

March 23, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in 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 as well as Dr. Rabinovitch, Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Ruiz, recording secretary.

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

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

#### **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Rabinovitch announced that Destination Imagination Gifted & Talented Program regional competition was held and students from both the Minot Forest School and Wareham Middle School participated. A team from Wareham Middle School won 1<sup>st</sup> place and will continue to the state competition and another Middle School team placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Mr. Swett moved to approve of minutes of March 9, 2011, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

#### **Report of the Chair**

- In response to the Board of Selectmen's discussion on holding elections in our schools at last evening's meeting, Dr. Sylvia responded that there is no school committee policy which prevents our schools from being used as polling places. As Chair, he had received a copy of a letter from Dr. Rabinovitch to the Town Administrator requesting a discussion concerning safety hazards in the coming and going on Election Day, particularly early in the morning when children are coming to school. There has been no dialogue on this issue since last November.
- Chair Sylvia stated that it was an honor and privilege to serve this year as Chair. He publicly thanked his colleagues on the committee, the administration and the staff for their dedication and the loyal citizens and objective coverage by the press. He recapped some accomplishments this past year, i.e. having live meetings, stating our goals, creating subcommittees, and the school committee self-evaluation.

#### **Report of the Superintendent**

- In researching the MASC on line policies relative to cleaning up spills of body fluids, two other school districts had policies referencing the universal precautions to be followed. Our policy Cleaning Up Spills of Body Fluids conforms to the universal precautions.
- In response to the Student Indicator Data from Mr. Swett, Dr. Rabinovitch provided graphs of the high school and district data compared to the state on dropout rate, average days absent, in-school suspension rate, out of school suspension rate, graduation rate, attendance rate, and retention rate.
- Dr. Rabinovitch announced that due to the budget crisis and staffing, the police chief reassigned our resource officer back to patrol effective last Monday. The chief assigned a police officer to

be a juvenile officer to work with the school system and the building principals will do what they need to in order to keep students safe. The members expressed interest in receiving reports on incidents from now to end of year without a school resource officer. Officer Walker was thanked for her service and it was noted that the intervention by a school resource officer will be missed.

- The Town Administrator is requesting the School Committee to sign a letter to Governor Patrick regarding adding Wareham to the Gateway Cities Program. Mrs. Veugen and Mr. Swett stated that this idea was presented by the town administrator at an Ad Hoc meeting to get additional funds to the town for infrastructure improvements based on Wareham having apparent demographic similarities relating to immigrant population.

Ms. Gillette needed more information and Dr. Sylvia felt Wareham did not meet the criteria as a Gateway City.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the letter before us from the town administrator and that all committee members sign it, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay -1 (Ms. Gillette); abstain -1(Dr. Sylvia)

- Introductory letter from International Exchange Coordinator for EF Foundation Foreign Study is looking for host families in Wareham. The Superintendent has given the Foundation approval to accept foreign exchange students based on class size. This information will be put on our web site.

### **Report of Student Representative**

Miss Hanson reported:

- MCAS for sophomores was this week.
- Next Tuesday there is an additional day for auditions for the April 9<sup>th</sup> Talent Show.
- April 5<sup>th</sup> is College Night in the Auditorium for juniors and their families.

### **Committee Reports**

- Community Relations – Mrs. Veugen reported that the committee met on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and got to know each other and began work on goals and objectives. This is a working group for improve methods by which schools and services are promoted and for long-term partnerships. The committee discussed what is working and what needs to be improved. March 31<sup>st</sup> is the next meeting. Mr. Fontes asked the community relations committee to discuss promoting text-a-tip through the schools.
- Curriculum Review – Dr. Sylvia reported that at the last meeting implementation of Mass Core, potential schedule change at the high school, and the program of studies at the high school were discussed.
- Emergency Planning (Safety) – No report
- Cape Cod Collaborative – Mr. Swett reported at the last meeting.
- Policy Review – Ms. Gillette presented the following recommendations:

Implementation of the Life-Threatening Allergy Treatment –Mr. Fontes moved to approve the policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Online Instruction: Courses for Students – Mr. Fontes moved to approve the policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Transportation of Drivers' Children – Mr. Fontes moved to approve the policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 2 (Mr. Swett, Mrs. Veugen); abstain – 0

Technology Network Acceptable Use – Mr. Swett moved to approve the policy as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Entrance Age – Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Standardized Testing – Mr. Swett moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Textbook Selection and Adoption – Mr. Fontes moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

There was discussion to have more oversight at the district level and to get the policy in sync with the law.

Mr. Fontes withdrew his motion; Ms. Gillette, her second.

Mr. Fontes moved to send the Textbook Selection and Adoption policy back to the Policy Review Committee for further discussion, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Harassment Policy – Mr. Fontes moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Cleaning up Spills of Body Fluids – Mr. Fontes moved to accept the policy, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

### **WHS Schedule and Graduation Requirements**

Principal Palladino presented his proposed block schedule for the 2011 school year. Teachers will teach 6 classes with no duties and one prep every day. Classes will meet 83 minute blocks each day, 20 minutes for Advisory/Literacy block and a 26 minute lunch block. He reviewed the Mass Core changes for the class of 2014 and the positives and negatives of a schedule change for students. Time in the classroom is currently 130 hours vs. the proposed 124.5 hours.

The proposed graduation requirements are:

Class of 2102 = 115 credits

Class of 2013 = 120 credits

Class of 2014 = 125 credits

Class of 2015 = 130 credits

Questions and/or comments were received from the committee members. Concerns expressed by the chair were course credits and effect of this type of schedule on senior privileges.

Ms. Gillette moved to accept the schedule for Wareham High School as presented by Principal Palladino, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the graduation requirements as presented by Principal Palladino, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

### **Progress on School Improvement Goals WMS**

Principal Gilmore distributed an updated power point document reviewing the attendance, in-school and out of school suspensions, and the School Improvement Goals.

Student Achievement – Mathematics is still an issue; working with SES students in their representative sub groups; expanding professional learning; literacy and math accomplishments and actions taken to achieve this goal.

School and Community – actions taken to meet the goal to improve communication include an updated website and a principal newsletter; to continue to improve school climate include the peacebuilders program and implementation of the system's anti-bullying program.

Technology – continue study island and working on actions to achieve expansion of technology to improve instruction.

Mrs. Veugen would like to see how the goals would be measured going into next year and to add an indicator of accomplishment to the goal of student involvement in community.

Mr. Fontes moved to continue past the hour of 10:00 p.m. seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

(Miss Hanson left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.)

### **Financial Report**

Ms. Miranda, Director of Operations/Finance, presented the monthly financial report. The FY'11 budget now reflects the reduction of \$407,600 voted at town meeting. An area of concern is the substitute accounts. There is a 3.03 variance from last year. She then reviewed the revolving account balances. There is a deficit in the Keyspan account because the town received the rebate but has not transferred it into the school account yet.

Mrs. Veugen asked for a comparison of some of the revolving accounts from last year at this time.

### **Proposed School Calendar 2011-2012**

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended tabling approval of the school calendar for the 2011-12 school year until his administrative team finalizes dates for professional development and he considers the town election dates.

Mr. Fontes moved to table the school calendar, seconded by Ms. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Acceptance of Gift**

Mrs. Veugen moved to accept with thanks the gift of dictionaries for all grade 3 students at Decas and Minot from the Wareham Lodge of Elks #1548, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Any other business**

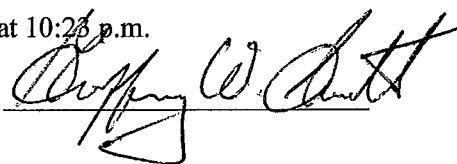
Mr. Fontes acknowledged the great job Chair Sylvia had done over the past year fighting for the School Committee.

Mr. Swett moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



**List of documents:**

3/15/11 Power Point Student Indicators for WHS and District  
Wareham Police Department memoranda 3/15/11 Budget Reduction Issues; 3/15/11 Patrol Response to School Issues; 3/17/11 Juvenile Officer Assignment  
Town of Wareham letter to Governor Patrick – March 17, 2011  
EF Foundation for Foreign Study  
Entrance Age Policy  
Harassment Policy  
Implementation of the Life-Threatening Allergy Treatment Policy  
Network Acceptable Use Policy  
Technology Network Staff and Students Acceptable Use Policy  
Online Instruction: Courses for Students Policy  
Standardized Testing Policy  
Textbook Selection and Adoption Policy  
Transportation of Drivers' Children Policy  
Proposed Schedule Four Day Alternating Schedule/Proposed Graduation Credit Requirements  
Wareham Middle School – School Improvement Goals – Update March 23, 2011  
School Financial Summary March 12, 2011  
Revolving Accounts 3/16/11  
DRAFT School Calendar 2011-2012  
Wareham Lodge of Elks #1548 Letter to Dr. Rabinovitch