

April 9, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Mel Lazarus, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty and Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Veugen at 7:12 p.m.

School Committee Reorganization

Chair Veugen relinquished the floor.

Mr. Swett complimented the work done by Mrs. Veugen with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen during her term as Chair.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the School Committee.

Mr. Swett nominated Dr. Sylvia for Chair seconded by Mr. Flaherty. No further nominations.

VOTE: Unanimous

Newly elected Chair Sylvia took nominations for Vice Chair.

Mrs. Veugen nominated Mike Flaherty, seconded by Mr. Swett. Nominations closed.

VOTE: Unanimous

Chair Sylvia took nominations for Secretary.

Mrs. Veugen nominated Mr. Swett, seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Nominations closed.

VOTE: Unanimous

Dr. Sylvia thanked his fellow board members for their support and thanked the citizens for putting their faith in him. He contributed Mrs. Veugen with open lines of communication and transparency in her chairmanship.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Citizen Deborah Rose, who has been a volunteer at Minot for 12 years, stated that she had sent numerous emails to the Superintendent and lunch director. She is concerned that Wareham is not benefitting from the school lunch program whereby \$60,000 in bonus commodities was not accepted and we did not spend our complete entitlement. She would like to see a monthly report by the lunch director.

Chair Sylvia stated that the administration will look into the matter.

Jessie Clements, newly elected Wareham SpEd Advisory Council President, stated that the SpEd PAC is starting up again and invited all to the next meeting on April 29th - open to the public.

GOOD NEWS

- Dr. Sylvia welcomed Mr. Melvin Lazarus to the School Committee.

- Presentation from Middle School Destination Imagination Team – 5 members of Team Squared went to the Destination Imagination state tournament. The students thanked Tony as team manager and Miss Brangwynne as head teacher, and their parents. Their Technical Challenge was “Dig In” - to design and build equipment to find and remove hidden objects not using their hands. The presentation was a timed event.
The School Committee thanked the students for their hard work and presentation.
- Happenings in WPS and Spotlight on Alumni videos were shown.
- The superintendent announced: April 26 6-10 p.m. Celebrating Multicultural Legacy. The President of Bridgewater State will be the speaker. Also during April vacation free lunch for Wareham students at three serving sites – WMS, Woods at Wareham, Onset Band Shell. This program is solely dependent on donations, which can be brought to the schools.
- Mr. Flaherty shared the joy of a girl on Facebook who received dual enrollment acceptance as an 8th grader.
- Mr. Swett participated in Rachel’s Challenge at WMS yesterday and reported on the outstanding emotional program. He commended the school district and the Scotty Monteiro Foundation. He also shared that a student had expressed to him excitement in participating in dual enrollment next year.
- Mr. Lazarus participated in Rachel’s Challenge at WHS today. He thanked the school system and Scotty Monteiro Foundation for the exceptional program.
- Mrs. Veugen reported that the Board of Selectmen last evening unanimously supported the article on the WHS Roof and a contingent budget article to Town Meeting.
- Mr. Flaherty reported that at the Board of Selectmen meeting re-certification of the library was received

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2014, as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mr. Lazarus)

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of March 27, 2014, as presented, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mr. Lazarus)

FY’15 Budget Votes

Michael MacMillan, Business Manager, recapped the budget process and proposed a level funded budget of \$26,879,655 but not a level service budget. An override budget would be \$28,196,655.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood reviewed the reductions to arrive at the \$27,704,470 budget, which has been approved – 16.54 FTE reductions \$765,247 savings and estimated savings health/dental applied to in-kind costs \$145,085

To arrive at a level funded budget of \$26,879,655 reductions include 17.5 FTE savings \$844,588 staff, transportation, athletic budget and estimated health/dental \$115,716.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that if an override budget is passed the following items will be reinstated:

- Math/reading specialists
- Improved technology infrastructure
- Improving student access technology
- Convert multi-service to accommodate Cooperative School and West Wareham Academy

- Restore some planned reduction salaries
- Restore some planned reductions other expenditures

Mr. MacMillan presented proposed budgets projected from FY2015 through FY2019.

Other override items to be added that will impact the schools include:

- Stabilization fund
- Capital improvements
- Preventative maintenance staff
- HR Director shared

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended the following FY'15 balanced town budget under Article 6 for the schools:

Net School Spending	\$25,435,055
Non Net School Spending	\$ 1,444,600
Total	\$26,879,655

Chair Sylvia asked for a point of clarification. Do we need to vote on the middle school reconfiguration from a middle school to a junior high school?

Superintendent Shaver-Hood said that it was just a scheduling change.

Mrs. Veugen moved Net School Spending of \$25,435,055, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Discussion on the resource officer position in these budgets; no other cuts in transportation services besides late bus; consolidation Coop and WWA into multi-service center in override budget and, if not passed, still planning consolidation but cannot upgrade the area; and reorganizing special education scheduling and organizing how services are delivered throughout the schools and caseload reviews.

Mr. Flaherty stated he wished the Committee could have had an all-day budget meeting to vent these issues.

Mrs. Veugen stated that this was done with the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that during the budget process administrators recommended cuts and a collaborative effort was made in developing the budget.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he was not in agreement with cutting all these teachers and not enough discussion on transportation or ILs which was discussed last year. This was a disservice to the process and he wished for more options and was not on board with the line items per se.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay -1 (Mr. Flaherty); abstain – 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

Mr. Flaherty stated for the record he agreed with a level funded budget but not with the line items.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve Non Net School Spending at \$1,444,600, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve a total FY15 Budget of \$26,879,655, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay - 1(Mr. Flaherty); abstain - 0

Contingency Budget

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the Net School Spending amount of \$26,722,055, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Mrs. Veugen commended the Superintendent, the Business Manager, and the Town Administrator for their recommendations when an override passes on where this money should go and also thanked the Board of Selectmen for voting favorable action on this budget.

There was discussion on the override and stabilization fund.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the Non Net School Spending amount of \$1,474,600, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the total contingency budget of \$28,196,655, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Flaherty stated that he was happy to vote on the contingency budget but wanted to see the line items.

Beyond School Time Grant Update & Trip to NYC

Maureen Manning and Jane Fondulis from Beyond School Time informed the Committee that South Coast Hospital Group in partnership with Beyond School Time will be taking families on a field experience – a day trip to NYC in May. A video was shown.

Also presented was an update on the Beyond School Time Grants for FY14 \$783,393 awarded and \$309,800 pending for a total of \$1,093,193.

Beyond School Time continues to work with the PTAs.

Acceptance of Gift

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the gift of a Piano from the estate of Marilyn Nolan for the WHS Music Department, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Request to Increase Athletic User Fees

Principal Palladino and Athletic Director Ed Rodrigues requested an increase in user fees due to the cuts in athletics in the FY15 budget of \$20,000. They would like to maintain the programs and attract students to Wareham High School. Principal Palladino shared a chart comparing user fees for schools within the South Coast Conference as well as a projected increase from user fees for 2014/15.

Proposed User Fees for 2014-15:

Tennis, Golf, Cheerleading keep at \$100

Soccer, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Softball - \$125
Football - \$150
Hockey - \$250
Family Cap \$500

There was discussion from members on if fees were not increased what would be the cuts, waiver requests, offering fundraising opportunities to cover the user fee, sponsorships and pledges for a sport, and the booster club.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the athletic user fee structure for 2014/15 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Vote on Wareham Education Association Unit C Contract

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended the Unit C three-year contract retroactive to September 1, 2013. Mrs. Veugen and Mr. Swett served on the subcommittee for negotiations.

Mr. Swett moved to accept the changes in Unit C Contract as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he would be abstaining due to a potential conflict of interest.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mr. Flaherty)

MSBA Application for Minot Forest School

Mr. MacMillan presented a Statement of Interest from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for addition/renovation to the Minot Forest Elementary School.

Given the approved reorganization for next school year the Committee agreed to remove the word “severe” overcrowding from this document.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the submission of the Statement of Interest (SOI) based on the attached motion as amended and attached, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent’s Report

- MSBA Funding WHS Roof Project – A video “Touring the Roof” was shown seeking approval of the town. The Board of Selectmen approved the article for the town meeting warrant.
- Day on the Hill – April 29th – Members should let us know if you plan on attending. Mr. Swett registered to attend along with three high school students.
- Attendance Report Update – Superintendent Shaver-Hood shared the % of Attendance by school by month from September through February and the total average attendance. An attendance rate of 95% or higher is the district’s goal.

School Committee Report

Onset Women’s Club Scholarship Representative – Mr. Fontes was the representative. The Chair appointed Melvin Lazarus.

Any other business

Dr. Sylvia stated that at the next meeting in May he will give a statement on his vision for the Committee as Chair.

Mrs. Veugen announced that Town Meeting is Monday, April 28th in the WHS Auditorium.

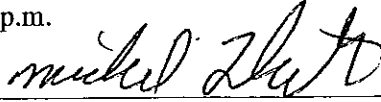
Superintendent Shaver-Hood announced that as of July 1, 2014 Mr. Daniel Minkle will be the new Principal of Wareham Middle School.

Mr. Swett moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____



List of documents:

FY'15 Budget Votes

Memo School Committee FY2015 "Balance" Budget Proposal

Memo School Committee FY2015 "Contingency" Budget Proposal

Beyond School Time Grants FY14

Letter to WHS Music Director Gift of a Piano

Athletic User Fees

Statement of Interest: Minot Forest Elementary School MSBA Core Program

MSBA Town of Wareham, WHS Roof Project

% of Attendance 2013

Correspondence: Newsletter, Personnel List, Vacancy Notice List

