SANDWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
January 5, 2022
SANDWICH TOWN HALL

School Committee Members Present: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames Ms. Bader, Dr. Miller, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pell, Mr. Sareault
Members Absent: Kerri Ames
Administration Present: Dr. Gould, Ms. Wiklund, Ms. Austin
Others: Charlie Holden, Liaison

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Ms. Bader called the meeting to order at 6:00pm as Mr. DiGiacomo will be tardy. She also stated that you may view the meeting by live stream at this time on Sandwich Community TV and that this is being recorded.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) PUBLIC FORUM:
Agenda packets can be found here for review:

James Lehane/South Sandwich

4) Superintendent’s Update:
   COVID numbers are increasing- 69 active 39 quarantine 23 awaiting testing
   As a town we are at 10.3% positivity
   Nurses are down. One out from surgery and one COVID positive
   Dr. Gould pleads that parents keep their kids home if they have any symptoms
   Another nurse has been brought in to help.
   We are now following a 5 day protocol
   Dr. Gould states that we are doing everything we can to stay open. It will be due to staffing if we do end up closing.
   Ms. Bader asked if there are any predictions if/when COVID will slow down. Chief Burke come January. Dr. Gould wants the masks to be worn better for basketball athletes. She is hoping to make it through the whole season.
   Ms. Bader wants to remind families that getting vaccinated will be helpful to keep the spread down. Dr. Gould is concerned that we will lose teachers. Hoping the end of January will be the time frame when things slow down.
   Mr. Sareault spoke about conversations he’s heard and Dr’s think it’s a 3 week time frame.
   Dr. Gould spoke about the weather coming this Friday morning.
   Mr. Sareault asked what percentage of staff took advantage of the testing? Dr. Gould isn’t sure but all of the tests are gone.

5) New Business:
   A. FY23 Budget:
      Cost Center Managers Overview:
      Jon Nelson, Director of Facilities- still working on the same issues for the last
five years. Trying to make up for the loss of the Cape Cod Collaborative. (see video) Mr. Sareault asked if there was a benchmark that we use. There are DESE numbers we can use but they incorporate all the salaries, etc. It’s not just facilities. Dollars per square foot we are just over $1.00 per square foot which isn’t all that much.

Bryce Harper, Director of Technology- most of their budget is licensing (year to year) equipment - infrastructure based, clock system, phone systems etc. Laptop replacement. Dr. Miller asked where we are in regards to security. Mr. Harper spoke about the information that he has shared with the schools in regards to making sure we are all on the same page as far as using proper security for our programs.

Bernard McNamara, Director of Pupil Services- Mr. McNamara spoke briefly on the OT, PT services the school offers to children with disabilities. There was discussion regarding our number of children with disabilities compared to other districts. We tend to be a little higher.

Maureen Wiklund, Asst. Superintendent-increases in teaching and learning are licenses. During the pandemic she encouraged teachers to use more tools for online teaching. Iready is a way for the teachers to keep up with how the kids are doing throughout the year. The whole teaching and learning budget is going down as they focus on other things. Over the next couple of years she may need to spend more money on curriculum. What DESE is doing now is reviewing and recommending particular programs and they will help fund it. Right now she has a nice lean budget. There will have to be increases moving forward.

James Mulcahy, STEM/SHS Principal- budget lines are pretty level. Broken down by department. Arts and Sciences are typically the most expensive. Now that we are back in school it’s leveling. Growing areas are in the broadcasting programs. We will be looking to increase equipment. We still purchase textbooks. Through a grant the greenhouse is fully running. Increasing by $12,000 for extracurricular activities. Dr. Miller asked if there is a benchmark for school counselors. Mr. Mulcahy answered that we are in good shape.

Christopher Dintino, Forestdale Principal- Level budget. Last year there were cuts made. They are not technology based. Allow money for supplies. Increase travel for PD. He had to replace some materials, furniture. They are adding specials, health, social emotional curriculum. Splitting recess areas to give them more space to move. Limited activities- Add a 3rd session to their morning activities. Mr. Fisher asked if the kids are eating in the cafeteria. Yes, there are 4 different large areas. No problem for them being too close. Ms. Bader asked if they added more specials. They eliminated a kindergarten position and added a science lab/coaching position. Mr. Sareault asked why there was a reduction in the library books. Mr. Dintino claimed that the books are getting damaged. They are using online books.

Patricia Hill, Oak Ridge Principal- add a grant for a social emotional learning. 3 Tiers. Maintaining Co-teaching models. Reading and math intervention programs were finally fully supported. Providing additional training. Line items are being taken from general supplies for specials. Trying to focus on text book replacement (high and lower end reading books) Mr. Fisher asked about the social emotional class. There is flyfive is from a responsive classroom which helps assess kids with emotional concerns. Mr. Fisher asked for an example. Ms. Hill responded with how to navigate when they are frustrated. How to make friends, etc.

Neil Murphy, Director of Athletics- did not speak. Mr. Mulcahy was available to answer any athletic questions.
Dr. Gould says this is the best budget that we’ve had on the school side of things since She’s been here.

- **COVID relief funding** - State gave us $98,000 for personal protective equipment and facilities The Federal gave us $546,300 for technology plexiglass, storage and HVAC All has been spent
  - ESSER1 $297,906 (all salary) long term substitutes, temporary subs and ESP’s
  - All has been spent
  - ESSER2 $1,055,859 for summer programming, school for early learning, technology storage, moving costs, tent for HS, COVID supplies, utilities, HVAC filters and maintenance. We have $17,029 left to spend before 9/30/23
  - ESSER3 $2,441,099 for HVAC ventilation for OR and Fdale, Summer academic programming, after school programming and the playground at Forestdale. Nothing has been spent and we need to spend it by 9/30/24.
- 2020 per Pupil Expenditures - Dr. Gould spoke about spending for in-pupil as percent of total spending. We are generally middle of the road.
- Staffing - runs fluid
- 2021 Staff full time equivalent per 100 students - middle of the road for all except for technology which is low.
- Change over 5 years -
- Comparable District Overview - students with disabilities is high compare to other districts. Dr. Miller asked that students with disabilities and received services, who pays for that. Ms. Austin spoke about Circuit Breaker. $43,000 is the foundation. Mr. MacNamara spoke about OT, PT. Dr. Gould spoke about our number ELL teachers. Mr. Sareault asked with the relative district wealth means. Dr. Gould doesn’t know exactly how the formula is done. She will look further into it.
- F23 Budget Notables - some salary reductions (retirements and we are able to hire at lower salaries. Special Education - assessing the costs, reducing costs but still trying to be realistic with replacements. Dr. Miller asked how many of our school choices require special education? Are students coming to Sandwich specifically because of our special education program. Mr. McNamara spoke about our elementary level.
- Financing History: Dr. Gould felt the conversations were difficult because the salaries are not being covered. Met all our contractual obligations. We are in a really good place. We are coming in under and do not have to make any cuts. Dr. Miller had questions regarding the pie charts by function and by type. Ms. Austin explained the difference.
- 15 year Capital Planning - Dr. Gould says we are setting up a meeting with the boards so we can present them to the Town Meeting in May. Dr. Miller asked if we could think about phasing out Athletic Fees? Dr. Gould agrees that it’s an added expense to families because they choose to play sports. Mr. Fisher agrees with Dr. Miller. Mr. Sareault says that if we are taking any fees away, it should be across the board.

B. Superintendent Search - Mr. DiGiacomo will speak on Ms. Ames’ behalf. The proposals were sent. There are two options: Mr. DiGiacomo and Ms. Ames feels it’s money well spent to hire MASC services. Mr. Fisher would prefer it. Dr. Miller fully supports MASC along with Mr. DiGiacomo and Ms. Ames. Mr. Sareault agrees it’s short money to make sure we have the extra coaching to make sure the right candidates are picked. Ms. Bader says it’s worth the cost with all the services they provide and the school committee will still have a huge role in this process. Mr. Pell is in agreement as well. Mr. Sareault makes a
motion to move forward with hiring MASC services /second by Burt passes 6-0
C. Discussion: 4th DESE Letter - Ms. Bader motions to accept this letter regarding the mask mandate/Seconded by Mr. Pell pass 6-0
D. Cape Cod Collaborative Capital Plan Vote Required
Ms. Bader motions to accept the plan presented/seconded by Dr. Miller passes 6-0

6) Old Business:
   None

7) Acknowledgements:

   Mr. Fisher said Ms. Bader did an excellent job. Dr. Miller thanks Maureen Wiklund. Mr. Sareault thanks the nurses for the tireless job they do

8) Warrants Vote Required
   Ms. Bader motions to approve the warrants as presented/Seconded by Mr. Sareault. Passes 5-0-1

9) Act on Minutes dated: December 15, 2021 - Regular Business Meeting Vote Required
   Motioned by Ms. Bader/seconded by Dr. Miller pass 6-0

10) PTA/PTSA/Special Education PAC/School Council/Board of Selectmen Report nothing

11) Liaison/Advisory Committee Reports- Mr. Sareault would like to see a safety committee with in the next week or two

12) Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

13) Public Forum
   James Lehane/South Sandwich
   Charlie Holden/Lakeview Dr

15) Announcements/Closing Remarks Dr. Miller will not be at next week’s meeting. Mr. Sareault said that the PTSA provided lunch to the schools before break. Dr. Gould thanked everyone who participated in the ugly sweater contest. Ms. Bader pleaded for parents to not send their children to school if they are sick.

   Ms. Bader motions to adjourn the meeting until Wednesday, January 12, 2022/seconded by Dr. Miller

Meeting is adjourned and the next Regular Business Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12th, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Sandwich Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Murphy
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DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING:
Draft of the digital Budget Book
A Vacancy in the Superintendency
Superintendent Search Information
and Cost Proposal
Letter to Commissioner Riley
Cape Cod Collaborative Letter
December 15, 2021 Minutes

APPROVED
1/12/22 by SC