

May 12, 2010

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 5:15 p.m. in the Wareham High School Library. Members present were Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Ken Fontes, Mr. Geoff Swett, Ms. Rachel Gillette, Ms. Rhonda Veugen and Student Representative Andrew Cavicchi, as well as Superintendent Rabinovitch.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

GOOD NEWS

Mr. Fontes reported that he attended the Viking Basketball Champions Banquet this past Saturday at the Elks. He also is attending a Police Academy Class regarding teaching young people the pitfalls of life. He also attended a course in Brockton entitled "Not My Kid" which he would like to see presented here in Wareham. He passed out an information handout to the committee.

Chair Sylvia welcomed out newest committee member Rhonda Veugen.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – APRIL 14, 2010

Mr. Swett moved to accept the minutes of April 14, 2010. Seconded Mrs. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 2 Ms. Veugen, Mr. Fontes

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Sylvia presented the Wareham School Committee assignments as follows:

Transportation Committee – Chair Ken Fontes, Geoff Swett member; Emergency Planning Committee – Chair Rachel Gillette, Ken Fontes member; Community Relations Committee – Chair Rhonda Veugen, Ken Fontes member; Curriculum Review Committee – Chair Cliff Sylvia, Geoff Swett member; Policy Review Committee – Chair Rachel Gillette, Rhonda Veugen member; Budget Sub-Committee – Chair Geoff Swett, Rhonda Veugen member; Cape Cod Collaborative – Geoff Swett.

Other members will be added to the Transportation, Community Relations, Emergency Planning and Curriculum Review Committees.

Negotiation representatives are as follows: Bus Drivers/Mechanics/Cafeteria/Custodians – Rhonda Veugen and Rachel Gillette; Unit B administrators – Cliff Sylvia and Geoff Swett; Unit A Teachers & C Paraprofessionals – Ken Fontes and Geoff Swett.

All members agreed to accept these appointments.

Chair Sylvia presented his ten personal goals:

1. To serve all Wareham Citizens in a sensitive, ethical and transparent manner.
2. To be accessible and respectful to all School Committee members, staff and stakeholders.
3. To facilitate the establishment of an inclusive process for the Wareham School Committee to be active participants in curriculum review and/or implementation.
4. To maintain an open collaborative relationship with all professional and labor organizations.
5. To strengthen the relationship with town boards and agencies in a spirit of teamwork and collaboration.
6. To establish a process that allows the School Committee to establish yearly goals and objectives.
7. To establish new standing committees: Community Relations, Curriculum Review, Emergency Planning and Transportation.
8. To establish an on-going process for the School Committee to review operations and procedures.
9. To act as a facilitator for on-going professional development for members of the School Committee.
10. To actively participate in the review and implementation of the District Strategic Plan.

Chair Sylvia asked member to bring back to the next meeting any goals they think should be taken on.

Chair Sylvia has arranged for all School Committee members to receive a copy of Ed Digest for the next school year.

Chair Sylvia reported that Dr. Rabinovitch and he attended a joint meeting with Board of Selectmen member Jane Donahue and TA Mark Andrews. They plan to have monthly meeting to "keep the lines of communication open".

The Chair asked the committee to consider having two meetings a month in the summer one of each would be a workshop.

The Chair also recommended that all members complete the MASC survey.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Rabinovitch reported on the progress of the WHS Principal Search. The finalists are Mr. Scott Palladino, Principal of the Cooperative School and Mr. Scott Pyy, Housemaster at WHS. Dr. Rabinovitch will announce his decision at our May 27, 2010 meeting. He thanked the Search Committee Members for all of their hard work.

Wareham Public Schools is advertising for a Coordinator of Transportation. The job description will be refined by the sub-committee and discussed at the next meeting.

Dr. Rabinovitch updated us on the bomb threats. A copy of the press release was included in our packets. A meeting was held at the WMS auditorium and approximately 150 parents heard the facts from a panel consisting of Chief McDuffy, RSO Walker and others.

Dr. Rabinovitch also updated the committee on Bullying in Schools. He will be attending a meeting on the implementation of the Governor's legislation on May 20, 2010 and will keep the committee informed.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Ana Miranda, Director of Operations and Finance and Ms. Colleen Cavanaugh, Consultant on Pupil Transportation, reviewed a Bus Inspection Form with the committee and explained the many reasons why a bus may fail inspection. Ms. Cavanaugh will be doing a thorough analysis of all inspection processes in our transportation department and will present her completed report to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATIONS AND RECEPTION

Chair Sylvia welcomed everyone to the recognition ceremony. Dr. Rabinovitch thanked the recipients for their years of service and contributions to the Wareham Public Schools.

Principal Joan Seamans, Minot Forest, East and Hammond, recognized Susan Johnson and Cynthia Sousa for 20 years of service and Michelle Montrond for 30 years of service, they were not in attendance.

Mrs. Jean Smith, WHS Cafeteria Manager, recognized Mrs. Janice White for 20 years of service.

Mr. Aaron Viera, Decas Principal, presented Lynn Andresse with a 20 year pin and certificate. He also recognized Wendy Andrews and Sheila Pierce for 20 years of service, they were unable to attend.

Dr. Rabinovitch recognized Mrs. Judy Bruno for 30 years of service and Elizabeth Geary for 20 years of service.

Mrs. Mary Jane Driscoll, Director of Transportation, presented Mrs. Kathleen Rogers with a 20 year pin and certificate.

Refreshments were served.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew Cavicchi has one more meeting with us before graduating from WHS. He has served on the committee since his sophomore year. Chair Sylvia thanked Andrew for his service and commended him for being a valuable resource.

Andrew reported that the senior class trip to Disney World was great and that the seniors are starting the final count down to being out of school. AP testing will be held this next week.

UPDATE ON THE CHRISTOPHER DONOVAN SCHOOL – Bob Louzan

Mr. Louzan, Mrs. Rotella and Ms. Miranda presented the update, using a worksheet which showed the criteria used for approval, whether or not it was met and comments regarding each point. At this time insufficient evidence and data has been received from the school. Once all the criteria has been met the school committee will be presented with the final data and recommendation for their vote.

NCLB REPORT CARD WAREHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mrs. Rotella briefly summarized the NCLB Report Card and gave clarification on the data. A discussion was held. (See Documentation Book for details)

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended the acceptance of a monetary gift of \$2,250 from the Dick Melloni Youth Foundation for the Minot Forest School 3rd grade. This gift will allow the students to attend a field trip to the Plimoth Plantation.

Mr. Fontes moved the recommendation of the Superintendent. Seconded Mr. Swett

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Miranda was available to answer any questions on the Financial Reports. The committee would like a presentation on the Transportation Revolving Account at the next meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The list of committees and members will be posted on the WPS web site. Dr. Sylvia was not appointed to any of the committees but will serve as a “stand in” if any School Committee member cannot be in attendance.

Mr. Fontes commended Dr. Sylvia for organizing the committees.

It was suggested that Principals take turns bringing monthly reports on their buildings to the School Committee.

Dr. Sylvia questioned if the Athletic Sub-Committee had been established. Ms. Miranda was waiting until the Principal Search had ended before going forward with the Athletic Sub-Committee.

Mr. Fontes moved to adjourn. Seconded Ms. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jeffrey W. Smith