

Southampton School Committee

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Richard Dragon Library-William E. Norris School

6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order- Erin Couture, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Ms. Couture

Present: Erin Couture, Cheryn Wojcik, Lorna Shirer, Virginia Ahart, Dr. Jurgensen, Mrs. Pluta, Bobbie Jones

Absent: John Fitzpatrick

Visitors: Tammy Walunus, Kathy Saltis

II. Routine Matters

A. Approval of minutes:

On a motion by Ms. Shirer, seconded by Ms. Ahart, the minutes of March 23rd were approved (4-0-0)

B. Circulation of Warrants

Warrants were circulated for individuals to review and sign

C. Visitors:

- Tammy Walunus asked why the six grade graduation night was changed from Tuesday night 6/14, which was the typical night in the past, to Thursday 6/16. Mrs. Pluta indicated that there was retirement party previously planned for two teachers for that night so the graduation was moved to Thursday. However, faculty would be agreeable to changing the date if that could be worked out with everyone involved.

D. Tiger Talk

- Mrs. Pluta indicated that articles for the next tiger talk needed to be submitted by May 2nd and Tiger Talk would go out the week following that.

E. Correspondence - None

F. Other – None

III. Principal's Report

Mrs. Pluta reviewed the principal's report (see handouts) and added the following:

- The total of 14 students opted out of the MCAS testing for grades 3-6. There was lots of cooperation by staff as these children must be provided with other activities for the testing time period. MCAS testing for the Math portion begins on Tuesday May 10th
- Julie Reiss received a grant for \$5,000 for k-2 to provide a reading toll for teachers through Early Story Grammar Marker.

IV. Superintendent

Dr Jurgensen presented his report (handouts) and added the following:

- Annual town meeting where Norris budget gets approved is May 17th.
- Marijuana legislation to be expected on November's ballot. Still waiting to hear how the MASC will address this

V. Budget

Virginia Ahart Erin Couture John Fitzpatrick Lorna Shirer Cheryn Wojcik

A. FY 2016

The Budget for FY2016 was presented and a few items were identified as areas that the school could realize some savings. These were in the Custodian Salary , Fuel and Electric, as well as programs in and out of district (due to a grant received). Bobbie will make those requested adjustments for the next meeting to move the savings to the School Choice account.

B. FY 2017

The gap between the FY 17 budget request for Norris and the recommendation of the Finance Committee was discussed. The gap was noted to be \$164,767. Ms. Ahart asserted that the school's needs must be better identified and communicated. Ms. Couture raised the idea of an override vote. Ms. Ahart spoke eloquently about the Committee becoming more visible and stronger advocates for Norris. Ms. Florek spoke as a parent noting the importance of making decisions that are based on the best interests of children must be emphasized. Ms. Shirer spoke to the importance of members knowing and understanding their roles and responsibilities. Ms. Pluta stated that non-rehire/reductions in force and the reassignment of teachers diminishes the value of professional development and the investments made in staff. She acknowledged the importance of reaching out to the Southampton community.

C. 15/16 Vocational Budget – topic tabled due to need for additional information regarding student enrollment

D. Capital Plan Update

Kim provided the following information in an update to the committee:

- April 25th the capital improvement committee approved \$36k to fund 22 laptops, 4 classroom projectors, and fixing the security doors.
- The sidewalk repairs were denied by the town as they indicated they did not have the resources to complete them
- New phone system is up and running and it all went well. The new system has messaging and 911 capabilities
- The internet and Wifi upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of May and will be in use for the 2016/2017 school year in September.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Action Plan: STA's Teacher Concerns – none were presented

B. School Calendar 2016-2017 Motion (Ahart/ Shirer) was made to approve the calendar (see handouts) 4-0-0

C. Transportation: Counts & Update; Fee Refund

The bus fee was discussed. Refunds will be made to Southampton families who have paid. On a motion by Ms. Ahart, seconded by Ms. Shirer, the Committee voted unanimously to approve bus fee refunds to Southampton families.

D. ATM Warrant Article Language – item passed over/not addressed

VII. Policy

A. Attendance Policy:

Mrs. Pluta handed out a proposal for amending the attendance and family vacation section of the school handbook. The new language is aimed at providing better guidance for teachers and faculty for absences/ family vacations. It also gives a mid-year amount of unexcused absences that require action by the faculty. The committee agreed had no objections with new language. Language will be reviewed and approved when revised handbook is considered.

B. Policy Manual -

IX. New Business

X. Reports

- A. PTO- April 5th was teacher appreciation day. PTO served breakfast to the teachers
- B. CES- none
- C. School council-April 6th was the meeting.
- D. Hampshire Regional School Committee- Solar credit plan was voted yes on.
- E. Administrative Advisory -none
- F. Union 66- none

XI. Ongoing Items

- A. School Committee Vacancy- Kathy Saltis indicated that she was interested in running as a write-in vote for the vacancy.

XII. MGL Chapter 30, 21A(2) Executive Session: Preparation for negotiations and Collective Bargaining with Paraprofessionals. The Committee did not enter into executive session as there were no specific issues to discuss.

XIII. Adjourn – On a motion by Ms. Wojcik, seconded by Ms. Shirer the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 following unanimous vote by members.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 25, 2016