

December 7, 2011

At meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Rachel Gillette, Rhonda Veugen, Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Cliff Sylvia and student representative, Jessica Hanson, as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and Mrs. Ruiz, recording secretary.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch read a letter for the record addressed to Principal Palladino from the Foundation for Teaching Economics re: Senior, Jessica Hanson.

Dr. Rabinovitch informed the Committee that last Friday two members of Massachusetts Building Authority, former School Committee member Robert Brousseau, Senator Pacheco, Principal Seamans, Ms. Miranda and he walked the Minot Forest School building to address the need for reconstruction, renovation, and additional classroom space. Once we hear back from the MSBA, two articles will be prepared for Town Meeting.

Ms. Veugen asked the audience to consider supporting the events around town including fundraisers in the schools through the PTAs for enrichment programs and field trips.

Miss Hanson announced on December 8th is a Step up day from 6-8 p.m. at WHS for 8th graders and parents to receive information on the school including clubs and athletics. The car drive will continue until December 9th.

(Dr. Sylvia entered the meeting at 7:09 p.m.)

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the minutes of November 16, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

School Committee Reports

Superintendent's Budget Advisory – Mr. Fontes reported that a preliminary meeting was held to discuss dates for budget meetings. Mrs. Veugen suggested sending a press release indicating the budget meeting dates and public hearing.

Policy Review – Mrs. Veugen reviewed the following policies:

- *Community Use of School Vehicles* - added "and appropriately" and discussion will take place at the superintendent's level on procedures.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve as presented, seconded by Ms Gillette

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- *Emergency Closings* – no changes

Ms. Gillette to approve, seconded by Mr. Fontes

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- *Graduation Requirements* – all changes are italicized - Principal Palladino explained 30 credits outside the school day and dually enrolled students 40 credits
Mr. Fontes moved to approve as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Chair Swett explained that the committee debated the transportation issue at its last meeting and decided not to vote twofold: 1) the information from the Town Administrator that it was too late to have the study take place; and 2) the Town Administrator had a different plan to get us buses by potentially holding a special town meeting. Information on buses, including depreciation, is forthcoming to the Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee. There is urgency for the purchase of buses and use of our revolving account in some small way.

Fall Athletic Report & Request for 8th Grade Athletic Waiver

Mr. Loranger's fall athletic report included a review of expenses; revenues; participation; GPA 85%; community service projects conducted; achievements; new programs instituted; S.C.C. All Stars, Honorable Mention and Sportsmanship Awards.

Dr. Sylvia asked that the win/loss record be included on next report.

Regarding Mr. Fontes' question on evaluation and feedback on coaches and/or feedback from players, Principal Palladino stated that the Athletic Director is working with the WEA on an evaluation process.

Dr. Rabinovitch informed the committee that currently sod on the field in being replaced at over \$20,000 and procedures on when the field is being used will be discussed.

In order to increase participation, Chair Swett suggested a fall intramural program and consider an award for the highest team's GPA.

Mr. Loranger reported that the MIAA granted a waiver for academic eligible 8th grade students to participate on the high school Boys' Spring Tennis and Boys' & Girls' Spring Track teams. He needs to obtain the signatures of the A.D., Principal of the High School, Principal of the Middle School, the Superintendent, the Chair of the School Committee, and the Coaches of these sports. A waiver application must be applied for every other year.

Mrs. Veugen moved to discuss the 8th Grade Athletic Waiver, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE on approval of waiver as presented: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Request for Construction in WHS Library

Principal Palladino requested construction of a wall for a presentation area at an estimated cost of \$2,000.

Suggestions including a partition or a wall pull out for LCD projections.

Chair Swett asked Principal Palladino to come back at next meeting with costs of a partition and/or a pull out wall before voting on his request.

Proposal for East Wareham School

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the preschool program at East Wareham School is a district program and the management of the building is split. He is requesting the creation of an Early Childhood Coordinator on site to be in charge with an individual contract at a budget impact of \$12,881 in FY13.

Principal Seamans spoke in favor of having an administrator on site. Assistant Principal Ames will continue to do observations and evaluations and also be able to chair team meetings at Hammond.

Mr. Louzan stated that creation of this position puts the administrator on site at East. The scope of the program has grown in the last three years and it is now at a stable point to make it as the East Wareham Early Childhood Center. A shift of the Coordinator's duties will create a new position under the Early Childhood Grant. The transition and posting will begin before FY13.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the direct supervisor of both coordinator positions would be the Director Student Services and the Superintendent would conduct the evaluation and negotiate the contract for the new Coordinator of the East Wareham Early Childhood Center.

After discussion Mr. Fontes moved to approve of the reorganization of the Minot, Hammond & East management as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Dr. Sylvia amended the motion that cost of this new configuration be at least 70% from LEA and 30% from outside sources, second Ms. Gillette.

Chair Swett stated that the committee would have an opportunity during budget time each year to discuss funding of positions so he will vote against the amendment.

VOTE on Amendment: yea - 3; nay -2 (Fontes, Swett); abstain - 0

Amendment becomes main motion.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay -0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended the following gifts:

\$7,250 to the WHS Library from The Gateway Tavern.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the gift, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay -0; abstain - 0

\$1,920 to the Reading Is Fundamental Program at Hammond and East Wareham schools from the Dick Melloni Youth Foundation.

Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay -0; abstain - 0

Dictionaries to grade 3 students at the Minot Forest and John W. Decas schools from the Wareham Lodge of Elks.

Ms. Gillette moved to accept the gift, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay -0; abstain - 0

Any other business

Mrs. Veugen reported on a meeting she had with Falmouth Volunteers in Public Schools (VIP). Its main goal is to promote volunteers in public schools and encourage youth volunteering in public schools. She

requested the School Committee look at this program and consider funding it by hiring a person responsible for the district. She will ask the Falmouth VIP person to make a presentation to the Committee.

Dr. Sylvia asked to have the social studies issue at Middle School, which was brought up at the last meeting, discussed.

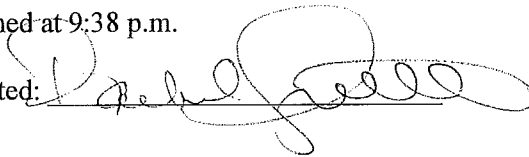
Dr. Rabinovitch stated that he had a meeting with the WEA and will have an MOU ready for the School Committee at the next meeting to discuss in executive session.

Dr. Sylvia moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay -0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Letter to Scott Palladino from Foundation For Teaching Economics

Community Use of School Vehicles

Emergency Closings

Graduation Requirements

WHS Athletic Report Fall 2011

WHS Renovation Library

Proposal for the Reorganization of East Wareham Early Childhood Center at East Elementary School

Donation email from SPalladino from The Gateway Tavern

Donation letter Dick Melloni Youth Foundation

Donation Memo Joan Seamans from Wareham Lodge of Elks

