SANDWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
February 9, 2022
SANDWICH TOWN HALL

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. Wildund, Ms. Austin
Others: Charlie Holden, Liaison

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Mr. DiGiacomo called the meeting to order at 5:00pm 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) EXECUTIVE SESSION:
Ms. Ames motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Level III SEA grievance. Second by Mr. Sareault with the intent of going into the Regular Business Meeting afterwards.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Dr. Miller, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pell and Mr. Sareault. Final: 7-0-0

3) ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ENTER INTO REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING:
Mr. DiGiacomo motioned to adjourn the Executive Session and start the Regular Business Meeting at 6:03 pm. Second by Mr. Fisher.
Roll Call Vote: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Dr. Miller, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pell and Mr. Sareault. Final: 7-0-0

4) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5) PUBLIC FORUM:
Agenda packets can be found here for review:
Dr. Aaron Sulvredge/
Katie Roy/Boulder Brook Rd
Sophie/Madison Dr
Crystal Patsavos/Madison Dr

6) STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE:
Ethan Martin: Student VP of Student Council
Forestdale- recess kids are playing snow activities
Free ice cream 2/18
Weeks worth of activities for Read Across America Day 2/28 - 3/4
Oak Ridge - Thank you to Officer Kent JT Chronicles, Ms. MacDonald (Kindness tunnel)
Congratulations to Mrs. Hunt and 5th grade Student Council. Raised over $4,000 for Animal Rescue League in Brewster
Making valentines for residents of Cape Heritage Nursing home
2/17 Raising tech healthy families with Janel Hofmann virtual link will be sent to the
families in Sunday’s weekly email
Read across America week 2/28-3/4
SHS/STEM - ELA Department First Poetry Out loud
MidYear Exams completed end of January First time the STEM students/teachers have
gone through that process
STEM is back to hosting after school snack shacks/PTSA hosts
Wrestling won the Cape & Islands Championship
B/G V Hockey all won the Canal Cup B/JV as well
Swim and Dive placed 3rd(Girls) & 4th(Boys) with swimmers qualifying for sectional and
states
Mr. Murphy will provide the full rundown of the winter season at a further meeting
Karaoke was a success
3/29 Nate Everett will host a community blood drive at SHS more detail to come

7) Food Services Update:
Matthew Carney /Food Services Director is requesting adult school lunches to change from
$4.25-$4.88. Looking for School Committee approval.
Ms. Ames states that they can’t vote on it tonight as it wasn’t on the agenda. Will go on
next agenda.
Status report on the lunch contract. 2019/contract is coming to an end. Looking to
continue their contract. Provided information regarding numbers of participants
from before the pandemic to now. June 30 is the end of the “free lunch” program. Not
sure if it will pass. Working with Buy Fresh Buy Local...Sourcing local ingredients. Gulf of
Maine consulting group for more fish for the menu. Mr. Carney is looking to continue with
the great relationship The Abbey Group has with the Sandwich Public Schools.
Dr. Miller doesn’t understand the language regarding the adult and students lunch. Mr.
Carney states that the USDA rules is the amount an adult pays for a meal must be equal to
or greater than the amount that the USDA pays to reimburse a student's meal. That rate
has gone up due to the pandemic by $.50. They are sitting $.63 below where they should be.
Mr. Carney stated that it's still a bargain at $4.88. Mr. Fisher says he teaches in another
district and that price is not a bargain. If this price was in his district it would not be a
bargain.
Mr. Fisher asked what the menu was for today. Mr. Carney spoke on the menu and how it
was prepared.
Mr. Fisher asked what percentage of students take advantage of the free lunch. Mr. Carney
stated that they are at 45% participation.
Ms. Ames wanted to congratulate Mr. Carney with the success that they have had. Also,
thank you for your plan to feed every student during the shut down in March.
The goal for The Abbey Group is to cook from scratch.
Dr. Gould said that the adult meals do not need to be voted on. The student meals do.
Ms. Bader thanked Mr. Carney for his dedication to the students. Ms. Bader was also
thankful for the breakdown that Mr. Carney presented.
Dr. Miller said that the USDA was making changes on the dietary requirements for a
school lunch. She was happy to see an increase in green vegetables and a decrease in
sodium.
Dr. Gould wanted Mr. Carney to know that he has been a “Rock Star” for the two years
he’s been here. He has given more time and more energy than anyone in this district.
8) OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT: The way the 3 members of the school committee were selected for the superintendent search violated the open meeting law because they didn't do it in the open session. Dr. DiGiacomo suggests putting it on the agenda for this evening. Ms. Ames motions that there was no ill intent but they violated the open meeting law and hope to remedy it during this evening's meeting. Ms. Bader seconded.

Passes 7-0

9) DONATIONS: Ms. Austin states that there are 3 donations.
   1) $2,000 Sandwich Town Hall Preservation Trust to Sandwich Soul. Bob King represents the trust and presented the donation.
   2) $500 Covenant Community Church to Savor the Summer Food Program
   3) Stop & Shop to the No-Bake Club at Oak Ridge

Mr. DiGiacomo motions to accept the donations with tremendous gratitude/Seconded by Ms. Bader

Passes 7-0 Mr. DiGiacomo thanked the community again for all the support for the schools

10) SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:
   COVID numbers have gone down since the last meeting which was three weeks ago. Reminder that the testing protocols are still in place. Dr. Gould would like to see the participation rate go up. Dr. Gould was able to attend the mattress fundraiser and get a new mattress. Dr. Gould spoke about the MIAA rankings for the State Tournament.

11) NEW BUSINESS:
   A. Decision on how the 3 members will be appointed. Dr. DiGiacomo asked who is interested in being in the committee. Mr. Sareault -yes, Mr. Pell -no, Mr. Fisher -yes, Dr. Miller -no, Ms. Bader -yes, Ms. Ames -no, Mr. DiGiacomo -yes

Ms. Bader thinks that each person should say the 3 names of who they would like to nominate.

Mr. Sareault -himself, Ms. Bader and Mr. DiGiacomo
Mr. Pell - Mr. Sareault, Ms. Bader and Mr. DiGiacomo
Mr. Fisher - himself, Ms. Bader and Mr. DiGiacomo
Dr. Miller - Mr. Sareault, Ms. Bader and Mr. DiGiacomo
Ms. Bader - Mr. Sareault, herself and Mr. DiGiacomo
Ms. Ames - Mr. Sareault, Ms. Bader and Mr. DiGiacomo
Mr. DiGiacomo - Mr. Sareault, Mr. Fisher and himself
Mr. Sareault, Ms. Bader and Mr. DiGiacomo received the most votes
Mr. DiGiacomo has 7 votes, Ms. Bader has 6 votes, Mr. Sareault has 6 votes and Mr. Fisher has 2 votes. With that being said, Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Bader and Mr. Sareault have the most votes.

Ms. Ames motions to appoint Mr. Sareault, Mr. DiGiacomo and Ms. Bader as the 3 school committee members to be part of the superintendent search committee/Seconded by Dr. DiGiacomo

Passes 7-0

B) Ms. Ames motions to appoint Ms. Wiklund and Ms. Hill as the admins on the search committee, Ms. Baxter and Ms. Clark as the SEA representatives, Ms. Beneinda as Special Ed parent representative, Ms. Adams as the Forestdale parent representative, Mr. McCartney as the Oak Ridge parent representative and Mr. Holden as the town representative/ Ms. Bader seconded.
Mr. Sareault suggested an explanation of how these representatives came about. They were trying to find a balance across the board as best as they could. Mr. DiGiacomo says ultimately the school committee is in charge of hiring a superintendent. There is significant involvement. There will be focus groups and anyone can contact the school committee with questions/concerns. Dr. Gould clarified that there were google forms that went out to make it far. They picked the names out of a jar and that was recorded. Mr. Fisher asked when the subcommittee’s business will conclude. Mr. DiGiacomo said the first week of April. There is a tight timeline.

The board continued to speak about the process.

Passes 7-0

C) SHS/STEM Program of Studies - 1st Reading

Mr. Mulcahy presents the additions of the Program of Studies for the fall. Back to the normal process. These suggestions will be added online (school website) once they are approved.

New Offerings for the fall:
- Fine performing media arts, Science, Social Studies and Computer Science
- Unified Music, Theater mentor positions meet with Ms. Ganju (great opportunity for the upperclassmen)
- Introduction to STEM band. Designed for less than 1 year of instrument experience.
- Borrow, rent or bring from home. Guitar, banjo, ukulele, recorder and string ensemble are not supported in this class.

**Computer Science:** STEM
- Digital Tools in the real world
- Digital Literacy and Cyber Civics

**Science:** Grades 10-12

- Plants, Society and Environment (elective)

Required sequence is Biology or Earth Science should be taken first. Through Grant money the greenhouse will be fully functional in the fall. Hoping to grow the program and work with The Abbey Food Group. Dr. Gould reminded us that through the power plant agreement we were able to put money aside for this.

Mr. Mulcahy spoke about our growth in the science area. We have Pollinator gardens, gardens out front, irrigation, 15 apple trees will be planted on campus. At some point he will talk about this more in the future.

**Social Studies:** Grades 9-12

- Spies (History of Espionage and Intelligence)

When we come back from vacation there will be a program of studies night on March 1 for all incoming high school students. Two weeks later there will be a program of studies night for the incoming 7th grade students (March 14) both events are 6-8 pm at the High School.

Ms. Ames asked with Science, will it coincide with the vernal pool project. Mr. Mulcahy answered that the vernal pool is primarily STEM. Ms. Ames also asked if the unified music and theater program has led to some push in for students who haven’t been part of soul, KTC and band. Mr. Mulcahy answered that yes, that is the goal. Ms. Ames is glad to see that the STEM band is being added and he is planning on eliminating any programs. Mr. Mulcahy said no to getting rid of any programs. Some programs may be renamed. Mr. Fisher asked if there would be any need for an increase in Staff. Dr. Gould answered no not at the moment. And he also asked if there is a minimum number of enrollment for a course to run. Mr. Mulcahy answered that there is a probationary period to engage and see
in the interest level. If it dips below 8 or 10 kids we don’t want to continue the course, but will adjust the course to accommodate. Mr. Gould answered that it’s tough because a lot of the electives are based around the kids' interests. Mr. Mulcahy did say that there is a STEM band, but the class that’s introduced for next fall is with little to no experience with instruments.

Dr. Miller asked at one point to students and family members get a “syllabus” so they can get a sense of what they need to do. Mr. Mulcahy stated that at the program of studies nights the Department Chairs give a presentation so all the parents' questions will be answered. Dr. Miller also asked, has the faculty considered even if it was posted internally, where parents and kids can look and revisit to see if it’s something that they would like.

Mr. Pell stated that living on Cape Cod he's surprised that schools aren’t offering any Maritime classes. Will it be considerable to run a course related to Maritime. Mr. Mulcahy stated that they have in the past but the interest was low. Dr. Gould explained that we’ve been offering a more broad range of electives to introduce students to career paths.

Ms. Ames would like to make a motion to waive the second reading/Seconded by Mr. Fisher

Passes 7-0

Ms. Ames motions to accept the SHS/STEM Academy Program of Studies updates for 2022-23 as presented/Seconded by Ms. Bader

Passes 7-0

D) SHS/STEM Combining of Schools:

Dr. Gould spoke about how the district was reconfigured 7 years ago. Project lead the way had come in. Make sure the STEM students are comfortable being up there. What’s happened over time is that we’ve settled into a routine. Parents that were concerned, feel better. We created the STEM Academy. Not sure of the name. Strategy of the engaged minds.

Eight graders are now allowed to try out for Freshman/JV teams. They can also take a high school course. The difficulties are all behind the scenes. Mr. Mulcahy stated that when he first came, the STEM was running on a block schedule but different from the HS. But the lunch period was the same due to sharing the cafeteria. Math and English courses were shorter and all STEM students took an elective which was a long period. Social Studies and Science only ran every other day. In the assessment and looking to align the two buildings the students receive their core classes daily. One drops every 7th day. The departments weren’t aligned either. The STEM and HS were separate. Now it's all come together. All teachers work together. Mr. Mulcahy says that with the combining of the two schools the students opportunities with in Athletics, Extracurricular activities and academic opportunities will not change. It is a logistic and safety concern. An example of a logistic concern is with PowerSchool. It’s the information system that the two schools use. There is one for High School and one for STEM. You have to log out of to login to the other. DESE recognizes them as two separate schools. We can build a master schedule for all teachers. If a message has to go out to parents, Mr. Mulcahy has to send it twice. Once through STEM and once through HS. Words needs to be switched around to make sure the correct email goes out. A lot of duplication that is not necessary. The biggest part/change is the name. Nothing will be impacted with this name change. Dr. Gould wants to honor the work that was done to set up the STEM Academy. Dr. Gould feels that the name STEM is misleading. The NEASC accreditation process is done every 10 years. Currently the High School is an accredited school through NEASC. STEM is
not. Once the change happens the STEM will be accredited. There will be no staff changes. Ms. Bader asked if there were any budget changes for the name change. Maybe a little bit of a save. Ms. Ames clarified that nothing is changing except for the name.

Dr. Miller suggests maybe keeping Academy in the title. A way to maintain some old and some new. Dr. Gould suggests maybe making the name change a game. Mr. Mulcahy says He would like to keep the logos the same. Ms. Bader wants to reassure parents that it’s not slippery slope. This will help to support the younger students transitioning into the high school. Mr. Sareault asked if the scheduled build would start. Mr. Mulcahy confirmed that it will start in early March and the board suggests continuing the conversation at another meeting.

E) 2022-2023 School Calendar - 1st reading

Dr. Gould spoke about a couple of changes that they are considering. One is moving the PD day in November. We have moved the election voting to the gym. So we no longer really need the day. They have taken the PD from November and moved it to January 13. MLK long weekend. Middle of the school year which is good timing. December ¼ day before Christmas break. April (good Friday) will be a ½ day instead of a full day.

Dr. Miller asked if the ¼ day in April will just be a ½ day and not called Good Friday. Dr. Gould answered Yes and Dr. Miller stated that she supports that decision.

Ms. Ames wanted to call attention to the PD day moving to January 13 just after the winter break. Dr. Gould said that they could move it to January 3. It's just an idea.

Mr. Sareault isn’t sure he's sold on the ¼ day before Christmas break. Mr. Fisher moves that they approve the 2022-23 school calendar and waive any further readings. Ms. Ames claims that they have to waive the second reading first then they can make another motion. Mr. Fisher motions to waive the second reading of the 2022-23 school calendar/seconded by Ms. Ames.

Mr. Fisher motions to accept the 2022-23 school calendar as presented/seconded by Ms. Ames. Mr. Sareault would like to see December 22 as a full day. Ms. Bader said that she loves the calendar as a teacher and a parent. Mr. Sareault just wants to make sure that families are able to juggle the extra day off.

Dr. Miller is in support of getting rid of the ¼ day on Thursday before Christmas. Motion Passes 4-3

F) 2022-23 School Committee Meetings Calendar - 1st Reading

Ms. Ames is unsure if there should be a check in meeting in July or an August meeting for a check in. Otherwise the calendar is the same. Mr. DiGiacomo says that the calendar is fine as it is. Maybe add something if they need to.

Mr. Fisher motions to waive the second reading of the 2022-23 School Committee Calendar Seconded by Ms. Ames.

Discussion amongst the board in regards to dates. Pass 7-0

Mr. Fisher motions to accept the 2022-23 School Committee Calendar/seconded by Ms. Bader. Dr. Miller asked when the public hearing meeting would take place. Dr. Gould answered that they haven’t used the 4 meetings. We have used 3. Keep it at 4 just in case. Mr. DiGiacomo suggests to approve it as is now and we can add a meeting if need be between now and the last meeting. Passes 7-0

G.) Mr. DiGiacomo confirmed that the mask mandate will be up to individual schools at this point according to the governor and DESE and there will be no extension.

Dr. Gould pulled the town COVID team together for discussion. We are required to follow the Department of Education. “How do we best proceed?” The recommendation is that we use 2/28 as the barometer and then make a decision at that point. Protocols will still be the same.
Take home testing will be more encouraged. Free tests. Next day is March 1. We can open the windows more often. Spring is on its way. Mr. DiGiacomo wants to clarify that the idea of wanting to be between 8-10% then what happens. Dr. Gould answered that if the numbers are going down then we are in good shape. We are using the data that we have. Dr. Miller says we have no way of knowing the impact that the mask is making. Dr. Miller supports the 28th. It's only two weeks. The state has made their determination. Dr. Gould claims that right at this minute we are higher than the state average, not staying there and we all want the off ramp.

Mr. Fisher says that he mentioned to the students that he works with, cheered when he told them that the masks will be coming off. Most, not all, cheered. The teachers don't see the children's faces. Lunch and recess it's nice to see their faces. He wants to make sure this is taken into consideration. Dr. Gould says this is a no win situation. We are just trying to do what is best for all the children. Mr. Fisher says we can't protect everybody. But we try to do what's best for all the children. Dr. Gould is nervous that there will be the "One Kid" that is going to get really sick. Mr. Sareault personally thinks we owe the public an answer before the 28th. Many of the masks that the kids are wearing are ineffective against Omicron.

Ms. Bader thinks that it's time to shift our thinking on how to unmask the kids. There is going to be a significant social and emotional change. It would be nice to prepare the kids.

Ms. Ames wants to clarify that they are not saying you cannot wear a mask. Teachers and kids. Her question is was there any rationale by the COVID team regarding the kids only wearing masks in school. That's it. Dr. Gould answered that the CDC recommends wearing a mask all the time. We can't control that. Ms. Ames thinks we should take the masks off 2/28. Mr. DiGiacomo has the same opinion. We are not going to hear anything that we haven't already heard over that last 1 1/2 years. He would like to vote on the policy tonight and rescind it.

Mr. Sareault wanted to clarify that the youth basketball kids have been wearing a mask all season. The school committee owns it.

Mr. Fisher motions to rescind the mask policy effective 2/28/Seconded by Ms. Bader.

Dr. Miller says they should look into the policy. There may be some parts that they would want to keep. She is not ready to vote on it tonight.

Ms. Ames said for the sake of the minutes it's only EBCFA. Ms. Bader asked if they rescind the policy tonight can they reinstate an altered policy that addresses the use of masks in the classroom. Mr. DiGiacomo said they don’t need to give the students permission to wear a mask.

Motion passes 6-1

Dr. Gould confirmed that if a student or an adult does test positive then they do have to be quarantined for the 5 days and to wear a mask for 5 day upon their return. A new policy can be open to address concerns if needed.

Mr. Sareault wanted to clarify that the students need to follow the federal guidelines referring to wearing a mask on the bus and if they wish they can take it off upon entering the school.

Mr. Sareault motions to remove this Agenda item (G) from the agenda as it has been overcome by events and null and void/seconded by Mr. Fisher

Passes 7-0

11) OLD BUSINESS:
- Superintendent Search Update
  Mr. DiGiacomo says the first meeting of the search subcommittee will be Tuesday 2/15
- FY22 Budget Update
  December report. Ms. Austin says we are still in the black and still have $700,000 of
circuit breaker to apply.

- MASC Policy Section D Update
  Ms. Bader says the committee met a couple of weeks ago. It was sent to Ms. Austin to double check. Mr. White looked at it as well. Re-words current policy. (The mask recommended update) Mostly touches on transparency and budgeting and also some changes to make sure it complies with updated laws and regulations on the state and federal level. The main difference is in the authorized signatures and also put a caveat for the warrants, the chairperson can sign if need be. Ms. Bader recommends that we adopt this policy. Mr. DiGiacomo says the recommendation is to approve. Ms. Ames motions to accept Fiscal Management as presented/Seconded by Ms. Bader
  Passes 7-0

12) ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
  Mr. Sareault acknowledges the nursing staff and COVID team. They got us through this. This is the right thing for the kids and staff. Mr. DiGiacomo agrees with Mr. Sareault. All the work that has been done has been critical. Also, Mr. Sareault thanks the facilities staff with the snow removal. Made it easy for the youth basketball games. Mr. Fisher says that other schools will follow suit as we are the first. Ms. Bader wants to congratulate the Hockey teams for winning the Canal Cup.

13) WARRANTS: Vote Required
  Ms. Ames motions to approve warrants as presented/Seconded by Ms. Bader
  passes 6-0-1 Mr. Fisher abstained

14) ACT ON MINUTES DATED: January 22, 2022 -Regular Business Meeting Vote Required
  Motioned by Ms. Ames/seconded by Mr. Fisher pass "-"

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

16) Liaison/Advisory Committee Reports- Ms. Ames and Dr. Gould went to the finance committee last night. They were appreciative of the hard work that the school committee has done. Looks like March 1 they will talk about Capital Planning.
  Ms. Ames says the DEIAC met last night. Info will be at the next meeting.
  Mr. Sareault stated that the Safety committee met. They will be meeting every other month.

17) Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:
  Ms. Ames would like to start highlighting the Alumni. It could possibly lead to mentorships with current HS students. Just an idea for the future.

18) Public Forum

19) Announcements/Closing Remarks:
  Mr. Sareault would like to thank the Lady Knights (basketball) for allowing the 3 & 4 grade girls to play at half time.

20) ADJOURNMENT:
  Ms. Ames motions to adjourn the meeting until Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:00pm seconded by Ms. Bader passes 7-0

Meeting is adjourned and the next Regular Business Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Sandwich Town Hall.
Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Murphy
School Committee Recording Secretary

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING:

Donations Forms
Food Service Update
HS/STEM Program of Studies
SHS/STEM Combining Paperwork
2022-2023 School Calendar
2022-2023 School Meeting Calendar
Draft DESE Letter
FY22 Budget Updates
Section D - Fiscal Management Policies

APPROVED

(by SC - 3/10/22)