

October 27, 2010

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 27, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. at the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Dr. Clifford Sylvia, Mr. Geoffrey Swett, Mrs. Rhonda Veugen, Mr. Kenny Fontes and student representative Jessica Hanson as well as Superintendent, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch and recording secretary, Mrs. Michelle Ruiz. Member absent was Ms. Rachel Gillette.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sylvia at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch reported that he had attended an informative Mass CUE Technology Conference today.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of October 13, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0 (Mr. Fontes was not present at the time of vote)

Superintendent's Goals for 2010-2011

Dr. Rabinovitch reviewed the changes suggested at the last meeting.

(Jessica Hanson, student rep arrived at 5:07 p.m.)

Mrs. Veugen had made suggestions under Community partnership events besides MLK Breakfast and under Resources about going after in-kind materials, technology.

Dr. Rabinovitch will include these comments in the evidence package even if not listed on the goal.

(Mr. Fontes arrived 5:10 p.m.)

Mrs. Veugen stated that the subcommittee for School Improvement Plans is addressing Dr. Sylvia's concerns by adding a section about closing the gap on student achievement.

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the Goals of the Superintendent of Schools, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay -0; abstain -0

Requests for Senior Privileges, Senior Prom & Graduation Date

Class Advisors Mr. Berriault and Mrs. Sheeley and two students presented the Senior Privileges. The only change was adding #5 students expected to stay for advisory. The privileges would start after term 1.

Mrs. Veugen asked about promoting the use this time for community service.

Principal Palladino stated that he would be coming before the committee at a future meeting to discuss community service as part of senior privileges.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve of Senior Privileges, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay -0; abstain -0

The senior representatives requested that the Senior Prom be held at Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth on May 27, 2011.

Mr. Swett moved approval, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay -0; abstain -0

Principal Palladino requested that Senior Graduation be held on June 3, 2011.

After discussion, Mr. Fontes moved to approve the graduation date for Friday, June 3, 2011 with scheduled rain date of Saturday, June 4th and if it rained on Saturday, the ceremony would be moved indoors or to an alternative site, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Principal Palladino asked for time to investigate the rain date.

Chair Sylvia stated that if Principal Palladino had reasons why these dates could not work out, he could come back to the committee to ask it to rescind this motion.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay -0; abstain -0

AP and SAT Five Year Comparison Report

Principal Palladino with Assistant Principal Freitas presented a five year comparison of AP scores to state averages. Plans to improve the scores included setting a higher bar to get into AP classes, teacher training, a summer project based assignment, science/math AP students having labs one night per week and inviting two instructors to grade AP tests.

Principal Palladino also reported on the percentage of students taking AP tests at WHS 24%; the state 31%; and national 26.5%.

The committee discussed the AP results and plans for improvement.

Principal Palladino presented the SAT test results for the past five years in critical reading, math, and critical writing compared to the state average. Wareham is above the state average in the percentage of students taking the test – Wareham 82%; state public 75%; national 44%. He reviewed improvement plans including offering a SAT prep class during the day in the future.

The committee remarked on the narrow gap between Wareham and the state and that Wareham is above state average in participation. They also discussed the offering of a SAT class in place of a study hall.

Acceptance of a Gift

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended accepting 1,350 new and used bottles of acrylic paint to the Wareham High School Art Department from Mr. Peter Kahl of Wareham. Mr. Swett moved acceptance of the gift, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay -0; abstain -0

Any other business

Dr. Sylvia polled the committee members on whether they wished to take a position as a committee on Article 47 of Town Meeting to change the school board's members from five to seven.

The committee did not agree to take a position as a board on Article 47.

October 1st Enrollment & Class Size Report

Dr. Rabinovitch reported that we have reasonable class sizes this year because we added 3-4 teachers with ARRA monies, which will be disappearing after this year. We will be preparing a level service budget for FY'12 with additional funds towards meeting the School Improvement Plans.

Dr. Rabinovitch provided current enrollment projections from the DESE website. There is still a need to renovate both Minot and Decas schools, which have portables attached to the schools in order to have lower class sizes and more space. We are awaiting state approval to pay 60% of the renovation project.

Dr. Rabinovitch would like to have a space needs study done and bring it back to the committee.

Any other business

Mr. Fontes asked for clarification from the chair on the Westfield project.

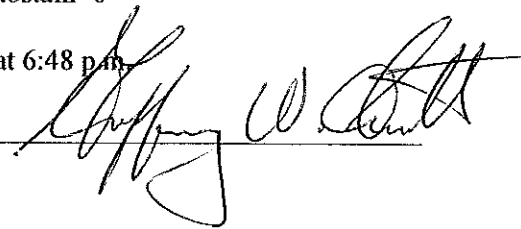
Chair Sylvia stated that the Committee heard a presentation but no vote was taken nor a poll of committee. The Committee took into consideration on how the project would augment our fields.

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

VOTE: yea - 4; nay -0; abstain -0

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



List of Documents:

- Wareham Public Schools SMART Goals for Continuous Improvement 2010-2011
- Memo from Scott Palladino re: School Committee Proposal October 21, 2010
- AP & SAT Test Results 2006-2010 Wareham High School
- E-mail from Scott Palladino re: Gift 10/08/10
- Long-Term Trends in Enrollment (1989-2009)
- Massachusetts School Building Authority 11/12/2009
- GEM Consulting December 29, 2005
- DRAFT Wareham Public Schools Long Range Enrollment Projections Merrimack Education Center April 10, 2006