

December 8, 2010

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Dr. Clifford Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett, Mr. Kenny Fontes, Ms. Rachel Gillette, Mrs. Rhonda Veugen, and student representative Miss Jessica Hanson as well as Superintendent, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Michelle Ruiz

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Citizen, Ellen Begley asked when or if the school transportation committee would resume.

Dr. Sylvia explained that he had established as Chair an advisory committee to provide input. The transportation subcommittee is Mr. Fontes and Mr. Swett. The subcommittee brought in expertise as associate members with a charge to review bus safety, review the consultant reports for maintenance, create a job description for a new transportation manager and assist with a recommendation to fill that position. The subcommittee of Mr. Swett and Mr. Fontes will continue to work on transportation, specifically reviewing bids for a comparative study.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch shared good news from Principal Joan Seamans.

- Open Circle program banner donated to Minot "Respect, Responsibility and Kindness". The art teacher will creating a mural around the building around these topics.
- Hammond PTA sponsored Grandparents Thanksgiving.
- Reading program (RIF) took place in the schools.
- Visited all schools last week, and the students were engaged in learning.

Ms. Gillette shared that tomorrow night the Viking Theatre play begins.

Mrs. Veugen encouraged participation in this Saturdays Wareham Christmas Parade and tree lighting.

Minutes of the Meeting

Ms. Gillette moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2010, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Report of the Chair

- Each member should have received the EdDigest publication as professional development for the committee. Dr. Sylvia suggested two articles for reading "Waiting for Superman" pg 23 and "Student Achievement 2005".
- MASC/MASS Conference Reports
Mrs. Veugen reported she had learned about Ch.70 funding and the rules and regulations for School Committee members. The highlights were a seminar on strategic planning that discussed measurable goals and inclusion of community members and a seminar on innovative schools. She had also spent time with PTA members from the state and national level.

Mr. Swett reported that he had attended six workshops plus the general session. Topics included a 10% cut in Ch.70 aid expected; health insurance benefits are hurting school districts; student obesity;

district and school assisted centers (DSAC) across the state as a resource; special education and student achievement.

Dr. Sylvia reported his attendance at the MIAA update workshop on new concussion laws, a workshop on preventing bullying; a legislative panel workshop on Ch.70 at risk and circuit breaker funds being cut from 70 to 40% and regionalized transportation reimbursement from the state; consolidation of services throughout the state; the district meeting where it was noted that Wareham is the only committee doing a self-evaluation; a workshop on third party vendors; and one on public engagement.

Report of the Superintendent

- Dr. Rabinovitch reported on the Global Connect data on the evacuations at the Decas and Minot schools. The Committee discussed the changes to be made if a need arises in the future as to parents picking up children and police contact for extra services and how the system is also used for public relations i.e. town meeting and town elections.
- Dr. Rabinovitch reported on his school visits with principals going into classrooms and discussions with principals on likes, dislikes, and improvements.
- A letter was sent to Mr. Andrews about this evening's meeting and our budget hearing on January 5th with a letter to Board of Selectmen about the January 19th Public Hearing at the WHS Cafeteria.

Report of the Student Representative

Ms. Hanson reported on the Band/Choir fundraiser going on now and a portion of the funds will be donated to a charity. Also next Friday the Student Council will hold a dance "City Night Life" in the WHS Gym.

Report on Operations of Transportation Department

Mr. Tatro, Transportation Manager reported on the following:

Inspections: Improvements have been made and any failures were minor. The next round is the first week in January. We expect a passing rate of over 70%.

Staffing: We have hired five drivers and four monitors. We have enough drivers for our runs and have established schedules for our mechanics without having to pay overtime.

Vehicles and Maintenance: All our buses meet or exceed safety standards and we have implemented a preventative maintenance program (EasyBus).

Mrs. Veugen requested additional outside training for our drivers to address emergency breakdowns since we have an older fleet.

Safety: There was safety training for all drivers during in-service meetings as well as evacuation drills done in October.

Bid: Bid specifications are out for fully privatizing school transportation. The pre-bid meeting will be tomorrow morning.

Town Administrator Re: Transportation Bid

Dr. Sylvia gave his prospective on our bid process. The Board of Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to do a reverse bid on buses. When we decided to put our bid package together it was

delivered to the Town Administrator before it went out. The committee did invite Mr. Andrews to this evening's meeting to discuss the town's bid because we have received very little on it.

Mr. Fontes reiterated that the Town Administrator had received a full bid package on November 1st by the superintendent and was asked to review it with his comments. The town's reverse auction is for 25 buses only, and we have 48 buses.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the reverse auction bid includes vehicles and maintenance only and is confusing to vendors.

Our bid went into the goods and services bulletin on Nov. 8th and the town's bid went in on Nov. 15th. Mr. Andrews has cancelled the standing meeting on Mondays 8 out of 15 times.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that when the bid results are in, a group will do a comparison study to our own costs and a decision will be made to run in house and to replace vehicles.

Dr. Sylvia recommended a small focus group be formed to review bids and form a comparative study to advise the superintendent, administration, and school committee. He asked that Mr. Fontes and Mr. Swett be on this study group as the transportation subcommittee.

It was agreed that without town involvement the vendors would be confused that the process delayed.

Dr. Rabinovitch and Dr. Sylvia have been invited to attend a meeting with the Town Administrator and Chair of the Board on Monday and will discuss this item.

Cape Cod Collaborative Articles of Agreement

Mr. Swett, as the School Committee representative on Cape Cod Collaborative, reported that the desire of superintendents to be a more formal part of the collaborative governance had waned. The analysis he distributed at the last meeting has become far less important now.

Cape Cod Collaborative is comprised of 20 districts, each with one vote, and the superintendents play an advisory role. If the collaborative is dissolved, its assets would be given out according to the percentage of students per district.

The recommendations made were:

- Formalize the administrative board (superintendents) giving it an opportunity to review all agendas and programmatic changes being recommended to full board.
- Number of students in terms of disbursement of assets determined by source of prior years revenue by that district.

Recommendations from Policy Review Committee

Mrs. Veugen brought forth the recommendations of the policy review committee as follows:

Transportation of Drivers' Children – postponed to the next meeting with input from the Transportation Manager

C.O.R.I. Requirements – This is a new policy based on the MASC policy including the new regulations. Our current policy includes a lot of procedures.

Mr. Swett moved to accept the C.O.R.I. Requirement policy as revised, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Residency Regulations – added a form as a district document

(Ms. Gillette left the meeting at 9:01 p.m.)

After discussion Mr. Fontes moved to amend the policy to include “or state statute” at the end of the second sentence in paragraph one after the word “policy”, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Appropriation Transfer FY’11 Budget

Ms. Miranda recommended budget appropriation transfers from Supt. Office Contract Services account to the salary accounts listed due to contract negotiations and East Clerical SpEd Salary account to Adjustment Counselor Salary Coop account (see document).

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Award of Bid – Heating Oil

Ms. Miranda recommended accepting the Plymouth County Oil Bid for West Wareham Academy for one year.

Mr. Swett moved to accept the bid, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of a Gift

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended accepting a \$750 grant from the ExxonMobile Alliance Program and New England Farms to WMS to purchase digital microscopes for the science labs.

Mr. Fontes moved acceptance of the gift, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Any other business

Mrs. Veugen encouraged everyone to contribute to the Dick Melloni Toy Drive with a new unwrapped toy.

Executive Session

It was moved and seconded to enter in executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining and executive session minutes and to return to open session for a vote.

Roll call vote: Mr. Swett – yea; Dr. Sylvia – yea; Mr. Fontes – yea; Mrs. Veugen – yea

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0 abstain – 0

Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the Memorandum of Agreement with Bus Drivers & Mechanics dated September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2013, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0 abstain – 0

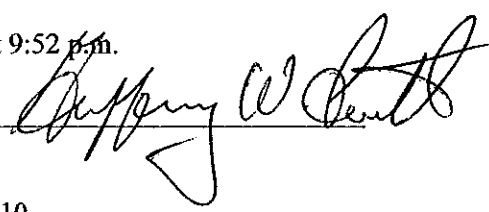
Chair Sylvia announced that the Executive Session Minutes of October 13, 2010 are appropriate for release to the public.

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0 abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen W. Swett", is written over a horizontal line.

List of documents:

Report on Resolutions 2010

Global Connect Broadcast Report Summary

Memo dated November 20, 2010 re: Invitation to the next School Committee Meeting to Mr. Mark Andrews, Town Administrator

Transportation Department Status Update – December 8, 2010

Invitation for Bid, Wareham School District, School Bus Transportation

Cape Cod Collaborative Analysis (Mr. Swett)

C.O.R.I. Requirements

Residency Regulations

Memo re: Appropriation Budget Transfers FY'11 dated November 30, 2010

Memo re: Heating Oil Bid dated 11/16/10

Press Release – Community Involvement Grant