

April 6, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 6, 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 Superintendent, Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Superintendent Rabinovitch. He congratulated the two incumbents on their re-election.

Reorganization

Superintendent Rabinovitch opened nominations for Chair.

Mr. Swett nominated Mr. Fontes for Chair, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

No other nominations were made.

Mr. Swett moved to close nominations, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

Unanimous vote in favor: 5-0-0 Mr. Fontes was elected Chair.

Chair Fontes opened nominations for Vice-Chair.

Ms. Gillette nominated Mr. Swett as Vice-Chair, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

No other nominations were made.

Mrs. Veugen moved to close nominations, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

Unanimous vote in favor: 5-0-0 Mr. Swett was elected Vice-Chair.

Chair Fontes opened nominations for Secretary.

Mrs. Veugen nominated Ms. Gillette as Secretary, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

Mr. Swett moved to close nominations, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

Unanimous vote in favor: 5-0-0 Ms. Gillette was elected Secretary

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch

- Decas School now has music in the morning courtesy of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra.
- Teachers Mrs. Cote, Mrs. Schluter, and Ms. Taber were presenters at the Gateway Project Symposium showcasing our district's strengths in technology and engineering.

Mrs. Veugen

- WHS art field trip last Friday to New York City with 31 students participating and she was able to be a chaperone. It was an incredible trip and she thanked the board on behalf of the students/staff for approving the trip.
- Comedy Night Fundraiser for the Middle School was successful. The funds raised are going to the Rachel's Challenge program for students/community.

Mr. Swett

- He was privileged to be the driver of middle school students attending the statewide conference against bullying and was pleased with the students' knowledge on the American citizen test given by their teacher, Mrs. Brogioli, during their bus ride.

Mr. Fontes stated that he was glad to serve three more years on the Committee and on being elected as Chair this year.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mrs. Veugen had a correction to the 2nd goal of the community relations committee report by adding "improve methods by which schools and services are promoted and" for long-term partnerships.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2011, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Progress on School Improvement Goals John W. Decas School

Principal Panarese based her presentation on the 2010 corrective action plan. The formal school improvement plan will be presented next month. Her presentation included:

- Proposed Three-year Turnaround/Redesign Plan
- Strategies to improve student learning and student literacy and math skills
- Student summative and formative assessments
- Technology updates
- Home/school/community communications
- Bullying
- MCAS/AYP 2010
- Awards/Accolades/Community Service
- Constraints to the school's progress

Questions and comments were received from committee members.

Vote on School Choice for the 2011-2012 School Year

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended that the Wareham Public Schools continue as a choice district for the 2011-2012 school year and accept students in Kindergarten through grade 12 depending on class size with two exceptions: 1) no students will be accepted to the West Wareham Academy; and 2) acceptance of students into the Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School only if it does not result in a disproportional number of special education students in relation to Wareham High School.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

Proposed Resolutions

Mr. Swett explained that his two Draft Resolutions would get Wareham recognition in educational leadership in Massachusetts. He would like these resolutions submitted to MASC to lobby.

DRAFT Resolution - Teacher Evaluation – This resolution says if the state is going to create the teacher evaluations format (exemplary, proficient, needing improvement, unsatisfactory) we need one trained, state certified supervisor for every 15 teachers and instructional leaders that spend 50% of their time in classroom, and as an added cost, update the Ch.70 formula to reflect the increased cost associated with this enhanced instructional leadership of all teachers in Massachusetts.

Dr. Sylvia stated that this resolution was premature. He wanted to see what is negotiated in Wareham and how it may differ from this resolution and also how the observation ties in with the evaluation.

Mr. Swett stated that at this time this evaluation is in the High School in a trial period. He felt it would be good for the negotiating team meeting with the WEA to have the full support of the School Committee.

Mrs. Veugen suggested adding under the 2nd Whereas "documented" strategies.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the DRAFT Resolution – Teacher Evaluation - with the friendly amendment adding "documented" strategies and to submit the resolution to MASC, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay - 1(Sylvia); abstain - 0

DRAFT Resolution – Teacher Evaluation & Student Achievement Data

Mr. Swett read from an excerpt from the state Taskforce Report. He explained the valuable role data can play in teacher evaluation. This resolution is for MASC to support the development of state mandated testing in all subject areas covered by the Common Core and assistance to school districts to develop baseline and post-instruction assessments of all non-Common Core subject areas.

Dr. Rabinovitch expressed his leeringness of what the state assessments are going to look like and how to take the subjectiveness out of the performance for the arts. He was more comfortable with a portfolio review.

Dr. Sylvia expressed his reasons for opposing the resolution. Teacher evaluation needs to have some kind of data and that it was not appropriate to test everybody. There is a need for performance based evaluation.

Mrs. Veugen stated that based on the MASC Day on the Hill session she attended, the first resolution will get us closer. We could look at this through our district and not the state.

Ms. Gillette felt this resolution may take away from teachers their creativity in place of mandated testing.

Chair Fontes agreed that the first resolution may get us closer to where we want to be.

Mr. Swett withdrew this resolution.

Student Attendance Data Report

Student Attendance 2010-2011

Dr. Rabinovitch reviewed the snapshot student attendance data from September 1st through February 28th. The Decas, Minot, Hammond, and Middle schools are all above 95% attendance to meet AYP. The Cooperative, East, High schools and West Academy are all below the 95% attendance AYP requirement. He also shared the attendance data for the month of February 2010 compared to 2011.

School Attending Three Year Data – This report listed all Wareham school aged residents in regional; choice; charter; agricultural; private/parochial; collaborative; private sped; Wareham public schools.

The committee members requested the following data:

- # students who applied to vocational school and did not get accepted
- per pupil expenditure for Upper Cape vs. Wareham

Proposed School Calendar 2011-2012

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that he had e-mailed our attorney quoting the contract definition of “work year” based on his receipt of a letter from President of the WEA objecting to lengthening and modifying the school year to accommodate elections. The union was not against starting school early.

Safety issues were addressed with the Town Clerk and moving in-service days for all elections. Dr. Rabinovitch has asked to have the April town election moved to a Saturday (article October Town Meeting) and other election dates take a vacation day or in-service day. This proposed calendar has an in-service day March 6th and no school for April 3rd elections.

The committee applauded the solutions to work cooperatively with the town to save money but noted that every school needs to be looked at individually in terms of capacity, logistics, i.e. parking, flow of traffic, and security.

Mr. Swett moved to accept the School Calendar for the 2010-2011 school year as proposed by the Superintendent, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

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

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of the following gifts to Wareham High School:

- Funds to pay for a motivational speaker from Peter Koulouras, Meinekee Muffler of East Wareham
- 24 hours of labor to build computer lab stations in the library from Ron Morgan

Mr. Swett moved to accept the gifts, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

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

Report of the Student Representative

Miss Hanson announced that tomorrow evening in the WHS foyer will be the annual art fair and proceeds are for relief efforts in Japan; this Friday evening is the Talent Show; and April 15th before vacation is a pep rally.

Report of the Chair

Chair Fontes announced that at the next meeting he will be assigning some members to the various committees.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Rabinovitch reported that he and two members of the school committee attended MASC Day on the Hill and topics discussed. He included a bill Senator Pacheco is sponsoring for recognizing ½ of manufactured homes as 40b housing.

Mrs. Veugen motioned to go beyond the hour of 10:00 p.m. seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

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

Dr. Rabinovitch updated the committee on budget discussions he has had with the Town Administrator. Currently there is a \$360,000 difference in net school spending and \$75,000 in non net spending. He suggested that the new budget document be voted upon by the committee before April Town Meeting. An Ad Hoc committee meeting will be set and the Town Administrator's budget document presented.

Any other business

Mrs. Veugen congratulated our newly elected officials Joseph Ashley, Deputy Town Moderator, and Ellen Begley and Mike Schneider as Selectmen.

The Committee set the next board meeting for Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

John W. Decas Elementary School 2010-2011 Corrective Action/Continuous Improvement Plan

Draft Resolution – Teacher Evaluation

Taskforce Report from the “Building a Breakthrough Framework for Educator Evaluation in the Commonwealth”

Draft Resolution – Teacher Evaluation & Student Achievement Data

Student Attendance 2010-11

School Attending Three Year Data

School Calendar 2011-2012 DRAFT

Memorandum from Scott Palladino, Acceptance of Gifts, March 21, 1011

Senate No.00615 Presented by Marc Pacheco

