

## MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – DECEMBER 3, 2018

A regular School Committee meeting was held at the Administration Building on Monday, December 3, 2018.

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

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

Visitors included: Robert Silveira, Adam Palmisciano, Joseph Case Junior High School students and parents, Debbie Kelley (videographer), Sonya Barbosa, and others.

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 on the internet at [swanseacabletv.com](http://swanseacabletv.com).

An executive session followed the regular session.

Mr. Salpietro led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Bell offered a moment of silence for Jacob Lord, who passed away unexpectedly and sending prayers and thoughts to his family.

### Consent Agenda

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

#### DECA Competition – Mr. Adam Palmisciano

Mr. Palmisciano, Advisor, requested authorization to take 13 students to attend the District 8 DECA Career Development Conference 2019 at the Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis, MA. It is an overnight trip. He will meet with parents to talk about details of the trip.

He thanked Supt. Robidoux, Asst. Supt. White and Principal McCann for their support.

Mr. Carvalho is glad to see this come about. He had a few parents ask about it.

Mrs. Bell said it is a great idea. She asked about cost.

Mr. Palmisciano said \$150 per student.

Mr. Salpietro said it prepares students for real life situations. He asked how students are chosen.

Mr. Palmisciano said they signed up.

Ms. Hajder said she is very excited to go. She chose sports management.

Mr. Palmisciano will go with the students – no chaperones.

Mr. Salpietro thanked him.

Supt. Robidoux thanked Mr. Palmisciano. He knows this program will grow. His children participated in a similar program in their school district. He told Sydney that sports management is a great place to go.

Asst. Supt. White also thanked Mr. Palmisciano. She looks forward to feedback.

Chairman Rowland said his niece was part of DECA in her community. She found it was very useful in college. He thanked Mr. Palmisciano. He wanted to make sure all procedures are in place to take students overnight.

#### Joseph Case Junior High School Spotlight – Movie Club

Principal Robert Silveira and several students were in attendance to talk about the club. Mr. Silveira showed some of the movies. He said they have a “blast.”

Mr. Salpietro loved the idea. He said one day they will be in the “Tweets” at the high school. They should be very happy to have this opportunity because most junior high schools don’t have this.

Ms. Bell said she watches the videos. Students do a fantastic job. It’s a learning experience that will last forever.

Mr. Carvalho thanked Mr. Silveira, students and their parents for being in attendance. He is very proud to see what they can do.

Ms. Hajder wished she had this when she was at the junior high school. She felt it will help them in the drama program at the high school.

Supt. Robidoux said he has been watching their Motivation Mondays videos. It looks like they are having fun and learning too. It is preparing them for the film program at the high school.

Asst. Supt. White said they have a big fan club. It brings joy to everyone. It seems like Mr. Silveira enjoys it too.

Chairman Rowland said his daughter was part of the first film class at the high school. She couldn't wait to come back from college and participate in the "Tweets."

He thanked Mr. Silveira and Mr. Whalen at the high school. He noted that "Spotlight" is his favorite part of being a School Committee member.

Students introduced themselves.

### Joseph Case Junior High School MCAS 2018 Results

Mr. Silveira said this is the first year of the new system of scoring. All testing was computer-based in all grades. New categories are: Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, and Not Meeting Expectations. The goal is to get all students into the top two categories.

Grade 7 ELA dropped off considerably. They feel essay scores were partially responsible for that. They need to implement strategies for prolonged writing experiences.

The State releases the essays for grades 6 and 7.

They have included increased writing in all curriculum areas.

This is the first year for all inclusive classes.

There are remarkably consistent results in grade 6, 7, and 8 math.

Science is still reported the same. It is in the new system. There is a spiraling curriculum in science.

Interventions are in place for all of the above.

Mrs. Bell said the interventions look good.

Mr. Carvalho said it is difficult to keep up with this. He feels good that scores are going up.

Mr. Salpietro doesn't like this topic. His personal feeling is "are we creating better students or better testers."

He asked about digital testing so that students would be familiar with that when it comes to MCAS.

Mr. Silveira not comfortable with that for math.

Ms. Hajder felt it would be beneficial to compare the previous year's testing.

Chairman Rowland liked the spiraling curriculum. He felt MCAS could be a good tool for helping students to be better.

Supt. Robidoux said the State has redone the standards. He felt the next generation of MCAS will be a good tool.

Asst. Supt. White said it is almost training the kids to think differently. The shift in the standards is really good.

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

**VOTED:** To move to Item F.

Massachusetts School Administrators Association Letter Recognizing Mr. Robert Silveira and Mr. Brian McCann

Supt. Robidoux read a letter from Mr. William N. Gaine, Jr., Executive Director of Massachusetts School Administrators' Association, commending Mr. Silveira's participation in the Association Governance.

Joseph Case High School Principal Brian McCann was also recognized.

Mr. Silveira said he can make valuable connections.

Mr. Salpietro said the Town, students, and teachers are lucky to have him.

Mrs. Bell and Mr. Carvalho agreed.

Chairman Rowland said it is well-deserved.

Mr. Silveira said it comes down to "Students Come First."

The meeting returned to the regular order of business.

MASC/MASS Conference Overview

Supt. Robidoux provided a review of the conference. He felt this was one of the better conferences. Mr. Carvalho was honored on Thursday night.

Mr. Carvalho thanked Chairman Rowland and Supt. Robidoux for being there. It was a real honor because he was one of ten in the State to be recognized.

He was congratulated by School Committee members and Ms. Hajder. Chairman Rowland said it was a privilege to be there.

Asst. Supt. White appreciated the recap.

School Committee Capital Improvement Plan as a Part of Town-wide Capital Improvement Planning

Supt. Robidoux stated that Mr. Graham had asked to have this on the agenda. He wasn't sure of Mr. Graham's thought. The School Department has a Capital Improvement Plan.

Chairman Rowland felt they need to know where the School Department fits into the Town's plan.

Mr. Salpietro said the Board of Selectmen and A & F Committee need to know the School Committee aspirations. Hopefully, they can go to the State by June of next year and ask for an assessment for a new school.

Mr. Carvalho said there is a piece of land.

Chairman Rowland said to keep it as an agenda item.

Supt. Robidoux will check with Mr. Graham.

ACTION ITEMS

Vote to Approve DECA Competition

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

**VOTED:** To approve Mr. Palmisciano's request to travel to Cape Cod with students to attend DECA Competition.

Vote to Enter into An Employment Agreement with John J. Robidoux in the form presented to him to serve as the Swansea School District's Superintendent of Schools, beginning on July 1, 2019 - Postponed

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

Mr. Salpietro inquired about the SRO.

Supt. Robidoux said it is proceeding with Chief Arruda.

Mr. Salpietro announced the theatre company will perform “The Dining Room” this weekend.

He congratulated all fall sports. He said the football team should hold their heads up high even though they lost the Thanksgiving Day game. They did a great job as well as other teams.

Mr. Carvalho thanked Student Representative Chloe Shea for the write up in the Playbill.

Supt. Robidoux also congratulated all fall sport teams.

Asst. Supt. White is looking forward to the winter season. nattended. He thanked the Music Department and Case High School Band.

Chairman Rowland also congratulated fall sports. He is looking forward to winter sports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Salpietro, seconded by Mr. Carvalho, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and conducting contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Superintendent John J. Robidoux) per M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21(2); to return to Open Session.

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

The meeting reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Gamer  
Secretary

Items Distributed at the December 3, 2018 School Committee

Draft Program for DECA Conference

2018 Joseph Case Junior High School MCAS Results

Mrs. Janet Blair – Intent to retire on June 30, 2019

Massachusetts School Administrators' Association – Commendations for Robert Silveira and Brian McCann

Joseph Case High School Principal Brian McCann – Invitation to John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Awards

In-Service Agenda – November 6, 2018

Sanford Programs to Renee Estrella – Official Notification of 2018 Sanford Teacher Award recipient

Goodnight lights for Sam – Collection of flashlights