. Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth White was absent.

Visitors included: Sean Scanlon, Debbie Kelley, Bill Hall of The Spectator, and Luther School students and parents.

Chairman Rowland opened the meeting at 6 p.m.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), anybody 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 1 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 access over the internet at swanseacabletv.com.

An executive session followed the open meeting.

Mrs. Bell led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Carvalho offered a moment of silence for the men and women protecting our country to keep us save.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Rowland established a Consent Agenda consisting of #4 Personnel Items, #5 Correspondence, #6 Informational Items, and # Approval of bills.

Mr. Salpietro wanted to vote on #7 Approval of Minutes because one of the members was not in attendance at the meeting of December 3, 2018.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Joseph G. Luther Elementary School Spotlight – Hands on Learning In Science

Principal Sean Scanlon introduced Mrs. Courtney Felix and students Avery Plante, Lucas Pereira, Jane Fortier, Elle Cyr, Morgan Diogo, and Zac Marcel. Students did an experiment that involved lighting a light bulb using a potato and electrodes.

Mr. Carvalho thanked Mrs. Felix and students. He said Spotlight is his favorite part of School Committee meetings. This was completely different than anything they have seen.

Mr. Graham thanked them and also Mr. Scanlon.

Mrs. Bell said great job. They are leaders in the 4th grade. The students said they feel they learn more in science from doing experiments.

Mr. Salpietro commended them on an awesome job. He thanked parents for allowing children to be involved in this. Renewable energy is the future and they are at the cutting edge of science. He thanked Mrs. Felix and students for an awesome job.

Ms. Bello said it is a great way of learning.

Chairman Rowland said Spotlight has always been his favorite part of meetings. He commented on how they worked together. He congratulated them and thanked parents for their support.

Supt. Robidoux also commended students. He loved seeing the collaboration. They knew what to do and they did it.

He is excited to see the 5th grade team working together.

Joseph G. Luther School MCAS Results

Mr. Scanlon said it is the same testing at Luther School. English Language Arts in Grades 3, 4, and 5, Math in Grades 3, 4, and 5 and Science and Technology/Engineering in Grade 5. Last year was the second year of the new MCAS. He said data from the new MCAS is fantastic. He is happy with the results. He noted that 74% of students in Grade 5 ELA were in the Meeting or Exceeding Expectations compared to the state average of 54%. In 2017, 19 students in the entire school scored Not Meeting Expectations. It is 5 students in 2018. He noted that Luther School exceeded the targets set by the state for achievement

He talked about interventions in ELA, math and science.

Mr. Scanlon said math is not as strong. In grade 3 math, there was an 18% increase in Meeting or Exceeding expectations from 2017. An 8% increase in grade 5. Luther School met the targets set by the state.

In science, Luther School had the highest percentage ever of students in the Advanced category (37%).

Mr. Scanlon thanked the School Committee for the investment in science.

Mr. Salpietro thanked Mr. Scanlon and staff. He noted that Luther School is right on or above state average. He felt that interventions are working.

Mrs. Bell said fantastic but she is not surprised. She saw changes first hand with her child. She is pleased with the strategies in place for the math.

Mr. Graham asked how many student took Alt. MCAS.

Mr. Scanlon said it is in the single digits.

Mr. Graham commended Mr. Scanlon for being a great leader.

Mr. Carvalho said they are working together at the Luther School and that is a credit to Mr. Scanlon.

Chairman Rowland said the report speaks volumes about what is going on. Reporting is getting better – less confusing. He felt it would be valuable to track classes as they move through the system. He likes the hands on science.

Supt. Robidoux said great job. It is great to see scores. He noted how Mr. Scanlon has taken what is going on in his school and put strategies and thoughts in place to make sure needs are met. He has seen Mr. Scanlon grow as a principal in terms of the needs of students.

ACTION ITEMS

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

VOTED: To table the employment agreement with Supt. Robidoux until after Executive Session.

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

Mr. Graham felt it is a good idea to have the student representative attend the “Charting the Course” at the MASC meeting. He noted that the Chairman is supposed to attend the monthly Student Advisory Council meetings.

Mrs. Bell said she attended the drama production of “The Dining Room.” She saw a lot of talent on stage.

Mr. Salpietro extended best wishes for the holiday season.

Supt. Robidoux added his best wishes for safe holidays to the Swansea community and college students who are home on break.

Ms. Bello said it was a cool experience to serve as student representative. She will return.

Chairman Rowland urged her to bring any issues students might have. The School Committee values student comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the minutes of December 3, 2018.

The vote: Mr. Salpietro – Aye; Mr. Carvalho - Aye; Mts. Bell – Aye; Chairman Rowland – Aye; Mr. Graham – Abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

VOTED: To go into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and conducting contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Supt. John J. Robidoux) in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21a(2); to return to open session.

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

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting returned to open session at 8:03 p.m.

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

VOTED: To enter into agreement with John J. Robidoux to serve as Superintendent of Schools beginning on July 1, 2019 in the form presented.

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

NEXT MEETING

The next regular School Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 7, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Gamer
Secretary

School Committee

December 17, 2018

Items Distributed at the School Committee Meeting of December 12, 2018

Joseph G. Luther Elementary School MCAS Results

Mike Kalinoski – Resignation as sixth grade math teacher as of December 14, 2018

Peter Brock – Notice of retirement as of June 30, 2019

Hoyle School Newsletter

E, S. Brown School Newsletter