

May 11, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett, Mr. Ken Fontes, Mrs. Rhonda Veugen and student representative, Miss Jessica Hanson as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent was member Rachel Gillette.

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Chair Fontes.

#### **Staff Recognition of Service & Reception**

Dr. Rabinovitch indicated that this evening we would be recognizing staff members who have worked for 30 or 20 years of dedicated service to the children of Wareham.

Principal Joan Seamans from Minot, Hammond and East Schools introduced Judith Trebach and presented her with a certificate and pin for her 20 years of service as a speech pathologist. Other staff members being recognized but not able to attend were Janice St.Pierre, school nurse, Merle Parker, cafeteria worker, and Luana Besse, cafeteria worker.

Principal Christine Panarese from Decas School introduced Sally Morrison and presented her with a certificate and pin for her 20 years of service as a speech pathologist. She then introduced Dori Kais and presented her with a certificate and pin for her 20 years of service as a para and now a teacher.

Principal Palladino from the High School introduced John Duffy and presented him with a certificate and pin for his 30 years of service as a custodian. Ms. Ann Clifford could not be present, but he noted her 30 years of service as a School Psychologist.

Dr. Rabinovitch recognized two staff members who could not be present - Mary Klueber for her 20 years of service as a Cafeteria Worker/Manager at Wareham Middle School and Ramona O'Hearne for her 20 years of service as a Bus Driver and 6 years serving on the School Committee. He then thanked everyone for coming to this recognition celebration.

Chair Fontes called for a 20 minute recess for the reception and then resume the meeting.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

#### **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Rabinovitch announced the following good news:

- Academic All Star Program on April 27<sup>th</sup> where the following WHS students were recognized as academic all stars for 2011: Sean Kinsky, Marley Harunk, Leanne MacDonald, George Andrews, Mary Grace Brogioli
- Decas students winners in the "Kukoo Gets a Life Essay Contest" sponsored by the Wareham Boys & Girls Club – Cecilia Bottino, Aaron Allen-Murdock, Roberto Sandoval, Kaitlyn Kelly
- Makepeace Neighborhood Fund grants:
  - Automated Defibrillator \$2,044
  - TEAM Elmo Gr. 3 \$9,572
  - Life Skills WHS \$7,214
  - More Mini Macs WHS \$4,749
  - STEM Education Robotics WHS \$4,357

Mrs. Veugen wished Mr. & Mrs. Heath, who attend our committee meetings, anniversary wishes. She reported that last Friday she attended the WEA reception honoring 222 years of services for the following retirees: Linda MacKenzie, Jane Stabile, Catherine Jackie, Lance Howlett, Carol Richardson, Nancy Barry, Michele Robillard, Judith Trebach, Elizabeth Lufkin

Dr. Sylvia announced that our buildings are in good shape for their age and thanked our support team for their dedication.

Mr. Swett announced that Barry, Jan and he attended a seminar in Boston on teacher evaluations and was pleased that Wareham has been working on teacher evaluation since October 2009.

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of April 20, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

### **Report of the Student Representative**

Miss Hanson reported on

- A banquet held at Salerno's for students who participated in UMW Prime. These are high school students interested in going into an engineering profession, interested in math or need extra help in math. There is no cost involved to participate in this program.
- Senior exit interviews will be starting in the next week or two.
- Many students AP testing will be finished by end of next week.
- The Viking Theatre Company play is May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>
- A dual enrollment information seminar was held yesterday for sophomores and juniors.

### **Acceptance of Gifts**

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- Books from Carolyn Lessard, book reviewer for the Associated Press to WHS. Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.  
VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0
- A \$200 grant gift from the Commonwealth of Mass, Big Yellow School Bus, for a grade 3 student trip to the Zeiterion for the Decas School. Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.  
VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0
- A \$2,500 grant gift from CVS Caremark Community Grant to purchase playground equipment at the Decas School. Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.  
VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0
- A Mat Board for framing pictures valued at \$2,500 from Gwen Mitchell to WHS. Mr. Swett moved to accept the gift, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.  
VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

### **Presentations by Director of Curriculum & Instruction**

Mrs. Rotella reviewed the Race to the Top (RTT) Grant which is used to support the district strategic plan, the district school improvement plan, and improve student achievement.

Student Achievement is the first goal of the WPS District Strategic Plan. The goals focusing on student achievement are set by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

She described the Reeves' Research which focuses on five concurrent strategies for classroom instruction. Wareham's four initiatives are:

Initiative #1 Supervision & Evaluation – focuses on collaborative planning & data-based decisions and embedded professional development strategies

Initiative #2 Response to Intervention – focuses on professional training, collaboration & coaching and differentiation and multiple opportunities for learning strategies

Initiative #3 Alignment with MassCORE & MA Common Core Frameworks – focuses on planning for curriculum and instruction and professional training, modeling & practice strategies

Initiative #4 Pre-AP Math and Science – focuses on math continuum of aligned curriculum and resources and training strategies

These initiatives are supported by the RTT, target assistance, and MMSI Partnership grants and LEA matching funds.

Student Achievement is measured through student growth and benchmark assessments, observations, review of lesson plans and surveys/interviews of staff, students and parents.

Questions and comments from committee members:

Mrs. Veugen suggested that the evaluation walk through process be addressed in each school improvement plan as a goal and there should be correlation of DESE goals with school goals in the school improvement plan.

Mr. Swett asked to go on record that he rejects categorically the ability and right of the federal government and the state to impose goals on this district.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated for the record that we (Wareham Public Schools) can make far more progress if we are adequately funded.

#### **Request for Trip to Costa Rica**

Teachers Lynn Sykes and Craig Berriault stated that our students gain a world view through these tours which are fun, active and educational. All EF Tours are under guided direction and with teacher chaperones. They reviewed the itinerary with a departure date of February 17, 2012 and a return date of February 25, 2012. The cost is \$1,817 for students, all inclusive package, plus mandatory insurance at \$145 with payment plan options. The group leaders are covered under EF Tours insurance. There will be fund raising opportunities. There are currently 30 committed sophomores and juniors interested in the trip.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that he was in favor of the trip but suggested more lead time between student trips to allow for fundraising.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the student trip to Costa Rica for next February vacation, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

(The Committee took a 5 minute recess.)

#### **2011 Summer Program**

Mrs. Rotella stated that this year's summer programs will focus on student achievement by expanding and extending all students learning opportunities. The programs include:

- WHS Fifth Quarter
- Secondary Success for All in the Summer (SASS)
- Expanded C.A.R.E. and C.A.R.E. Plus (8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition and 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition)
- Elementary Literacy Lab – grade 3 current or entering
- Specialized Extended Year special education
- A.S.L.P. – Advanced Studies Leadership Program (gifted and talented students) at Mass Maritime, grade 7 & 8 STEM focus
- P.C.C. – Advanced Studies Program at Stonehill College – Gr. 8 & 9 humanities, arts, science and technology

Funding for the summer programs is under grants.

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

Chair Fontes stated that he and Dr. Sylvia will report at the next meeting on the NSBA conference and that he will ask for an update from school committee members on reaching out to members of the board of selectmen.

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Rabinovitch reported that after a meeting held with Capital Planning member, Mr. Slavin, Town Administrator, Mr. Andrews, Finance Board member, Mr. Heath, and School Committee members, Mrs. Veugen and Mr. Fontes, it was agreed to check into leasing twenty 77 passenger buses, 12 special needs vehicles, and 2 ambulances and maybe police cruisers by putting out a RFI and each member report back to his/her committees. It was suggested to hold a special town meeting in July to approve funds for the lease. The funds would be under debt per Mr. Andrews.

Dr. Rabinovitch reported on his attendance at a seminar by Apple in Boston. He has a sales meeting this Friday afternoon to locate finances.

Mr. Swett motioned to go beyond 10:00 p.m., seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Dr. Rabinovitch will provide the committee with the plan on infrastructure improvements to be made over the summer.

**Any other business**

Chair Fontes commented on an anonymous letter he received. The Superintendent will converse with the Principal of the Cooperative School. Chair Fontes suggested that the writers of the letter make an appointment with the Superintendent or come to a School Committee meeting to bring their concerns during public participation.

**Executive Session**

Chair Fontes announced that the Committee would be entering into executive session for contract negotiations and review of the executive session minutes of December 8 and December 15, 2010.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Veugen – yea; Dr. Sylvia – yea; Mr. Swett – yea; Mr. Fontes – yea

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Chair Fontes announced that the committee would come out of executive session solely for the purpose of adjournment.

(10:22 p.m.)

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



**List of documents:**

Recognition Night Invitation

Memorandum from Scott Palladino dated May 6, 2011 – 2012 School Vacation Student Trip

Memoranda from Christine Panarese – Requests of Acceptance of Gift

Power Point Presentation Wareham Public Schools District Initiatives

Power Point Presentation Wareham Public Schools Summer Programs 2011