

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – OCTOBER 29, 2018

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held on Monday, October 29, 2018, at the Administration Building.

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

Superintendent of Schools John J. Robidoux and Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth White were in attendance.

Visitors included: Debbie Kelley and Bill Hall of The Spectator.

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 who wanted to record any portion of the meeting must notify the Chairman. School Committee meetings are broadcast live and also 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 swanseacabletv.com

Mrs. Bell led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Salpietro offered a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting in a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania synagogue and to bring our country back to stability. He said there is no room for hatred in our society, especially in the United States where everybody has the freedom of religion and to teach and practice what they wish.

There was no executive session.

Chairman Rowland established a Consent Agenda consisting of #4 Personnel Items, #5 Correspondence, #6 Informational Items, #8 Approval of Minutes, and #9 Approval of Bills.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Request for Observation of Education Program by Parents/Designees for Evaluation Purposes

Supt. Robidoux explained this is a request for an outside therapist. Mr. Courville is in agreement.

School Committee Delegate and Alternate for 2018 MASC/MASS Conference – November 7 to 10, 2018

Supt. Robidoux noted that Mr. Carvalho will be recognized on the Thursday evening.

Mr. Graham will attend the conference

Chairman Rowland said it would be good if the School Committee got the notice as soon as the schedule is set.

Supt. Robidoux said there was some information that came out around the end of the school year. Reservations are usually made in October.

#### District and Site-Based Technology in Swansea

Supt. Robidoux presented a report on technology in the school district. The information is on the website. Swansea is in good shape as far as technology. There are 3,164 different devices and 1,134 Chromebooks districtwide for a total of 2,097 students. In talking with Mrs. Arruda and Asst. Supt. White, they feel it is better to have a variety of devices. Special Education students use the iPads quite a bit.

He is having ongoing discussions with Mr. Whalen about future programs at the high school.

Mr. Graham talked about trading i-Pads and purchasing Chromebooks because they are less expensive. He thanked the Superintendent for the report.

Supt. Robidoux said they look at all options but that is not the way to go.

Mrs. Bell felt that one-on-one Chromebooks would be beneficial at the high school..

Supt. Robidoux said there are pros and cons. Some districts have done it. There is a cost to parents in terms of insurance. He will continue to look into it.

Mr. Salpietro noted that Naviance has to be used on college applications. He noted the devices being used today will be outdated in five to ten years. It is important to pursue grant money. He thanked Supt. Robidoux for the report.

Mr. Carvalho also thanked the Superintendent for the report.

Chairman Rowland said it's amazing at how much gets done in technology. It is incredible to see the number of devices out there. He said the benefit of not having one-on-one Chromebooks is that devices can be replaced when outdated. He is happy to see the number of Mac and Apple devices increased at the high school.

Capacity for Each School Building

In response to Mrs. Bell's request, Supt. Robidoux had student/staff enrollment numbers as of October 23, 2018 for all schools.

Mrs. Bell thanked Supt. Robidoux for the report.

Mr. Salpietro said they would have to talk to the Town Planner about anticipated growth in the town. They also have to look at the condition of the schools and cost of repairs.

There was discussion about future developments in town.

Chairman Rowland said that crowding is less of a concern than the condition of the buildings.

ACTION ITEMSRequest to Approve Request for Observation of Education Program by Parents/Designee for Evaluation Purposes – One Request

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

**VOTED:** To approve the request for observation of education program by parents/designees for evaluation purposes at Hoyle School.

Vote to Appoint School Committee Delegate and Alternate for 2018 MASC/MASS Conference on November 7 to 10, 2018

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Mr. Graham as delegate and Mrs. Bell as alternate for the 2018 MASC/MASS Conference from November 7-10, 2018.

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

Mr. Carvalho said people have asked him about the school resource officer. He asked if there is a record of when the school resource officer is at the high school.

Supt. Robidoux said he has an office at the high school. He may be in the district when scheduled but not necessarily at the high school. It is a Police Department position. They have a union. They might need a second SRO. The Chief is voted down when he asks for more police officers. The Superintendent has been very vocal about having one school resource

officer Monday through Friday going between schools.

Mr. Carvalho would like to see the cost of having two SROs all day every day. They could then request Town Meeting approval.

Mrs. Bell said the School Committee would have more say if the position is in the School Department budget.

Mr. Graham requested an agenda item for more discussion.

Chairman Rowland requested that Supt. Robidoux talk to the police chief.

Mr. Salpietro said he talked to the chief. The chief asked if the School Committee would back his request for an extra person at budget time. Mr. Salpietro said the position has to be earmarked for a SRO.

Mr. Graham requested an agenda item to discuss Capital Improvement items throughout the town.

Mr. Salpietro also has had people ask him about the resource officer.

He thanked Mr. Silveira for the Signs of Suicide Prevention program. Mr. Silveira addressed this with students.

Chairman Rowland echoed comments made by his colleagues. He extended best wishes to the fall sports teams.

Supt. Robidoux said he is proud of the fall teams. The Athletic Director wants to update the student handbook.

Ms. White talked about the South Coast Educational Summit funded by Bay Coast Bank. A staff member from every school in Swansea attended. It was well attended.

Supt. Robidoux said it was a nice community collaboration.

Mr. Salpietro extended a special thank you to teachers who attended. He noted it was on a Saturday and they attended on their own time.

Chairman Rowland thanked Asst. Supt. White as well.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2018, at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Gamer  
Secretary

Items Distributed at the School Committee Meeting of October 29, 2018

Request for Observation of Education Program by Parent/Designee

Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc. – Notice of Annual Business Meeting on Friday, November 9, 2018 at 3:15 p.m. – Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA

Report – District and Site Based Technology in Swansea

Student/Staff Enrollment Numbers as of October 23, 2018

Gardner Chirps – 10/12/18 Volume 32, Issue 5

Robert F. Silveira, Principal, Joseph Case Junior High School – Letter to parents re: Signs of Suicide Prevention Program