

April 20, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Mr. Ken Fontes, Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett, Ms. Rachel Gillette, Mrs. Rhonda Veugen and Miss Jessica Hanson as well as Superintendent, Dr. Rabinovitch and recording secretary, Mrs. Prada.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

Good News

Dr. Rabinovitch

- An invitation to attend an MASC Award Reception for AD Makepeace Company for their generous contributions to Carver and Wareham Public Schools through their Neighborhood Fund on Monday, May 9, 6:30 pm at the Carver Middle High School Library. (handout)
- Contest from Bullying Training – Mass Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) – poems and posters of student award winners will be on display until May 3rd at Bridgewater State College

Mrs. Veugen

- The Rachel's Challenge presentation and training at WMS and WHS and community wide event – very moving presentation – inspiring kids to do what's right – focus on respect – phenomenal turnout at community event. Thanks to the PTA committee especially Ms. Holbrook for bringing this about.

Miss Hanson

- Rachel's Challenge Presentation – there wasn't a dry eye in the house. We knew about Columbine but really hadn't seen the effect. Really focusing on respect and reminded us to think about the ones that you love and the ones that have passed and that just being kind can help.

Mr. Fontes

- Town wide coastal cleanup – Keep Wareham Beautiful – Onset pier Saturday, April 23.
- Pleased that we have a Chief of Police who will work hand in hand with the schools. Hoping to get the SRO back in the schools.

Report of Student Representative

Miss Hanson reported that the students are on vacation and thoroughly enjoying it. Many are looking at colleges and preparing for SATs.

Mr. Swett asked what is the most important thing determining where students go to college?

Miss Hanson stated location and cost, but that cost is the most important decision factor.

Minutes of the Meeting

Ms. Gillette moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2011, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- Monetary donation of \$1,000 from Lisa Rossi from the Paul A. Schaaf Memorial Golf Tournament for the Minot Forest Grade 5 Yearbook Account.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- 2 Apple iPads – direct result of FY12 budget discussions - for Wareham High School from Mr. Geoff Swett and Mrs. Rhonda Veugen

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

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

Proposed School Calendar 2011-2012

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that he was informed by WHS Principal, Scott Palladino, that the early release day that had been scheduled for October 19 would not work because of WHS NEASC visit. Therefore, it has been rescheduled to September 21, 2011. He asked to amend the early release day.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

FY12 Budget Discussion

Dr. Rabinovitch presented the proposed budget with a PowerPoint presentation. He showed the Timeline as follows:

October town meeting - \$24,233,387
12/15/10 Town Admin recommended \$23,215,812
2/28/11 Town Admin recommends \$23,595,071
3/29/11 town Admin recommends \$24,394,610
4/15/11 Town Admin recommends \$25,390,574

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Dr Rabinovitch. Discussion held regarding figures, gaps, and staff notices.

Mrs. Veugen made a motion to approve the FY '12 Net school spending of \$25,390,794, seconded by Mr. Swett

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

Ms. Gillette made a motion to approve FY '12 Non Net Spending of \$1,361,652, seconded by Mr. Swett

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mrs. Veugen made a Motion to approve the FY '12 Total Budget of \$26,752,446, seconded by Mr. Swett

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Report of the Chair

Chair Fontes presented a handout with regards to the Superintendent's Advisory Committees.

- Superintendent's Advisory Committee Assignments:
 - Community Relations: Mrs. Veugen and Chair Fontes
 - Curriculum Review: Dr. Sylvia and Mrs. Veugen
 - Emergency Planning: Ms. Gillette and Mr. Swett

- Policy Review Sub-Committee Assignment:
 - Chair – Mr. Swett
 - Dr. Sylvia

Chair Fontes presented a pledge between The Board of Selectmen and The School Committee.

- “2Gether We Will Work As One Unit” – Board of Selectmen and The School Committee – all are excited and on board with this that members of both groups will get together once a month to share thoughts and ideas that can help both groups going forward to better serve the town. Everyone wants to see this happen and we are all here to do what is best for Wareham.

Discussion held regarding this idea.

At the next meeting Dr Sylvia and Chair Fontes will report on the NSBA conference.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Rabinovitch presented the Advanced Studies Program offered to high ability southeastern Massachusetts students this summer. Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. has moved to Stonehill College and the program runs from June 26 – August 6, 2011, for gifted and talented students (8th and 9th grade). It is not really well attended by our students, but we do have some attending. It was noted that the tuition is steep.

Mr. Swett asked if there any scholarships that are offered to students that would like to go but can't afford it. Dr. Rabinovitch stated that we support half a scholarship in our budget.

Mr. Swett asked if there is any indication of the number of students that would apply or does the tuition act as a filter? Dr Rabinovitch stated that the tuition does act as a filter. There is one at Mass Maritime that is less money but still a big expense for families. The deadline for PCC/ASP has already passed and there are waiting lists.

Mrs. Veugen stated that maybe we could find some of the big chain stores, etc. to help sponsor in the future and wanted to know how is word sent out? Dr Rabinovitch stated that predominantly word is spread through guidance, possible good news letters, etc.

Mrs. Veugen stated that maybe a formal letter from the Principal should go out stating the opportunity so that parents know about it and that we could look at that for next year.

Dr Rabinovitch presented information regarding the seminar that he attended regarding MassCore. On April 13, 2011, Ms. Rotella, Mr. Murray (WHS English Department Chair), Mr. Goldman (WHS Guidance Chair) and Dr Rabinovitch went to the seminar that talked about the alignment of curriculum through MassCore. It was to promote the readiness of high school graduates for success in college and careers, as well as promote the success of students in institutions of higher education and in careers.

Dr. Rabinovitch presented information regarding expenditures per pupil in surrounding towns. Expenditures Per Pupil Chart shows that we are currently in the ballpark. Dr. Rabinovitch called Superintendent Farr (Upper Cape Cod Regional Vocational Tech) to ask about the difference in per pupil spending. Dr. Farr stated that the amount represents greater material costs and equipment.

Dr. Rabinovitch presented the evaluation form from Upper Cape that shows the point system that is used to accept students and a slide showing Upper Cape Data on % accepted. In 2009 – 79 accepted; In 2010 – 63 accepted; In 2011 – 53 accepted (first round)

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Any other business

- Dr Rabinovitch stated that he was presenting a handout that was brought to him that day for informational purposes. The letter was asking for approval for immediate purchase of a 9 wheelchair and four seat vehicle. Whaling City, that we currently use, wants to go up from the \$157,000 annually. Acquisition vehicle rationale was explained. It does not have to go out to bid because it is an emergency special education purchase and we have a vendor already. Proposal and specs were attached.

Discussion held regarding repair and maintenance, other options looked at and necessity of purchase.

- It was agreed that Mr. Swett would submit the proposed resolution to MASC.

Mrs. Veugen was willing to nominate any of the members to serve on the MASC 2011-2012 committees.

- Dr. Sylvia asked if the Athletic report would be on the next agenda. Dr. Rabinovitch stated that he is looking to do it when season was over. Dr. Sylvia stated that currently, there is no report, and it was a practice that a report was done at end of every season.

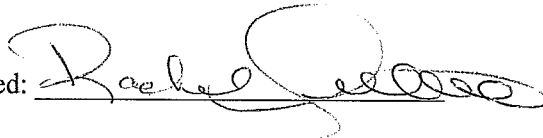
He also asked about the 5 year plan. Dr. Rabinovitch has a meeting that they are welcome to attend on Monday, April 25, at 10:00 with Scott Palladino, Stephen Goldman and Claire Smith from the Alumni Association to flush out the details for implementing the survey.

Dr. Sylvia moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Memorandum from Joan Seamans, Acceptance of Gift, April 8, 2011
School Calendar 2011-2012 Amended
Tentative 2012 Budget Agreement
Wareham Schools 2012 Budget Detail
Town of Wareham Operating Budget 2012
Expenditure Per Pupil Slideshow
Wareham School Department – FY 12 Budget
Carver Public Schools Award Reception Invitation, May 9, 2011
Budget Draft pending all appropriate approvals
Superintendent's Advisory Committee Assignments, 2011-2012
2Gether We Will Work As One Unit Pledge
PCC/ASP Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. Advanced Studies Program
Mass Dept Elementary & Secondary Education MassCore
Special Needs Vehicle Acquisition

