

December 15, 2010

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett, Mr. Ken Fontes, Ms. Rachel Gillette, Mrs. Rhonda Veugen and Miss Jessica Hanson, Student Representative as well as Superintendent, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Michelle Ruiz.

Chair Sylvia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dorothy Heath expressed concern with the MCAS scores. She distributed two articles dealing with this issue and important information to share. She asked how someone could get a copy of current line item budget.

Chair Sylvia thanked her for the information and stated that she must make her request in writing to the Superintendent.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch distributed a newsletter from the John W. Decas School "Decas Digest" and shared that he had attended the WHS Drama presentation "Christmas Carol". The next drama presentation is in March.

Dr. Sylvia announced that tomorrow evening the Wareham Middle School will hold an induction ceremony into the Jr. Honor Society.

Miss Hanson announced that this Friday evening is a school dance and the Code Club is conducting a can food drive competition between advisory classes which ends this Friday.

Mr. Fontes addressed the Florida situation with gun fire and that it could have been worse.

Dr. Sylvia announced that the Boys' Basketball team won its first game.

Report of the Chair - none

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Rabinovitch is continuing visits to the classrooms in the schools where students are learning and staff are working hard.

Report of Student Representative - none

Committee Reports

- Policy Review –

Mrs. Veugen reported that there was a meeting last Monday evening with a new participant on the committee, Lynn Burroughs representing SpEd PAC. The following policies will be forthcoming to the Committee:

- Transportation of Drivers' Children
- Staff Ethics
- Crisis Response

Mr. Fontes asked for a review of the waiver policy for athletes (student athletic fees), specifically as to calendar year or individual sport.

- Transportation –

Mr. Fontes stated that there was no report at this time.

- Curriculum Review –

Dr. Sylvia and Mr. Swett reported discussion on the requirements for MASS Core; the impact on graduation requirements and our current policy; integrating math into all four math areas; course of studies; scheduling; and college courses being taken at WHS

- Emergency Planning (Safety)

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the final edit of the flip chart was reviewed by the policy review committee within another policy up for discussion. The bullying prevention plan, which must be submitted by December 31st has also been under discussion.

- Budget -

Mr. Swett reported that the subcommittee heard presentations by principals and directors and reviewed the consolidated results. The preliminary results were given to the Town Administrator as required. The subcommittee will be meeting again on January 3rd to formalize the budget presentation to be given on January 5th to the Finance Committee.

- Community Relations -

Mrs. Veugen reported that the School Improvement Plans have been given to the principals. She will be sending an invitation in January to the members to review its goals & objectives for this year.

Report by Principal Palladino – WHS

Principal Palladino and Debbie Freitas, Assistant Principal presented a Senior Portfolio Exit Interview proposal to make it a graduation requirement for all students as follows:

- Evolution at High School of the ELA portfolio
- Expand the concept to other departments
- Student feedback
- Contents of Portfolios
- Reasons for making Portfolio Exit Interview as a graduation requirement
- Process of how this will be conducted

Principal Palladino stated that the proposal has the support of the WEA and the School Council. The entire senior class was addressed at the beginning of the school year that this could be a requirement for graduation this year.

Areas of concern and discussion included the student contract, the exit interview questions, the incentive to opt out of the final examination, research based authentic assessment, assurance of equivalence from interviewers, training for community involvement and new staff in 2012, identifying common assessments that are department specific with a tie in to the standards, assessment for progress not quality along the way

Principal Palladino read into the record a letter of support from the School Council (see attached).

Mr. Fontes asked if the committee could view a portfolio with parent permission, of course.

Mr. Fontes moved to accept as a graduation requirement the Senior Portfolio Exit Interview as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Progress on School Improvement Goals

Principal Palladino updated his School Improvement Plan in the SMART Goals format. The goals are as follows:

- Continue Portfolio Progress
- Provide Personal Supports
- Complete NEASC Self Study
- Increase relevance of school to career
- Initiate Math and Science campaign of “no failures”
- Continue Discipline with Dignity

Suggestions were:

Change the funding source from in kind to LEA

Every goal should have an indicator

Measurement should address what? how?

Include portfolio as part of the indicator for Increase relevance of school to career goal

Use data analysis of graduate five year study

Utilize our student peer leaders more

The School Committee requested that Principal Palladino come back with a presentation of goals as a result of the discussion.

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of a U.S. Flag on an annual basis donated by Kool Kone under adoptaschoolflagpole.com to the Wareham Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School.

Ms. Gillette moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of a monetary gift of \$20,000.00 from an anonymous donor to be used for playgrounds at East Wareham and/or Hammond Schools. Principal Seamans and a playground committee will analyze the need for the use of these funds.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Financial Reports

Ms. Miranda presented a powerpoint presentation on the current budget with a comparison to last year at this same time using the following categories:

- Administration
- Instructional Leadership & Technology
- Teaching Services
- Professional Student Services
- Other Student Services
- Professional Development
- Instructional Materials
- Operations & Maintenance
- Insurance & Other & Special Education Tuition
- Summary of Non Net and Net School Spending

Mr. Swett moved to extend the meeting beyond 10:00 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Report on Mentoring Program

Mrs. Rotella distributed a PowerPoint presentation and brochure used this year for the Mentoring Program. She gave the historical overview of the Massachusetts Induction/Mentoring Program required in the 1993 Education Reform Act. Teachers are mandated 100 additional mentoring hours in their first two years to be licensed in the state of Massachusetts. She reviewed what the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires and what the Wareham Public Schools provides for new teachers as well as the components of a Mentoring Program, the requirements for a District Mentoring Program, recommendations on focused training for new teachers, enrollment and expenditures of the Mentoring Program in Wareham over last four years and its benefits.

Any other business

Mrs. Veugen suggested that instead of receiving each Notice of Vacancy posting that one sheet be provided listing all vacancies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved and seconded to enter into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining with Custodians and come out to vote.

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

VOTE: yea - 5; nay - 0; abstain – 0

The Committee entered into open session at 10:28 p.m.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the negotiated agreement with Custodians, seconded by Mr. Swett.

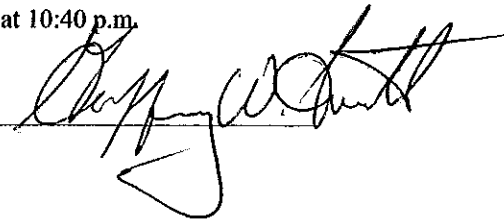
VOTE: yea - 5; nay - 0; abstain – 0

Mrs. Veugen moved to adjourn, seconded Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay - 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



List of Documents:

News Article "NY Times Highlights Brockton High School as National Leader in Education"
News Article "4,100 Students Prove 'Small Is Better' Rule Wrong"
The Decas Digest
PowerPoint – The Senior Portfolio Exit Interview
WHS School Council Memo of Support
Wareham High School 2009-2010 School Improvement Plan
Letter to Kool Kone from Bob Long (gift)
Wareham School Functions Summary - December 8, 2010
Revolving Accounts 12/9/10
Mentor and Protégé Orientation Program Brochure
PowerPoint – The Mentoring Program WPS
WPS Mentoring Program Handbook 2010-2011
Memorandum of Agreement Wareham Custodial Employees