

December 21, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Geoff Swett, Rhonda Veugen, Kenny Fontes and Cliff Sylvia, who arrived at 7:04 p.m., as well as Superintendent Rabinovitch and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent were members Rachel Gillette and student representative, Jessica Hanson.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Fontes expressed his condolence for the loss of Chair Swett's mother.

Mrs. Veugen wished everyone happy holidays.

Minutes of the Meeting

Chair Swett announced that prior to the December 7, 2011, meeting a workshop meeting was posted. There was no quorum, so there are no minutes to this meeting, and no vote is necessary.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2011, with correction, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School Committee Report

Chair Swett announced that the Girls' Tennis team was also added to the waiver from MIAA for grade 8 participants.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that yesterday was a full day budget meeting with four members of the Finance Committee present. He had given copies of two powerpoint presentations made at the budget meeting to the school committee for review before the January presentation. He also provided a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Andrews in accordance with the Town Charter giving the preliminary FY13 school budget - \$27,195,370 net school spending and \$1,585,277 non net school spending for a total of \$28,780,647, which is approximately 7.6% increase over FY12. This budget was given to the Superintendent by all principals/directors and not approved by the School Committee. It will lessen the gap between achievement and spending. 7.5 teaching positions were lost from FY11 to FY12.

Chair Swett announced that the Committee will be meeting on January 11 and January 18 Public Hearing with a final vote on January 25. The budget information is available on the district website and will be televised by our local cable channel, WCTV educational channel Dec 27th 1-7 p.m. and government channel on January 1st. He publicly thanked members of the Finance Committee and the Chair of the Capital Planning Committee for attending yesterday's budget meeting.

Mrs. Veugen stated that this is an important meeting to view in order to understand the needs of the district, teachers, and students and to be informed before Town Meeting.

The only comment Chair Swett would make relative to the draft preliminary budget number by the Town Administrator was that no information is available yet on revenue and the number is only preliminary.

School Committee Reports

Mrs. Veugen

- Community Relations – presentation tonight on gaining more volunteers
- Policy Review Subcommittee – no quorum but will discuss the Concussion Policy this evening and will meet again in January

Mr. Swett

- NSBA in Boston – registration break as Mass resident – let Michelle know before the end of January if you plan on attending.
- Committee has been invited to a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen re: transportation. He feels a meeting would be more productive with reps (2 members each) from the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee, the Finance Committee, the Capital Planning Committee and with the Town Administrator and Superintendent. He suggested a meeting on Saturday morning, January 14th on school bus transportation in Wareham hosted by the School Committee with a place to be determined to get a consensus on how to proceed.

Mrs. Veugen moved to hold the meeting as proposed by Chair Swett, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

Dr. Sylvia expressed his need for a clear purpose on having this meeting.

Chair Swett wants a public meeting with the press present for a presentation by the Transportation Manager to all board members. He appreciated the initiative of the Board of Selectmen's invitation for a joint meeting, but would like to include other boards.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Falmouth Public Schools VIPS Program

Mrs. Veugen described the VIPS Program as a way to supplement resources to an existing budget to help with enrichment programs and take some burden off our teachers with programs and mentors for our students. She introduced

Tracey Crago – Director

Heidi Moratta – former School Committee member, VIPS Board

Rebecca Moffet – current School Committee member; VIPS Board

Ms. Crago's presentation included:

- o the Falmouth Public Schools VIPS Program mission statement;
- o the VIPS Program organization and its budget;
- o the bylaws and composition of the Board of Advisors;
- o the opportunities of VIPS volunteers;
- o the school and community connections with businesses and individuals;
- o the celebration and recognition of volunteers;
- o the VIPS Success Stories;
- o the VIPS budget & fundraising (40% school dept/60% VIPS Board of Advisors);
- o the Tips for Success for starting a Wareham VIPS Program

Ms. Moffet stated that a VIPS program engages the entire town in the school system

Ms. Moratta was impressed with the VIPS program and its importance to the Falmouth Public Schools. She highly suggested Wareham start with small steps with a solid commitment.

Parent, Rebecca Hemsley-Gakidis, expressed a need for a program like VIPS which is a cost effective way for enrichment opportunities to the schools using the resources we already have in the town.

Parent, Liz Wiley, expressed the need for organization of volunteers in the school system.

The School Committee members asked questions and made comments.

Chair Swett thanked the members of the Falmouth Public Schools VIPS Program for coming this evening.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve an exploratory committee to see if a VIPS Program is something we would like to have in Wareham, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen agreed to serve on the committee and report back to the board.

Discussion on Concussion Policy

Athletic Director, Marc Loranger, reviewed the Draft Concussion Policy which includes online concussion course; reporting a concussion; exclusion from play; return to play; and the AD responsibilities.

Kevin Francis, Athletic Trainer, explained how to treat students suspected of a concussion and the paperwork done with a seven step process to return to play.

Mr. Loranger stated that students would have the computer lab in the high school available to them to complete the on line form.

The committee members had concern with not contacting a parent immediately after a suspected and/or head injury.

Amend the third bullet by adding “**or designee**” after “The coach” and by deleting “the practice or competition in which” to read “**immediately after a student has been removed from play...**”

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that as Superintendent he needed to affirm a policy in place by January 1st. As new information comes in the policy will go to the Policy Review Committee for review.

Under the section Return to Play, Mr. Loranger asked to change “sit out the remainder of the year” to “**season**”.

There was discussion on parent training and the ownership on the athlete and parent.

Mrs. Veugen moved approval of the policy as amended, seconded by Dr. Sylvia

After discussion, Mrs. Veugen withdrew her motion and Dr. Sylvia, his second.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the policy presented this evening with the changes as an interim Concussion Policy, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Appointment of a Designer Selection Committee for WPS Master Plan

Superintendent Rabinovitch stated that a master plan study is conducted approximately every 10 years for facility needs. The plan acts as the first step of a feasibility study for the Massachusetts School Building Authority. He recommended a designer selection committee comprised of the Superintendent, 1 School Committee member, 1 Finance Committee member, the Director of Operations/Finance, 1 Capital Planning member, 1 local builder, and 1 local architect. The designer selection committee will review the RFQ and make a recommendation to the School Committee for a group to conduct the Master Plan. Funding for the cost of the master plan is encumbered in the School Choice account at a range of \$20,000 - \$40,000 depending on what the Committee wishes in the master study.

Mrs. Veugen stated that this information is key and useful on how we fair in our educational environment to our students, but we need to look at our budget year before going forward. She would vote on a designer selection committee.

Chair Swett stated that it behooves the leadership of this town to get on same page of providing services including schools.

Mrs. Veugen moved to appoint a Designer Selection Committee with the composition as outlined by the Superintendent, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Rabinovitch will notify the Chairs of the boards to select a representative.

Financial Statements

Ms. Miranda announced the following:

- the conclusion of the Cape Verdean school supply drive with a collection of over 1,200 items. She thanked Staples and the Cape Verdean Festival Committee for their donations.
- the Decas School Chorus performed for Seniors today at the Multi-service Center. She acknowledged Principal Panarese and Music Teacher, Mr. Hart.

The financial report indicated a bottom line of ½% difference between this year and last year. Areas highlighted were substitute spending; instructional materials; utilities; grounds work; tuition funds being encumbered this year compared to last year.

Chair Swett asked Ms. Miranda to check the % remaining, 58.96% should be 65.9%.

Revolving Accounts

Insurance – due to vandalism at Minot Forest and Hammond schools we will be using Be Safe funds and building maintenance funds for surveillance equipment.

Transportation - 2 of our special needs vehicles have engine failures. The estimated cost for engine replacement is \$7,000 to \$8,000. Other options are to provide private contracts at a cost of \$19,800 and \$15,750 or replace the vehicles with two 7D vans at \$10,000 each.

Any other business

Dr. Sylvia stated that this year he is not able to attend the NSBA Conference, but highly recommended it to those who have never been.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that there is an interpretation in the Town Charter that vehicles cannot be purchased unless the request goes before town meeting. To be fiscally responsible, Dr. Rabinovitch asked to have a motion that because of an emergency dealing with two special needs vehicles, the committee approve using the transportation revolving account to purchase two used 7D vehicles.

Mrs. Veugen asked that the motion state with the approval of the Chief Procurement Officer.

Chair Swett reviewed the three choices to give to the Town Administrator as an emergency

1. spend funds for repair (good money after bad)
2. spend more on newer vehicles
3. spend even more on contracted services for a deficit in the transportation account which leads to town meeting to pay the bill

Dr. Sylvia moved to allow the Superintendent, within the purchasing protocols of town, to purchase (2) 7D vehicles to replace those requiring new engines, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay - 1(Mrs. Veugen); abstain - 0

Dr. Sylvia moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of an update on a labor relations matter and executive session minutes and come out to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Fontes – yea; Dr. Sylvia – yea; Mrs. Veugen – yea; Mr. Swett – yea

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

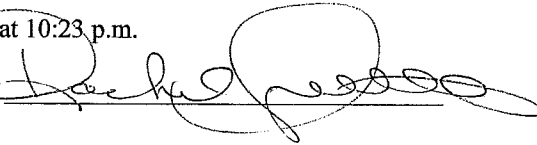
(9:45 p.m.)

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Memo to Mark Andrews RE: Annual Request for Budget Allocation
Press Release FY13 Budget
Powerpoint VIPS Program
Concussion Policy Grades 7-12 & DRAFT
MASC Policy News
Wareham School Function Summary
RFQ WPS Master Plan Study

