

August 11, 2010

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Attendees were Dr. Clifford Sylvia, Mr. Geoffrey Swett, Mr. Kenny Fontes, and Ms. Rachel Gillette as well as Superintendent, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Michelle Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

All of our administrative openings have been filled.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Fontes amended the minutes of July 7, 2010 under Superintendent's Report, Introduction of New Principal William Plasko to read "The past Chairman Robert Brousseau visited his Franklin..."

Mr. Swett moved to accept the minutes of July 7, 2010 as amended, seconded by Ms. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 4; nay -0; abstain -0

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the minutes of July 21, 2010, seconded by Ms. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 4; nay -0; abstain -0

Report of the Chair

- **Compilation Report on School Committee Self-Evaluation**

Dr. Sylvia reviewed the composite report of the School Committee Self-Evaluation. He thanked Mrs. Ruiz for her notes along with the chair's notes and averaged out the responses. It was agreed that this is now a baseline in which the Superintendent can align his goals.

- **Vote on Consolidated Goals for 2010-2011**

As a result of the self-evaluation, the Committee agreed to table this vote for discussion at the workshop meeting so that members could reflect on both documents.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

- **Offer for Use of Selectmen's Meeting Room**

Dr. Rabinovitch read a letter from Mark Andrews extending an offer for the School Committee to use the Selectmen's meeting room for televised meetings. Dr. Rabinovitch stated that WCTV is working to have the Middle School Auditorium ready to broadcast live for September.

Mr. Fontes asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Town Administrator for the offer and stating that we already have arrangements to televise live at WMS Auditorium.

- **Introduction of Mr. Jeff Tatro as Transportation Manager for WPS**

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that Mr. Tatro will be starting August 18th. He has a Bachelors degree from Bridgewater State College and was the Transportation Contract Manager for First Student in Plymouth and Sandwich.

Mr. Fontes stated that the Transportation Subcommittee met with Mr. Tatro and will be working with him on the RFP.

- **DRAFT of Superintendent's Goals for 2010-2011**

Dr. Rabinovitch asked the member to send him their critique of the goals or things to be added. This will be placed on the next workshop meeting agenda.

Mr. Swett would also like to discuss at the workshop meeting a weighting problem with the format and points associated with goals.

- Summer Programs

A Federal grant is funding the summer feeding program and lunch is being offered at WHS, Onset Bandshell, Brandy Hill, and the Boys & Girls Club; snack is being served at WMS, Decas, and the YMCA.

Participation for 2010 = 364 students

- Update on Common Core Standards

Dr. Rabinovitch reported that the Common Core Standards were adopted by the state and will be lower than our current standards. Massachusetts officials say we can change up to 15% of the standards to increase them to what we currently have.

Also an education jobs bill was passed today through the House and Senate. The grant fund is earmarked for education, specifically designed to prevent layoffs.

Establish Position of Intramural Program Coordinator

During budget deliberations \$25,000 was cut from WMS athletics. A subcommittee was formed and it was agreed that intramurals is the preferred method for middle school as opposed to interscholastic sports. Other communities in our area have cut interscholastic sports as well.

Mr. Gilmore stated that the proposal for an intramural program is a goal of the SIP to involve as many kids as possible with the availability of the gym and fields. The Coordinator should be someone from the middle school. We also need to look at the transportation piece for students.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that using SES 20% Title I money for tutoring students having Needs Improvement or warning on MCAS, we can make academics and sports as a package plan.

Mr. Swett reported that the athletic committee decided that the best way to improve the middle school athletics program would be to expand the intramural program for the 250 kids and to do this in a budget neutral fashion.

Mr. Fontes suggested that the AD position should be full-time and not teach, then the AD will be able to coordinate the intramural program. Intramural sports should offer sports not offered in the community already.

Mr. Swett stated that the new position will be paid on a stipend. The suggested programs include track, basketball, field hockey, tennis, volleyball, softball - over three seasons. This position would report directly to the Middle School Principal.

Dr. Sylvia expressed his concern on where did the \$25,000 come from to fund this program?

Mr. Swett stated that until the budget subcommittee concludes its discussions with the Town Administrator and Finance Committee, the budget subcommittee is not ready to report back but feels comfortable in achieving these goals.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the position of Intramural Program Coordinator for Middle School sports as stated in the posting, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay -0; abstain -0

Recommendation to Waive Policy Requirement of Residence for Foreign Exchange Student to Attend WHS

Dr. Rabinovitch reported that the Cultural Homestay International program has a resident from Middleboro available to take an exchange student from Thailand. The girl is fluent in English. However, Middleboro Public Schools is not accepting any foreign exchange students. The Middleboro resident is requesting the child attend Wareham High

School under School Choice (depends on type of visa student has). Our policy states "school board encourage....but must reside in the town of Wareham".

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended the committee waive the Student Exchange Program policy for this child and the family.

Ms. Gillette moved the recommendation to waive the residency requirement of the policy for this case, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay -0; abstain -0

Preparation for New Bullying Law

Bob Louzan handed out an updated Draft of the Bullying Prevention Plan. He summarized the May 3, 2010 law and presented the DRAFT brochure – Prohibition of Bullying, Cyber bullying and Retaliation – to be given to parents. Under the new law, school districts are required to develop a plan by the end of December, 2010.

The Safety Committee and representatives from the PTAs will be working on various pieces of the bullying plan.

The law requires the following action:

- Amend the student handbook
- provide professional development training
- provide parent training
- develop internet safety plan
- provide student education
- provide resources for special needs students

DESE needs to complete a model plan we will match to our plan.

This working document will have a Message from the Superintendent, a Message from the Chairman of the School Committee, and a Message from School Student Safety Committee.

Suggestions from the Committee members included marketing the brochure cover to grab the parent's attention and do a better job using the peer mediation program.

School Committee Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools

Chair Sylvia read a composite report on the School Committee Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools for the record.

Results 2009-2010

Goals & Objectives 41.9 average

General Responsibilities 29.6 average

Total Average of 71.5

Based on the evaluation, Dr. Rabinovitch will receive a \$3,000 salary increase.

In compliance with the open meeting law each committee member gave a brief analysis of their own evaluation.

Dr. Rabinovitch thanked the Committee and stated that he will take into consideration all the comments and will read the document. He invited each member to come in to speak specifically about the evaluation and his goals.

Dr. Sylvia publicly thanked the Committee for their efforts in the consolidated report.

Acceptance of Gifts

a. Dr. Rabinovitch recommended accepting the \$3000 donation towards the school fields/grounds from the Wareham Tigers Athletic Association.

Ms. Gillette moved to accept, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay -0; abstain -0

b. Dr. Rabinovitch recommended accepting the donation from The Ockers Company of Brockton of a promethean board to the Minot Forest School.

Mr. Fontes moved to accept, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay -0; abstain -0

Any other business

1. Dr. Rabinovitch asked the Committee members to get the Smart Goals Assessment documents to Bob Louzan when completed.

2. Mr. Swett asked about windmills. With the new net metering law it will be easier to put together a business model.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that we have two proposals - one company working with Beaton Cranberry Growers collecting data and a second proposal from Tobey Hospital to place a windmill on school property.

3. Mr. Swett will attend on Sept 3rd Employer Appreciation Day U.S. Coast Guard and will be participating in 'What's New in Municipal Law' in October.

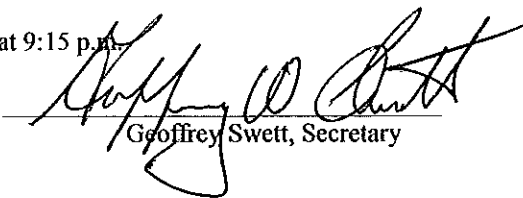
4. Dr. Sylvia announced that he was accepting contributions for the gift for the special guest.

Mr. Swett moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay -0; abstain -0

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Geoffrey Swett, Secretary