

September 22, 2010

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett, Mr. Kenny Fontes, Ms. Rachel Gillette, and Mrs. Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent, Dr. Rabinovitch, recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz, and Mrs. Prada, secretary in training.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Sylvia announced that the committee would be going into executive session for the purpose of Hearing a Complaint Against a Former Staff Member, for Collective Bargaining, and for Executive Session Minutes.

Mr. Fontes moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

Roll call by Chair:

Mr. Swett – yea; Ms. Gillette – yea; Dr. Sylvia – yea; Mr. Fontes – yea; Mrs. Veugen – yea

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

(6:35 p.m.)

The meeting reconvened at 7:19 p.m. The Committee was joined by Student Representative, Jessica Hanson.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Jim Newman of the Veteran's Office inquired into the cost of a bus for the school children to put flags at the cemetery on Memorial Day.

Dr. Rabinovitch will look into this matter and report back to the Committee.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the schools have opened and the students and staff are working hard.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of August 1, 2010, seconded by Ms. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain -1 (Mrs. Veugen)

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of August 25, 2010, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain -1 (Ms. Gillette)

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of September 1, 2010, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain -1 (Mrs. Veugen)

Report of the Chair

- Vote on Consolidated Goals for 2010-2011

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the Consolidated Goals for the Wareham School Committee 2010-2011, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

Mrs. Veugen asked to add "and community at large" in goal 2.

The goals were approved with Mrs. Veugen's amendment.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- Subcommittee Reports:

- Safety – Dr. Sylvia reported that the committee met to review the bullying law and framework and is developing procedures with parent representatives.
- Curriculum – Dr. Sylvia reported that there was a lengthy discussion about MCAS and the obstacles facing the district as we progress to the target date of 2014.
- Community – Mrs. Veugen reported that a tentative meeting has been scheduled for October 13th to discuss School Improvement Plans and review the surveys.
- Transportation – Mr. Fontes commented on the Board of Selectmen's meeting last evening and its motion to go out for a reverse auction. It was his decision to temporarily suspend the transportation subcommittee. The subcommittee's job is not done. The RFP process still needs to be done with Mr. Tatro. Every member of this subcommittee brought a lot of passion to the committee. Mr. Fontes then read an email he had sent to the members of the transportation subcommittee dated 9/2/10 (see attached copy). He also read into the record his response to an email from Mr. Slager of the Observer (see attached copy). The vote by the Selectmen took place without the School Committee being notified. Dr. Sylvia stated that all subcommittees were formed to bridge the gap between other boards and the community as advisory committees.
- Budget - Mr. Swett reported on the Budget subcommittee meeting yesterday. The gap between School Committee and the Town Administrator is no longer \$822,000, for the warrant article. A tentative meeting has been scheduled for September 29th with the Finance Committee.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Rabinovitch stated that unfortunately the foreign exchange student from Thailand is not able to come to United States.
- Dr. Rabinovitch presented a chart on our NCLB status showing the ELA and Math scores in Wareham and the State scores. We are going in right direction but there is still a gap to close.
- Dr. Rabinovitch informed the Committee of the new Body Mass Index (BMI) Regulations. Our policy review subcommittee will review the requirement to weigh and measure students in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10 and compute their BMI to send home to parents. The policy review committee will have a full discussion about the process, confidentiality, and privacy issues.
The committee members discussed the way the body mass index is calculated and the need for privacy, sensitivity training and communication to parents. Mrs. Veugen suggested the school committee ask the state not to use this data for anything else.

Student After-School Disciplinary Program Proposal

Principal Panarese explained her proposal for an after-school disciplinary program. The program would operate as a Friday detention with an academic piece and provide intervention for two hours for students in grades 3-5. Students would be assigned a Friday detention by the Assistant

Principal or Principal based on progressive discipline. Notice will be given before a child serves detention. The estimated cost for the school year is \$3,000.

After discussion Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the program as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Presentation of MCAS Results

Mrs. Rotella handed out a revised presentation on the current student achievement on the spring 2010 MCAS. The Adequate Yearly Progress Goal of 100% proficiency by 2014 is calculated annually. Her presentation included the State Performance Targets from 2001-2014 in Math/ELA, a six year comparison of Wareham's AYP and NCLB Status, the MCAS 2010 Composite Performance Index by grade levels in both ELA and Math, and the Performance Target for all schools for 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Mrs. Rotella reviewed the improvement efforts in FY11 at each of the schools.

Dr. Sylvia noted that the improvement efforts listed are primarily being paid by grant funding.

Mr. Swett expressed concern with our district status at Level 3.

Mrs. Rotella stated that both Wareham Middle School and the Decas School are under restructuring. If we drop to a Level 4 district, it would be state driven.

Mr. Swett asked to have an accurate explanation of moving from a Level 3 to Level 4 district.

Mr. Fontes asked for a report on the change of 30 minute blocks at the elementary level which differs from last year?

Mrs. Rotella stated that these benchmarks are assessed monthly. She will have an update in January or February. There is a district wide data conference on Monday, September 27th where the teachers by grade level/subject area will review the MCAS data, analyze specific items, and develop strategies.

Mrs. Veugen asked for a class size report at the next meeting.

Dr. Sylvia recognized Jessica Hanson as student representative and welcomed her to the committee.

Acceptance of Gifts

Ms. Gillette moved to accept the gift from Target of \$257.99 to WHS under Take Charge of Education Program, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Swett moved to accept the gift of \$900 from the Classes of the 70's Reunion to the Art/Music Departments of WHS, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Ms. Gillette moved to accept a copy print of the Class of 1942 given by Liz MacDonald to WHS for display, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Appointment of Part-time School Nurse at WHS

Dr. Rabinovitch reported that he had approved a request for job sharing the school nurse position at WHS, 60/40 split. Mrs. Elizabeth Tierney has received a waiver of certification from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education for this school year and he recommend approval of her appointment as a 0.4 School Nurse at WHS.

Ms. Gillette moved the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Any other business

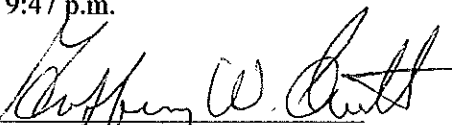
- a. The Committee agreed to have Dr. Sylvia as the MASC Delegate in November at the MASC/MASS Conference.
- b. Dr. Sylvia announced that if any member wished to attend the NSBA Conference to register with him. The conference is April 9-11, 2011 in San Francisco.
- c. Mr. Swett announced a meeting of MASC Student Assessment Committee on October 16th.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Geoffrey Swett, Secretary