

June 8, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Cliff Sylvia, Rachel Gillette, Rhonda Veugen and Jessica Hanson, as well as Superintendent, Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

Chair Fontes called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and announced that he would be giving an overview of the Superintendent's contract later in the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch attended both the Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School and the Wareham High School graduations and Senior Awards evening where \$225,000 in scholarships given out.

Mrs. Veugen attended the Hammond School field day, which is a great opportunity for parents.

Mr. Swett, coach of the girls' tennis team, attended the awards dinner. There were four seniors on the team, all going off to college - \$40,000 average cost per year.

Minutes of the Meeting

Ms. Gillette moved to approve the minutes of May 25, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Report of the Student Representative

Miss Hanson announced an awards night tomorrow at 7PM for the underclassmen, a junior class trip to Six Flags, junior class elections, and on June 14th freshmen welcome.

Report of the Chair

Chair Fontes attended the Wareham High School Awards Night also.

School Improvement Plans

Minot Forest/Hammond/East – Principal Seamans introduced two members of her Council, Jerry Young and Ann Cote. She presented key data in the plan including enrollment, attendance, discipline, teacher, student performance, parent & community involvement, extracurricular activities and multicultural activities. She reviewed the professional development activities and their relationship to the Plan or district goals. NAEYC accredited the Hammond School for five years and the accreditation for East Wareham School is in progress. The survey results were shared. Parents and staff used survey monkey on line while students had a paper survey. The parent results were low at 4% and 38% return for the teachers.

This year's goals were reviewed with actions taken and whether the goal was met.

1. Student Achievement in Literacy/Math
2. Technology – provided training and integration into instruction
3. Community – met as there was increased communication and participation
4. Resources – application to MSBA for renovation/expansion of Minot

SMART Goals for 2011-12

1. Student Achievement – Provide a system of integrated programs and curriculum with rigorous expectations that assures proficiency in all core subject areas for all students.
2. Technology – Expand the application and integration of technology to improve learning, instruction, and the organization of the school community.
3. Community – Facilitate school-community partnerships to enhance the education of our children.
4. Resources – Procure sustainable resources necessary to provide an excellent learning experience.

Comments from the Committee included:

- update goals to include iPads and Power School as well as East playground
- concern about only 38% teachers responding to survey, teaming
- teacher/student ratios, bullying concerns from parents, multicultural activities
- demographics projection, student placement in classroom, math expectation with MCAS
- perception of community negativity

John W. Decas School

Principal Panarese introduced Pat Bazinet and Diane Higgins from her Council. She provided an updated copy of the Plan and reviewed the following data:

Enrollment is growing with 49% of the students participating in free/reduced lunch; attendance/discipline rate; AYP ELA/Math – Level 3 School in restructuring; parent & community involvement; extracurricular and multicultural activities

Academic Corrective Action Statements for 2010-2011 were summarized. The SMART Goals for 2011-12 were formulated to achieve the corrective actions.

1. Increase student achievement in ELA/Mathematics/Science and Use of Technology
2. Establish and maintain ongoing mechanisms for parent, family and community engagement
3. Implement guidelines and building procedures to increase the security of the building to ensure a healthy, safe learning environment for student and staff

The survey results from parents, staff and students were also reviewed.

Comments from the Committee included:

- teaming, student placements, moving in and out of tiers relating to RTI, school climate survey results, resources for next year to meet the challenges
- mentorship, after school programs for positive social time for kids
- philosophical research statements in SIP, expectations, power school integration
- teacher survey results, rigor, culture of building, music in the morning, students part of the process by setting own goals, benchmark assessments, collaborative evaluation
- survey results, suspension data, skype program

Recommendations from Policy Review Committee

Ms. Gillette reviewed the recommended policies:

Distribution of Information – Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the policy as written, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Emergency Closings – Mr. Swett moved to approve the policy as written, seconded by Dr. Sylvia

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Animals in School - Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the policy as written, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Service Animals – Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the policy as written, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Students Transferring from Commonwealth Charter Schools – Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the policy as written, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Report of the Chair

Chair Fontes gave an overview of the Superintendent of Schools contract: The School Committee voted 5-0-0 to award the Superintendent another 3 year contract effective August 1, 2011 with a salary of \$147,000, same as last year's base. In July there will be an evaluation process whereby the Superintendent is eligible for compensation from \$0 - \$5,000. There is longevity or years of service \$9,140 if completing full contract year. Vacation is 30 working days with advanced notice to the Chair and no more than 10 vacation days used during the school year and no more than 5 taken without approval of Chair. If these days are not used, they may not be accumulated.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

- MSBA April 29, 2011 – A Needs Survey was done rating all school buildings in Massachusetts. Wareham's rating of 3 at both Decas & Minot indicates a need for expansion and/or renovation but only one building per district is allowed on the state list. An application was sent to MSBA for the Minot Forest School. At West Wareham Academy the handicapped ramp will be upgraded. One of the goals for next year will be a space needs study.
- Commissioner Chester has approved our Tech Plan for 2011- 2014 and the plan is on our website.
- There are no charges on the invoices for placing flags on the graves of Veterans on Memorial Day.

Any other business

Mrs. Veugen asked that capital planning items for the schools go on the School Improvement Plans.

Mr. Swett reported that the Cape Cod Collaborative board is meeting to vote on its FY'12 budget with an attempt to set up three reserve funds. It is also losing money from Medicaid billing so its goal is to get out by end of calendar year.

Mrs. Veugen stated that the School Committee is "Going Green" by email packets and having laptops at the meeting.

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Mr. Swett reported on the Division VII MASC annual meeting. The focus was to make it more relevant to its members. Also discussed was teacher evaluation regulations and resource struggles in districts.

Dr. Sylvia had a position statement on the evaluation regulations which has inconsistencies with the DESE proposal. Mr. Swett will attend a meeting at 4PM in Middleboro tomorrow on these regulations.

Executive Session

It was moved and seconded to enter into executive session for the purpose of executive session minutes of May 25, 2011 and collective bargaining and coming out only to adjourn.

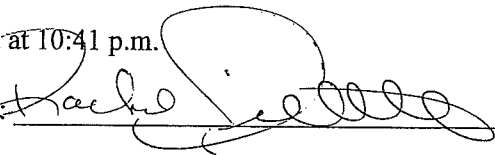
Roll call vote: Mrs. Veugen – yea; Dr. Sylvia – yea; Mr. Fontes – yea; Mr. Swett – yea; Ms. Gillette - yea

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

(9:40 p.m.)

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Plan for Continuous Improvement – East Wareham, Ethel E. Hammond, and Minot Forest Schools 2011/2012

Plan for Continuous Improvement – John W. Decas Elementary 2011-2012 (updated version & original)

Policy Review Committee Minutes of 12 April 2011 with attached Policies

Massachusetts School Building Authority Letter to Superintendent April 29, 2011

Memorandum DESE May 2011 Approval of Wareham Tech Plan

Invoices from Transportation Department

