School Committee Members Present: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Dr. Miller, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pell, Mr. Sareault
Members Absent: none
Administration Present: Dr. Gould, Ms. Wiklund, Ms. Austin
Others: Charlie Holden, Liaison

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Mr. DiGiacomo called the meeting to order at 6:00pm he 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:

Chris Howell/48 Christopher Hollow Rd
Katie Roy/12 Boulder Brook Rd

4) Student Representative Report by Jenna Lodge (Class of ‘24)
   • Treasurer of Student Council
     Forestdale School-students will have a Patriots Spirit Day.
     The Students will have the opportunity to sled during recess. Proper attire is required
     Oak Ridge - JT Chronicles speaking about positivity and personal responsibility.
     Reading and Math assessments are being done now that will help monitor their progress,
     structure and interventions
     January 22 “Puberty Talk”
     Week of Jan 24 Great Kindness Challenge. Put the students character into action
     Kindness Tunnel /Snow date of Jan 28
     STEM/High School DECA collected Christmas Trees that needed to be disposed of and
     took them to the transfer station for proper disposal. More trees than any other year
     Chorus and band members participated in the South East Music Festival at Brockton HS.
     Jan 14 Poetry Out loud Competition. It is a National Arts Program / helps students master
     public speaking, self confidence and learning about literary history and contemporary life.
     This is now part of the English department’s curriculum.
     Mid-year exams will start Wed, Jan 19 (full day of school ) one exam at the end of the day
     Mon, Jan 20, Tues, Jan 21 and Mon, Jan 24 are all ½ days with two exams
     Second Semester and Term 2 end Mon Jan 24 Term 3 will start Tues Jan 25
     Sandwich Soul is hosting a Karaoke/ Mic night Fri, Jan 28

5) Superintendent’s Update:
   COVID update: How to continue to represent quarantining students. Focusing on
   unmasked areas (lunch) Numbers are manageable (staff with in the schools)
   College students that are home are subbing at the elementary level, but will be heading
   back to school soon.
Numbers are in creasing. 301 cases in Sandwich but not life threatening. We are 2 weeks away from the "drop down". This came from an Epidemiologist. Field Trip is scheduled for February. We are not sure how to proceed with this. Ms. Ames wants to see paperwork with students and cost. Ms. Ames states that there are a lot of resorts that require vaccination cards. There was a conversation regarding STEM/HS students. Do we combine them? There are a lot of logistical items when combining the two. We need to close the STEM school on one form then the next form would be an information change, meaning the STEM code into the High School. It wouldn’t happen until next year anyway. Dr. Gould just wanted to put it out now how simple it would be to do this. Ms. Ames says the school committee needs to vote to Close the STEM Academy and rename the school JR/SR High. Mr. Sareault wanted to clarify that Cohasset is a JR/SR high school. Dr. Miller wanted to build in some opportunity for prospective parents to give some input. Ms. Bader would be interested to hear how this change would affect the 7 and 8 grade student’s experience. Mr. Fisher says it's reverting back to the way it was when the school was built. Mr. Sareault asked if it would have any effect on the staffing?

Mr. Mulcahy says we really do operate as a 7-12 building. Everything we do as far as faculty/department meetings is the 7-12 model. He will answer any/all questions that the public will have. It's just really a name change. We operate on a day to day basis as one school. The state sees us as two schools(power school-state reporting). It will have zero impact on the students/families. The NEASC process is going on as of right now. Mr. Mulcahy is hoping that the NEASC process recognizes the STEM academy and accredits them. Ms. Ames was talking about redistricting and thinks that a lot of the parents who send their kids to Sandwich, graduated from Sandwich. This is what they know. Just making sure to explain everything crystal clear to the parents. Dr. Miller says that as a parent/community she thinks that it's time for it to evolve again. Mr. Mulcahy agrees/appreciates the points that Ms. Ames and Dr. Miller brought up. Mr. Sareault thinks that this is a “good news” story. Mr. Sareault also thinks that this will open more opportunities to the 7th and 8th graders.

6) New Business:
None

7) Old Business:
FY23 Budget:

Dr. Gould presented the numbers of the club/athletic fees.

Next year we won’t have the ESSER money but there will be enough retirements that we will be in a similar position next year. Ms. Ames appreciates that we are under 3%. Ms. Ames would like to know that with the $14,000 increase at Forestdale she would like to see the breakdown. Ms. Austin confirmed that there is a separate line for science. Is this increase going to be annually? Mr. Sareault is looking at the increase at Forestdale for specialists but then sees a drop for a specialist at the other school. Is this the same person? Ms. Austin says that FY21 was more on assumptions. FY 22 and FY 23 will have changes and will look different.

Mr. Sareault noticed that there was a 9% increase at the HS line item. Dr. Gould said that it’s the department head. Mr. Fisher says he suggests getting rid of all the fees besides hockey because that is expensive. Ms. Ames says there were years that there were concerns that there would be no freshman sports. Mr. Murphy answered the fee numbers. Mr. Fisher said then get rid of all fees. Take it out Professional Development. Dr. Gould answered that PD is a grant.

Mr. DiGiacomo said there is an ability to ask for a fee waiver. He also explained the family cap. Ms. Ames acknowledges the Boosters Group for all that they do for the sports programs.
Ms. Ames asked that if we didn’t have the ESSER money, where would our budget be?
Mr. Sareault asked if the HEPA fans are contractual or required? It is a COVID response issue.
He also asked how faculty are diagnosed with COVID and they aren’t in work. How do they get paid? Use sick time and they get paid for 5 days. In effect until 4/1. Ms. Ames asked if they get paid their full salaries for the 5 days. Ms. Austin said they will pay them up to $850 for COVID time or they use their sick days.

Will he be working with the school committee or one person? Mr. DiGiacomo isn’t quite sure. He doesn’t have a preference. He does agree that one point of contact is easier.
Ms. Ames says that the school committee does want to be involved in the search committee.
The chair of the subcommittee should be the liaison to Jim. Mr. Sareault asked Jim “what is the best practice”? The school committee takes action before the subcommittee gets involved. There will be salaries, expectations, timeline conversations. Jim would like to put a draft together and get approval from the school committee. Mr. DiGiacomo will distribute the information as of right now. Jim says that because of COVID in person focus groups have been inhabited. They are designing an online survey tool that can be distributed to anybody. Ask a series of questions, prioritize characteristics, leadership characteristics and pick only five as it narrows down what they actually think. This helps with the selection of candidates. Jim asked if he could talk with Dr. Gould to fill in some blanks before he put the vacancy together. Jim is going to put some information together for next Wednesday’s meeting. Almost 50% of the superintendents nationally will turn over in 2022. Mr. DiGiacomo and the committee are fine with Jim speaking directly with Dr. Gould.
Ms. Ames wondering between now and next week, how do we expedite this in a quicker manner?
Jim says the difference between interim and a Superintendent.
11 people is the best practice for the committee. He prefers an odd number due to majority vote.
A whole school committee can not be on the search committee. Mr. DiGiacomo asks what Jim’s suggestion is on how they develop that decision on who should be on the committee. It’s typically an administrator, a couple of parents, a government position, a few school committee members and a few teachers. Special education could be an entity as well. Really make it as random as possible. 3 SC 1 AD 2 Teach 1 special ed 3 parents (one for each building) 1 Selectman
Ms. Bader asked what are the responsibilities of the committee. Jim says it’s about a 40 hour commitment over 2 ½ weeks. Quickest way to select a committee would be each “category” would select someone. Ultimately the school committee does vote and appoint the search committee. Dr. Miller says she is concerned about the preliminary screening process. As an organization they verify the applications. Dr Miller thinks that maybe HR should be involved. Jim says that the “pool” is who applies. It will be as diverse as it is. Dr. Miller wants the pool to have diversity and if it isn’t diverse enough that the committee would make it known to the school committee before moving forward. Jim says that’s difficult because the applications are confidential.
The conversation continued between the committee. “Equal opportunity”. Mr. Fisher wants the best qualified candidate regardless of color. How thoroughly are the resumes checked? All licenses are verified through DESE. Ms. Bader asked if students should be part of the committee. Jim says the commitment is a lot. Just to consider the impact it will have on the students' time. Jim suggests reviewing page 17.

8) Acknowledgements: Ms. Ames thanks all the cost centers over the years. She appreciates the hard work. Mr. Sareault thanks for their patience.
8) Warrants: none

9) Act on Minutes dated: January 5, 2022 - Regular Business Meeting Vote Required
   Motioned by Ms. Ames/seconded by Ms. Bader pass 7-0

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

11) Liaison/Advisory Committee Reports- Mr. Sareault says the goal is to have a safety committee
    put together by the end of this month.

12) Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: none

13) Public Forum

    Charlie Holden/Lakeview Dr twice

15) Announcements/Closing Remarks

    Ms. Ames motions to adjourn the meeting until Wednesday, January 19, 2022, where there
    will be a public hearing. seconded passes 7-0

Meeting is adjourned and the next Regular Business Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 19th,
2022, at 6:00 pm at Sandwich Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Murphy
Melissa Murphy
School Committee Recording Secretary

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING:
   This was a virtual meeting
   January 5, 2022 Minutes

APPROVED
by Sc 1/19/22