Mission Statement
The mission of the Seekonk Public Schools is to inspire all students to acquire the skills, habits, knowledge and passion to be responsible citizens of the global community.

I. Call to Order
Mr. Dietel called the regular session to order at 7:00 PM. Committee members in attendance were Mr. Woods, Ms. Schiller and Mr. Rose. Mr. Grant was not present.

Others in attendance were:
Arlene Bosco, Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Hamel, Finance Administrator
Susan Doe, Director of Special Education
Richard Lind, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. William V. Whalen, III, Principal, Hurley Middle School
Alexis Bouchard, Interim Assistant Principal, Hurley Middle School
Bart Lush, Principal, Martin Elementary School
Nancy Gagliardi, Principal, Aitken Elementary School
Dr. Christopher Jones, Interim Principal, Seekonk High School
Kevin Aguiar, Interim Assistant Principal, Seekonk High School
James Kappatos, Student Representative

II. Approval of Minutes
Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2015 which was seconded by Ms. Schiller and approved by a 4-0-0 vote.

III. Superintendent’s Report
A. Ms. Bosco invited Dr. Whalen and Dr. Jones to introduce their new interim administrators to the Committee.

1. Dr. Whalen introduced Alexis Bouchard as the Interim Assistant Principal for the remainder of the school year. He explained that Ms. Bouchard has worked at Hurley Middle School for the last six years as a physical education teacher. Ms. Bouchard thanked Ms. Bosco and Dr. Whalen and shared that her first week of work was an exciting one. She stated she feels very fortunate to be in her current position.

2. Dr. Jones introduced Kevin Aguiar as the Interim Assistant Principal at Seekonk High School for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Aguiar thanked the Committee and Ms. Bosco and stated he is excited to be in Seekonk. He shared with the Committee his current credentials which include being a licensed guidance counselor, school adjustment counselor, and mental health counselor. He stated he had a great first week and is excited to be a member of the Seekonk High School team.
B. Ms. Bosco shared that administrators continue to look more closely at the “Whole Child Initiative” which began last year. She reminded the Committee that the three panel discussions held over the last few months were a part of the initiative and her team will now turn to offering three relevant videos starting in March to further explore this topic. She explained that the initiative serves to encourage a dialogue before embarking on the district’s strategic plan next year.

C. Ms. Bosco shared that the first meeting of the Full-Day Kindergarten Sub-Committee has been scheduled for January 26, 2016 at 4:30 PM at the Aitken School.

D. Ms. Bosco stated that there will be a technology presentation planned for the January 25th School Committee meeting to showcase some of the exciting things that the Seekonk students are doing with technology in the classroom.

IV. Student Representatives’ Report
Mr. Kappatos shared that the student survey regarding the school lunch program has been completed and revealed the following data gathered from 128 student participants:

41% of the students eat school lunch 4 or more times per week
Out of the top reasons to dine with Chartwells:
- 27% said they dine for the convenience
- 24% stated that the lunch menus almost always offer something they like
When asked what the most popular foods offered by Chartwells are:
- 39% stated they prefer to see chicken on the menu
- 34% voted for fruits and veggies
- 29% enjoy the “breakfast for lunch” offering

Mr. Dietel thanked Mr. Kappatos for gathering the info citing that the survey is timely.

V. New Business
A. Discussion of School Lunch Program with Chartwells
Ms. Hamel introduced Barbara Cohen, Chartwells’ District Manager and Karleen Delellis, Seekonk’s Food Services Director for Chartwells. Mr. Dietel asked what can be done to improve the bottom line. Ms. Cohen explained that the lunch program must adhere to state and federal guidelines explaining that the state targeted “a la carte” items as a concern while federal regulations are targeting the nutrition of what is actually being served (e.g. whole grains, fruit or vegetable on every plate, etc.). She added that Seekonk has a lower percentage of free and reduced lunch students. Ms. Cohen stated that these regulations come with increased costs and shared that the state minimum wage and other labor costs have also increased which has resulted in some recent Chartwells layoffs for our district.

Mr. Dietel recommended the district figure out to increase the price of school lunch to come closer to breaking even on the budget line item. Ms. Schiller expressed concern that the layoffs will cause students to stand in line longer for lunch, leaving them less time to actually eat their lunch.

Mr. Rose asked Ms. Cohen how the new breakfast program is going at the elementary schools. Ms. Cohen stated that the program is at breakeven at Martin but at Aitken, participation is fluctuated. She invited all Committee members to visit the lunch programs in progress at the schools to gain a better understanding of how everything works.
B. **Consider Approval of Martin Elementary Overnight Field Trip to Boston Museum of Science from April 7, 2016 to April 8, 2016**

Mr. Lush provided the Committee with a brief overview of the rip which is in its 19th year. After a brief discussion, Ms. Schiller made a motion to approval the trip as presented which was seconded by Mr. Woods and approved by a 4-0-0 vote.

C. **Discussion of 2016-2017 School Calendar**

Ms. Bosco provided a brief overview to the Committee of the four (4) versions being presented for consideration. And shared that the calendars were a collaborative effort between the Seekonk Educators’ Association and administrators. She added that the district has not received state testing dates for next year which may cause a slight adjustment to the final version being voted on. Ms. Schiller asked whether parents will be allowed to give input prior to a decision being made and also whether the calendars can be uploaded to the district website for review prior to the next meeting. Mr. Rose stated that he doesn’t feel giving parents the opportunity to provide input will make matters easier when arriving at a decision. Mr. Dietel commented that it might be helpful to have the calendars projected onto the large screen for the next meeting so that people attending can see them.

VI. **Finance Reports**

A. **FY16 Budget Update**

Ms. Hamel shared that so far this year, the district has expended or encumbered 38.7% of the budget and for the same time last year, the district was at 39.1%. She stated that she has no budget concerns at this time.

VII. **Public Comments**

A. Jennifer Murphy, 172 Marnoch Drive, asked whether the school calendars are going to be uploaded to the website or at the very least could the Committee entertain public comments regarding the calendars prior to the actual vote versus waiting until the end of the meeting to accept comments. Mr. Dietel stated he thought placing the calendars on the district website for review seemed like a reasonable request.

B. Beth Eklund, 50 Sanctuary Lane, asked whether the tri-board meeting has been scheduled. Mr. Dietel stated that Ms. Bosco has reached out to the Board of Selectmen on several occasions regarding the scheduling of the meeting but has yet to receive a response. Ms. Bosco interjected and stated that per protocol, it was the town administrator she had reached out to on several occasions and continues to await a response. Ms. Eklund asked whether the Sub-Committee for the paperless initiative has scheduled its first meeting yet. Mr. Dietel said no. She then asked whether the Personnel Policy Sub-Committee has scheduled its first meeting. Mr. Dietel stated he would like to defer to Mr. Grant for an answer to that question. Ms. Eklund asked for a status on the Strategic Planning Committee. Ms. Bosco shared that a few months ago a discussion was held and a decision made to postpone the strategic planning process until next year in an effort to engage more people. Ms. Eklund asked what the attendance was for the most recent professional development day. Ms. Bosco stated that she did not know off hand what the attendance numbers were.

VIII. **Upcoming Meetings**

A. January 25, 2016, Seekonk High School Media Center
B. February 8, 2016, Seekonk High School Media Center

IX. **Adjourn**

At 7:56 PM, Mr. Rose made a motion to adjourn the regular session to enter into executive session and not to reconvene the regular session which was seconded by Ms. Schiller and approved by a 4-0-0 vote.
Documents reviewed/referred to:

- Draft of regular session minutes of December 14, 2015 (II-A)
- Proposed Itinerary for April 7-8, 2016 Martin Elementary Boston Museum of Science Overnight Field Trip prepared by B. Lush (V-B)
- Four draft calendars for 2016-2017 school year prepared by A. Bosco (V-C)
- Itemization of General Operating Budget as of December 31, 2015 (VI-A)
- Itemization of Revolving, Gift, Grant Fund Balances as of December 31, 2015 (VI-A)