

MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – NOVEMBER 1, 2021

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held on Monday, November 1, 2021, at the Administration Building.

Members Present: Sonya Barbosa, James Carvalho, Eric Graham, Thomas Rodrigues, Scott Rowland.

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

Chairman Rowland opened the meeting at 5 p.m.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L Chapter 30, 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 also recorded for broadcast on Sunday at 12:30 p.m., Monday at 6 p.m., Tuesday at 2 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., Thursday at 10 p.m., Friday at 10 a.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. on Swansea Cable Access Channel 15. Meetings can also be accessed over the internet at swanseacabletv.com.

An executive session was scheduled following the regular meeting.

Mr. Carvalho led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Graham offered a moment of silence for our troops serving overseas and also for those people still impacted by the ongoing pandemic.

Consent Agenda

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Completion of 2020-2021 Superintendent Evaluation Goals

Supt. Robidoux thanked the School Committee for tabling discussion until this meeting.

Goal 1: Student Learning Goal, Remote Learning. Supt. Robidoux noted the hybrid model went well. He is proud of everyone.

Goal 2: Professional Practice; Equity/Diversity. Equity teams are in place. This will continue to be on-going.

Goal 3: District Improvement 1 Response to COVID. Supt. Robidoux felt they worked very hard to maintain quality education within the safest environment possible.

Goal 4: District Improvement 2: Three-year District Improvement Plan. A comprehensive plan that runs from 2021-2024. It outlines all of the standards set forth by DESE for governance of a school district. Each school has aligned their school improvement plan to the District Improvement Plan so that everything connects in a meaningful way.

Mr. Graham noted that he was he was not on the Board for most of the year. He commended Supt. Robidoux for doing what is best for the kids. With regard to COVID, he felt that Supt. Robidoux and administrators have fully embraced some of the hypocrisy and moved forward. He felt the Superintendent has done a great job with his goals.

Mr. Rodrigues expressed confidence that they could re-launch a remote plan if necessary. He looks forward to seeing the continued success of the equity teams. The district's response to COVID was done with regard to guidelines and strategies for safety of students and staff. He is looking forward to continued progress of the District Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Barbosa felt Supt. Robidoux did a great job with his goals. She is curious to see the equity/diversity. It is a huge task. She felt they did a good job responding to COVID and the district would be ready to go back if needed.

Mr. Carvalho agreed with his colleagues. He felt Supt. Robidoux did a great job on his goals and also addressing COVID.

Chairman Rowland said it was like "baptism under fire" to set those goals and then achieve them with what was going on. He is pleased with the reaction of the teachers with the remote learning and that is because they know the Superintendent was behind them.

He liked Goal 2 Equity teams. He noted the Superintendent is able to get folks to accomplish things. He said a lot is accomplished with what little they have.

Supt. Robidoux said he is humbled that the Committee recognizes his efforts. He said he has a good administrative team working together.

Given what they were up against, Chairman Rowland said it would have been easy for the Superintendent to just say they did the best they could.

Asst. Supt. White said she is amazed at Supt. Robidoux's leadership. He feels he is in control.

Brady repeated what Mr. McCann had said at the previous meeting that Swansea was the only district in Bristol County that stayed with hybrid learning.

Supt. Robidoux thanked Brady for recognizing that.

Proposed Superintendent Evaluation Goals 2021-2022

Goal 1: Student Learning

Supt. Robidoux said the focus is on transition. He will focus on 8th grade to 9th grade. Asst. Supt White will look at the transition from grade 5 to grade 6 and will work with principals on the transition from Pre-K to kindergarten. Mr. McCann and Mr. Silveira had identified this in their school goals last year. They have ideas of their own. He noted that athletics has reached out to younger students. Mr. Jeronimo is doing a great job bringing those younger students into drama productions.

Mr. Rodrigues is looking forward to this. He felt it would be a positive impact.

Mr. Graham suggested that MIAA might allow eighth graders to play high school sports.

Supt. Robidoux said it has happened whenever there is a need.

Mrs. Barbosa pleased with the transition piece. She felt the grade 5 to grade 6 is very important.

Chairman Rowland liked the transition from school to school. He felt the move from the junior high to the high school is difficult for students. He is glad to see the Superintendent take this on.

Brady agreed the transition from 8th to 9th grade is the hardest.

Goal 2: Professional Practice

Supt. Robidoux said his goal is to achieve the designation as a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Officer (MCPPO). Mrs. Arruda is a MCPPO. It is a lengthy process. It is on-line. He has achieved the first 20 credits.

Mrs. Barbosa confident Supt. Robidoux can do it. She asked if superintendents usually do this.

Supt. Robidoux said no. Mrs. Arruda is in the role but he would like to have more of an understanding.

Mr. Graham said he saw the benefits when Mr. Monteiro was in that role. He felt it is great to have another person.

Mr. Rodrigues wished him the best of luck.

Mr. Carvalho also wished him luck.

Chairman Rowland said it would benefit the Superintendent and the school system.

Goal 3: District Improvement Goal 1

Supt. Robidoux said the goal is to learn the process of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

School Committee members felt this is a good goal especially with the application to MSBA to be considered for funding to build a new school.

Goal 4: District Improvement

Supt. Robidoux said this goal is to reinstate learning walks with the focus on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). All principals will visit other schools and have conversations throughout the school year. The learning walks will be scheduled in the fall and spring so that each administrator will have spent time at each other's buildings and can speak to what they witnessed.

Chairman Rowland suggested Supt. Robidoux remember the huge benefits of the learning walks.

Mr. Graham suggested going to other school districts.

Supt. Robidoux noted that principals do reach out to other areas.

Mrs. Barbosa liked the idea. She felt it has a lot of benefits and potential. She is anxious to see results.

ACTION ITEMS

Vote to Approve Superintendent Evaluation Goals 2021-2022

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

VOTED: To approve the Superintendent Evaluation Goals 2021-2022.

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

Mr. Carvalho requested an executive session at the next meeting to discuss violations of the bus contract.

Mr. Graham congratulated the football team senior night.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:10 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Rodrigues, to go into Executive Session per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Swansea Educators Association; to return to Open Session for adjournment.

The vote: Mr. Carvalho – Aye; Mr. Rodrigues – Aye; Mrs. Barbosa – Aye; Mr. Graham – Aye; Chairman Rowland.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular scheduled meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 15, 2021, at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 6:32 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Graham – Aye; Mr. Rodrigues – Aye; Mrs. Barbosa – Aye; Mr. Carvalho – Aye; Chairman Rowland – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Gamer
Secretary

Items Distributed at the November 1, 2021 School Committee

Superintendent Goals Completed

Superintendent Goals 2021-2022

Correspondence from Mr. & Mrs. Rob Baxter commending Neil Jeronimo and response from Principal Brian McCann

E-Mail from Kerrie Moreau, MS Ed. commending bus 26 driver

Brown School News from Principal Wendy Williams (October 15, 2021 and October 22, 2021)

Gardner School Newsletter and flyer for Papa Gino's/D'Angelo's 20% fundraiser on October 21, 2021

Joseph Case Junior High School Newsletter – October 15, 2021

