

November 17, 2010

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett, Mr. Kenny Fontes, Ms. Rachel Gillette, Mrs. Rhonda Veugen and student representative, Jessica Hanson as well as Superintendent, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Michelle Ruiz.

Chair Sylvia called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

#### **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Rabinovitch announced the following good news:

- Wareham Decas Elementary School children marched in Veteran's Day Parade
- Reading Is Fundamental Program and Read to Succeed Programs in the schools are underway
- Decas School had a successful holiday bazaar last Saturday

Ms. Gillette announced that the Drama Club held a bake sale fundraiser at Borders and their next performance will be December 9, 10, 11, and 12 "A Christmas Carol" at WHS.

Mr. Fontes announced:

- Ruth Thompson reporter from the Wareham Courier has moved and she will be missed as a local reporter
- He was glad the town came together for the Westfield project which will benefit both our youth and seniors.

Ms. Veugen was encouraged by the passing of the article at Town Meeting for the board of selectmen, town administrator, and finance committee to get involved in the school's budgeting process and welcomed public input at our Public Hearing meeting on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the WHS Cafeteria.

#### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Mr. Swett made a correction to the minutes of October 25, 2010 for free cash to be \$1,753,000.

Mr. Fontes approve the minutes of October 25, 2010 as corrected, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

Mr. Fontes moved approval the minutes of October 27, 2010, second by Mrs. Veugen.

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

#### **Report of the Chair**

Dr. Sylvia asked those who attended the MASC conference last week to make a brief report at the next meeting.

He thanked all the committee members who participated in Town Meeting and spoke about the openness of our deliberation process as a committee.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

1. Dr. Rabinovitch informed the committee that the following unions have requested to begin negotiations:

Wareham Education Associations (committee reps are Mr. Swett and Mr. Fontes.)

Secretaries Association (new committee reps needed for after the new year.)

2. Dr. Rabinovitch reported on the following building evacuations. At both the Minot Forest and Decas incidents Global Connect was used to inform parents.

Minot Forest – a child brought a training hand grenade into school in October.

Decas – Monday morning a pipe burst and the children went to WHS where the staff was very accommodating and fed the children and 300 parents picked up their children.

East Wareham – a smell in the building which was checked by fire department and everything was fine. They believe it was from tarring being done on Depot Street.

Mr. Swett asked for the % of parents reached with Global Connect. Dr. Rabinovitch will gather this information for the next meeting.

3. Dr. Rabinovitch reviewed the FY'12 budget process timeline. His directive to the principals and directors is for a level service budget with increases only tied with increasing student performance and narrowing the gap between Wareham and the state average.

Dr. Sylvia stated that the school budget is a deliberative process and he was concerned with statements of town officials already stating that there is no more money.

4. Dr. Rabinovitch announced that Wareham High School will hold its Open House on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:00 p.m. for parents.

### **Report of the Student Representative**

Miss Hanson reported that last Friday report cards were sent out. Also a student leadership meeting was held with captains of sports and presidents of clubs and discussed was SAT & AP scores and how to improve them.

### **Committee Reports**

- Policy Review –Chair Gillette was not able to attend so Dr. Sylvia attended with Mrs. Veugen. The policy review committee approved two policies – CORI and Residency Requirements and held the policy on Bus Drivers Transportation of Children until the next meeting.
- Emergency Planning (Safety) – Ms. Miranda reported that a meeting of emergency responders was held and a draft of flip chart model was shared. The next meeting is Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss training and building plans. This committee has incorporated aspects of the STARS program and is hoping by the end of the year to hold a simulation.
- Community Relations – Mrs. Veugen reported that the community relations committee has concluded its first goal to provide suggestions and update the School Improvement Plans. Mr. Louzan reported that a new format was developed for the plans that administrators will review which includes ten essentials questions on the survey. He suggested presenting a mock SIP to the school committee. Mrs. Veugen stated that the surveys will be tied into the plan looking at student achievement. The next phase is to re-recruit these members and new ones to develop goals in communication, involvement and partnerships.

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- Curriculum Review – Dr. Sylvia reported that the focus and discussion of the curriculum review committee has been on:
  - Initiatives and strategies at the elementary level
  - the Race to the Top Grant for \$114,000 which will focus on student achievement
  - an increased role of coaches and teaming at elementary level and common formative assessments
  - middle and high level initiatives of standard portfolios, exit interviews with senior class
  - future discussion on WHS program of studies
- Budget – Mr. Swett reported that the FY'11 school budget was impacted by town meeting with a cut of \$407,000 and next fiscal year we will be short in grant money. The budget subcommittee will be participating in the budget deliberations on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and then meet as a subcommittee on the 15<sup>th</sup>. He hoped the public hearing on the 19<sup>th</sup> would be well attended.
- Transportation – Mr. Fontes reported that the town administrator and the board of selectmen are going forward with a reverse auction for bus transportation services which he hopes will be shared with school committee. Mr. Fontes asked that Mr. Tatro be invited to come to a meeting to report on the operations of the transportation department.

#### Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended accepting American Flags for our schools from donors through adoptaschoolflag.com program as listed. Mr. Fontes moved the acceptance of the gifts, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

#### Financial Reports

Ms. Miranda highlighted areas in the budget with current deficits.

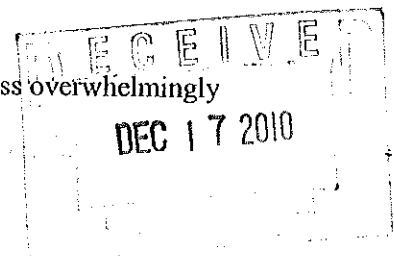
Mr. Fontes suggested having a power point of the budget for public viewing next month.

For the revolving accounts, the Keyspan Energy Rebate has a deficit due to water damage at the Cooperative school. A claim has been filed through FEMA to receive more than 75% of cost. Also a gas conversion has been done at the Cooperative school with funds from this account.

The transportation account is low due to extraordinary expenses on structural repairs on school buses.

#### Any other business

- Chair Sylvia noted on the agenda (not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of the meeting) due to the new open meeting law.
- Mr. Swett, member of the Cape Cod Collaborative subcommittee, received late last week articles of agreement. He distributed the document for discussion at the next meeting.
- Mr. Fontes asked that we invite principals to share a state of the school address on future meeting agendas.
- Dr. Rabinovitch stated that Mr. Palladino reported that the senior class overwhelmingly approved the graduation rain date.



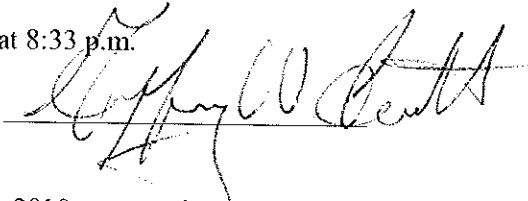
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- Dr. Rabinovitch stated that starting this Friday WCTV will be taping a tour of the school and a superintendent's interview with the principal.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of Documents:

WEA Letter October 27, 2010 re: negotiate a successor agreement  
Memo Director of Operations & Finance re: Preliminary Budget Development  
In Appreciation U.S. Flag Donations 2010/2011  
Wareham School Functions Summary – November 12, 2010  
Revolving Accounts 11/12/2010  
Cape Cod Collaborative Analysis (Mr. Swett)

