

## MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021

A regular School Committee meeting was held at the Administration Building on Monday, December 13, 2021.

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 Liren Ferreira were in attendance.

Visitors included: Joseph Case High School Principal Brian McCann, David Farrell, Brandon Banister and Cooper Khoury (students) and parents. Debbie Kelley taped the meeting.

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 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 [www.swanseacabletv.com](http://www.swanseacabletv.com).

There was no executive session.

Mr. Carvalho led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Graham offered a moment of silence for the 81 victims of the recent tornadoes in Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Illinois.

### Consent Agenda

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

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Joseph Case High School Spotlight – Old School Wood Shop to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Instructional Technology

Supt. Robidoux stated that David Farrell, teacher, has done a wonderful job with this project.

Principal Brian McCann noted that workshop is the first to be eliminated due to budgets in many schools. That has never happened at Case High School. The wood shop has gone into technology. This is the first time it has been spotlighted.

Mr. Farrell thanked Supt. Robidoux, Asst. Supt. White and Mr. McCann for accommodating him when he wanted to transfer from history teacher to this shop. When he was a student at the high school and, later, as a teacher, Mr. McCann was very supportive of him. He congratulated Mr. McCann on his retirement.

He attended this shop in the 1990s. Students benefitted from it. He always felt the program needed to be updated and brought into the 21st century. About 100 students are in the shop. He calls it Design and Build initiative. They are learning the Sketch Up computer program. He is proud that ARCH students are included in the program.

Students Cooper Khoury and Brandon Banister told of their experiences in the shop. .

Mr. Carvalho told Mr. Farrell he should be proud of what he has done. There are a lot of students who want to work with their hands. Students are doing a good job.

Mr. Rodrigues was amazed with what students have done. He noted the wood shop is not an extra. He congratulated Mr. Farrell for bringing it into the 21st century.

Mr. Graham congratulated Mr. Farrell for modernizing the program.

Mrs. Barbosa said it is wonderful that he brought it up to the 21st century.

Chairman Rowland thanked Mr. Farrell for the presentation. He was in the shop and now enjoys making furniture for his house. He suggested students put their name on their pieces. It is a great sense of accomplishment when they look at it years down the road.

Asst. Supt White thanked students and their parents for coming. She is impressed that Mr. Farrell was able to keep students interested after a COVID year.

Supt. Robidoux commended Mr. Farrell. It is phenomenal to have 100 students in that program. He thanked them for coming.

Liren said.it sounds like she would like it.

Mr. McCann said this program is everything you want in a school program. He is grateful to the two students who came tonight.

Joseph Case High School Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Report 2021

Supt. Robidoux said there is no comparison because of COVID.

Mr. McCann said they had MCAS last year after not having it the year before. When students returned to school, the State decided to do MCAS. He couldn't understand it. Students were in only 50% of the time. It was challenging. ELA and math were on the computer. Science was done using pencil and paper. Case did really well in ELA and far exceeded the State. Math was similar.

He explained interventions.

Mrs. Barbosa felt they did the best they could.

Mr. Graham expressed confidence in Mr. McCann and his team.

Mr. Rodrigues felt the data should not be compared to other years because of the COVID situation. He said the full time learning would reinforce the teacher learning process. There is something to be said about special education students struggling with standardized testing.

Mr. Carvalho said it was difficult for teachers and students to learn in a new setting. Mr. McCann has done a good job. He felt students don't get enough credit.

Chairman Rowland said he felt as though they were making progress. He said the ground work done will give teachers and students the tools they need in a regular environment and make progress with MCAS to make it a useable tool.

Asst. Supt. White was impressed with the participation rate. She said MCAS results can be used to see what they are doing right or wrong.

Supt. Robidoux also felt scores were good.

Liren is an Honors AP student and she adjusted well to the Hybrid model. MCAS was not an issue for her.

## Swansea Public Schools Policies; Update/Revisions

### Section I

IC/ICA – School Year/School Calendar

IE – Organization of Instruction

IGB – Support Services Programs

IGD – Curriculum Adoption

IHA – Basic Instructional Program

IHAE – Physical Education

IHAMA – Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education

IHAMB – Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

IHB – Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations (Programs for Children with Special Needs)

IHBC – Title I Supplement Policy, Not Supplant Policy

IHBEA – English Language Learners

IHBF – Home Tutoring

IHBG – Home Schooling

IHBG-R – Home Schooling

IHBHE – Remote Learning

IHBHE-E – Remote Learning Addendum

II – Independent Study

IJJ – Textbook Selection and Adoption

IJK – Supplementary Materials Selection

IJM – Special Interest Materials Selection and Adoption

IJNDD – Social Networking Policy of the Swansea Public Schools

IJOA – Field Trips

IJOA-R – Field Trips and Excursions

IJOB – Community Resource

IJFA – Early Graduation

IKFB – Graduation Exercises

IL – Evaluation of Instructional Programs

ILBA – District Program Assessments

ILD – Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research

### ACTION ITEMS

#### Vote to Accept School Policies; Update/Revision

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

**VOTED:** To adopt School Policies, as amended, inclusive of:  
IC/ICA – School Year/School Calendar  
IE – Organization of Instruction  
IGD – Curriculum Adoption  
IHAMA – Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education  
IHAMB – Teaching about Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco  
IHB – Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations (Programs for Children with Special Needs)  
IHBEA – English Language Learners  
IHBF – Home Tutoring  
IHBG – Home Schooling  
IJNDD – Social Networking Policy of the Swansea Public Schools  
IJOA - Field Trips  
IJOB – Community Resources

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

**VOTED:** To delete School Policies, inclusive of:  
IGB – Support Services Programs  
IHA – Basic Instructional Program  
IHAE – Physical Education  
IHBC – Title I Supplement Policy, not Supplant Policy  
IHBHE – Remote Learning  
IHBHE-E – Remote Learning Addendum  
III- Independent Study  
IJJ – Textbook Selection and Adoption  
IJK – Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption  
IJM – Special Interest Materials Selection and Adoption  
IJOA-R – Field Trips and Excursions  
IKFA – Early Graduation  
IKFB – Graduation Exercises  
ILBA – District Program Assessments

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

**VOTED:** To adopt as proposed School Policies, inclusive of:  
IHBG-R - Homeschooling  
IHBHE – Remote Learning  
IHBHE –E – Remote Learning Addendum  
IL – Evaluation of Instructional Programs  
ILD – Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research

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

Mr. Graham mentioned the drama production of “Epic Proportions” was wonderful.

Mr. Rodrigues said 100 students participated in the production. They traveled to Norwood High School for a marathon day on Sunday. Seniors had the opportunity to apply for scholarships. They had a placement in each category.

Mr. Carvalho congratulated them and said he is not surprised.

Chairman Rowland also congratulated them. He extended best wishes for a Merry Christmas. He urged students to be careful.

Supt. Robidoux wished everyone Happy Holidays and said to be careful.

Asst. Supt. White added her best wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 3, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Gamer  
Secretary

Items Distributed at the December 13, 2021 School Committee Meeting

Joseph Case High School MCAS Report 2021

Swansea Public Schools Policies; Update/Revision: Section I

E-mail from Richard Kilgannon re: treatment of nurses

E. S. Brown School December 2021 Parent Calendar