

January 12, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett and Mrs. Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent were members Ken Fontes, Rachel Gillette and student rep, Jessica Hanson.

Chair Sylvia called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He announced even though there was a snow storm the meeting was not cancelled tonight because a presentation of the FY'12 budget needed to be made to the school committee before the public hearing on January 19<sup>th</sup> in order to give the Superintendent time to receive School Committee input.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

#### **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Rabinovitch announced that a donation to Family Pantry - Damien's Place and Community Nurse & Hospice Care was made in name of Nancy Barry, teacher, and the office staff at the Minot Forest School. He also acknowledged many random acts of kindness during the holiday season being done.

There was a DECA Competition on January 6<sup>th</sup> in Marketing and Management. The top 10 students compete in Boston in March for state competition. 40 Wareham students received medals; 35 received plaques; and 15 of these students placed in the top 3. Over 500 students took the test and Wareham had 3 students place in the top. 100% of the participants in Wareham scored above the national average in the written exam. He thanked the chaperones and teacher advisors - Cindy Sylvia, Susan Nobrega and Brian Nobrega.

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

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea - 3; nay - 0; abstain - 0

Minutes of December 15, 2010 - Mrs. Veugen asked to include "The School Committee requested that Principal Palladino come back with a presentation of goals as a result of the discussion."

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2010 as amended, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea - 3; nay - 0; abstain - 0

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

Chair Sylvia read a statement relative to the allegation of an Open Meeting Law violation (see attached).

Dr. Rabinovitch read his letter to the attorney general's office re: Open meeting law complaint dated December 20, 2010.

Chair Sylvia announced the names of the members of the Transportation Subcommittee: Ken Fontes, Geoff Swett, Brenda Ekstrom, Dick Paulsen, Dr. Barry Rabinovitch, Mark Andrews, Mike Schneider, and Ana Miranda.

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

Dr. Rabinovitch announced that the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund is accepting grant applications. The largest single recipient over the years has been the Wareham Public Schools with over \$100,000 for enrichment programs and supplies.

**Report of the Student Representative** -- Miss Hanson was not present.

#### **Acceptance of Gifts**

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended the following gifts be accepted with thanks:

- Light duty shredder from Judy Caron of Buzzards Bay to the Minot Forest School Guidance Office. Mr. Swett moved to approve, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- Two inspirational CDs to the Wareham Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School from School Committee member, Rachel Gillette. Mrs. Veugen moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- \$20,000 from the Maurice & Anne Makepeace Foundation for continuation of the alternative day program at the Wareham Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School. Mrs. Veugen moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

#### **Recommendations from Policy Review Committee**

Mrs. Veugen reviewed the following policies:

Transportation of Drivers' Children – Mr. Tatro, Transportation Manager, presented a policy changing the child's age to 5 years old or a student in the public school system and added language on the physical or emotional condition of the child. Even though these changes would not make any difference to current drivers, this policy would begin for the 2011- 2012 school year.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that this policy is currently being reviewed by counsel at the request of the policy review committee.

Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest – deleted the last sentence and removed “immediate” family member.

Mr. Swett was concerned with the language in Paragraph 4 “that no employee be hired who is a member of the family of a School Committee member or administrator in the school district”.

Dr. Rabinovitch will check with the attorney general's office as to the intent of the new legislation.

Crisis Response - addition of a flip chart

Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response

The Chair asked to table the policies until the next meeting with a full committee.

#### **Request for a Field Trip WHS Students**

Principal Palladino proposed a trip to New York in April for students in the Art Department. This is a one day trip to 2 art museums and a Broadway show. The students are doing fundraising and some grants have been received to help defray the cost (estimate \$40-\$50) and the waiver system will also be used.

Mrs. Veugen asked to have something for the students to walk away with out of this experience which ties into the curriculum.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the field trip as presented, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

#### **FY'12 Budget Presentation**

Budget subcommittee members, Rhonda Veugen and Geoff Swett, gave opening comments.

Dr. Rabinovitch then made the following presentation:

- Timeline and directive to the administrators to present a level service budget and add only what we need to close the achievement gap.
- Achievement graph of state ELA and Math scores compared to Wareham indicating a consistent gap from 2005 to 2010.
- How to eliminate the achievement gap by fully implementing Response to Intervention (RTI); enhancing supervision and instructional leadership; implementing the MA Core Curriculum at WHS. The gap in spending mirrors the gap in achievement. We can't keep doing the same things.
- Chart showing Wareham vs. state in net school spending percentages above or below minimum.
- To be at state average in FY'10 Wareham needed \$2,787,000 additional funds.
- Net School Spending Budget by major categories - District Leadership & Adm.; Instructional Services; Student Services; Operations/Maintenance.; Insurance/Retirement; Leases; Payment to other Districts. 84% of our budget is for Instructional Services and Payments to other Districts.
- The large increase is a result of loss of federal stimulus money (\$741,000 worth of positions); new programs K-8 instructional leaders (\$267,000); contractual obligations (\$517,694); increase in textbooks/materials (\$154,000); and special education tuitions (\$368,000).
- A breakout of the budget by major accounts
- A comparison of Teacher Salary Schedules in area communities
- Non-net School Spending accounts – Transportation and Motor Vehicles totaled a 1.5% increase
- Non-net School spending over the last six years = 0% increase
- A Net School Spending increase of \$2,035,576 or 8.1%
- Total budget request of 7.8% increase
- To decrease the Achievement Gap we need to decrease the Spending Gap.

Dr. Sylvia commented on the downward trend of the gap between the state average and Wareham in ELA, the increase in textbooks for math and science, the building maintenance increase with the age of our buildings and the increases in out of district tuitions.

Mrs. Veugen asked that we continue to educate the public on grant funds.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that Wareham's per pupil spending in 2009 was \$11,500 per student with all grant funds included and the state average was \$13,500.

Mr. Swett announced that the budget subcommittee will be meeting after the public hearing to decide what their recommendation will be to the School Committee with respect to this budget. He personally would not support this budget if he did not see changes being recommended that affect student achievement, i.e., RTI (student centered) and increase emphasis on instructional leadership of staff.

#### Any other business

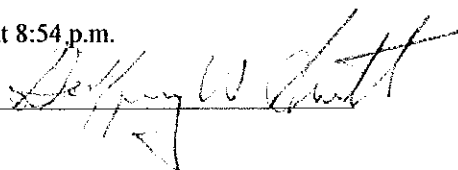
Dr. Rabinovitch announced that the CARE Program is having a presentation 5:30 p.m. on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast is on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Boys & Girls Club.

Mrs. Veugen asked that Dr. Rabinovitch's budget presentation be put on the school system's website for public review.

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

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

#### List of documents:

Statement from Dr. Clifford Sylvia, Chair – January 12, 2011

Letter to Office of Attorney General Re: Open Meeting Law Complaint dated December 20, 2010 from Dr. Barry Rabinovitch

Memo from Joan Seamans dated December 16, 2010 Acceptance of Gift

Letter from Rachel Gillette dated January 2, 2011 Re: Donation of 2 CD's, "No Arms, No Legs, No Worries"

Letter from Eric H. Strand dated December 21, 2010 RE: The Maurice and Anne Makepeace Family Foundation – 2010 Grant

Policy Review Minutes from December 13, 2010 with attached policies

Memo dated December 9, 2010 from Scott Palladino Subject: School Committee Proposal

2012 Budget Presentation