

January 27, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members in attendance were Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett, Mr. Ken Fontes, Ms. Rachel Gillette, and Mrs. Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch and recording secretary, Mrs. Michelle Ruiz. Absent was student representative, Jessica Hanson.

Chair Sylvia announced that this meeting was the snow date posted due to the cancellation of the regular meeting of January 26, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch

- The CARE Program for elementary and middle school students had a demonstration of student work at the Middle School on Monday evening
- He read a thank you from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education on the SIMS, EPIMS, and SCS collection recognizing the work of our secretarial staff.

Mr. Fontes commended Brenda Ekstrom for taking the lead to get a rally organized to Stop the Violence and getting the schools involved.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Gillette moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Mr. Swett asked to correct the misspelling of Mr. "Schneider's" name.

Ms. Gillette withdrew her motion, since she did not attend the meeting of January 12th, Mrs. Veugen, her second.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2011 as corrected, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain -2 (Ms. Gillette, Mr. Fontes)

Mr. Swett asked to correct the vote taken by the Selectmen on the Statement of Interest to "Vote 3-0-0" since Mrs. Winslow had left the meeting prior to the discussion.

Mrs. Veugen asked to change the date to January 19, "2011".

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2011, as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Report of the Chair

Dr. Sylvia commented that the tone of the last meeting with Board of Selectmen went well.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Rabinovitch reported that the budget subcommittee attended a meeting on Monday with the Town Administrator, the Town Accountant, 3 members of the Board of Selectmen and members of the finance committee to discuss the formation of an ad hoc committee. It was the sentiment of the group to have a representative from each board go back to their board and ask for approval of the formation of an ad hoc budget committee and have two members from each board be assigned to attend the ad hoc budget meetings along with the Town Moderator, the Superintendent, and the Town Administrator.

Dr. Sylvia will take this matter up under new business.

Student Rep's Report – Miss Hanson was not present.

Recommendations from Policy Review Committee

- **State Ethic & Conflict of Interest**

Mr. Swett suggested the following changes: next to last paragraph which reads. "at no time may any administrator "be" responsible.... "being" directly related to him/her. And after "School Committee member" delete "or administrator" from the final paragraph. This change in language allows a teacher in one school to be related to an administrator in another school.

Mr. Swett moved to amend the policy with the above changes, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

Mrs. Veugen will let the policy review committee know of this change

VOTE on the amendment: yeas – 4; nays – 1; abstain – 1 (Cliff)

VOTE on the motion as amended: yeas – 4; nays – 0; abstain – 1 (Cliff)

- **Crisis Response**

The recommended change was to add Emergency Protocols (flip chart)

Mr. Swett moved to amend the 2nd sentence ...emergencies "which may cause or are" causing, seconded by Ms. Gillette. The amendment and second were withdrawn.

Mr. Swett moved to amend the policy to delete the second sentence, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE on the amendment: yeas – 5; nays – 0; abstain – 0

VOTE on the motion as amended: yeas – 5; nays – 0; abstain – 0

- **Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response**

Mr. Swett moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yeas – 5; nays – 0; abstain – 0

- **Transportation of Drivers' Children**

Mrs. Veugen stated that this policy continues to be debated. It addresses drivers transporting their own children. Mr. Tatro gave his recommendation which is in front of you. The policy review committee did not have a unanimous vote. Mr. Tatro informed the policy review committee that no issues exist at this time and the policy would be enforced for the 2011-12 school year.

Ms. Gillette stated that she did not agree with the policy and she does not want to lose a driver over this.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the last paragraph makes this a privilege and gives management rights. This was a compromise of the policy review committee.

The committee discussed perception and liability of the policy and the criteria for this privilege to be granted is a judgment call.

VOTE motion to table: yea – 2 (Ms. Gillette, Mr. Fontes); nay – 3 (Mr. Swett, Mrs. Veugen, Dr. Sylvia)

Mrs. Veugen suggested having the bullets listed under the statement section be discussed again by the policy review committee

Mr. Swett moved that the policy is to not allow. No second.

Ms. Gillette moved to refer the policy back to the policy review committee for consideration, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE; yea – 4; nay - 1 (Mr. Swett); abstain - 0

- **Emergency Health Procedures**

There were no changes made by the policy review committee. The policy was reviewed by the School Nurse.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the Emergency Health Procedures policy, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- **Cleaning Up Spills of Body Fluids**

Based on recommendations from the school nurse the policy review committee cleaned up some of the language.

Some of the committee members expressed concern over disposal of the body fluids as infectious waste, so the committee asked Superintendent Rabinovitch to investigate this matter more with the school nurses and get back to the School Committee.

No action taken on this policy.

- **Measuring Body Mass Index**

This is a new policy that is important to have because of anticipated questions from parents. This procedure must be implemented by June 30, 2011 and the attached letter will be sent home to parents/guardians.

Mr. Swett asked that this data be available to calculate aggregated median BMI as an indicator relating to our physical education program.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the policy on Measuring Body Mass Index, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- **Administration of Medications**

Ms. Gillette stated that grammatical changes were made and the last sentence in #1 – log medication was added. The policy review committee decided to remove the section on implementation of life threatening allergy and address it as a separate policy to be reviewed later.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the policy on Administration of Medications, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

The telephone numbers listed on the letter to parents will be updated as follows: Phone # Braley 291-3586 and ext. 5158 for St.Pierre

VOTE as corrected: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Update on School Improvement Goals

Principal Seamans introduced her parent council members – Jamie Pelletier, Ann Cote and Jerry Young. She updated the committee on the school improvement goals as follows:

- Literacy goal updates and areas still needing to do with the Summative and Formative Assessments being used
- Mathematics goal updates and areas still needing to do with Summative and Formative Assessments being used
- Professional Development opportunities
- MCAS goal for ELA and Math
- Technology training, assessment, equipment and learning
- Community outreach areas
- Resources

Topics discussed by the committee members included Skype, literacy and mathematics coaches with implementing RTI, website parent sign-up to push out information, teacher prep time, assessments, blast programs, NAEP selection, common school wide assessments.

Vote on FY'12 School Budget

Dr. Rabinovitch recommend that the School Committee approve a non net school spending budget of \$1,490,268 and a net school spending budget of \$27,091,413 for FY'12 with the understanding that if an agreement is reached by an ad hoc budget committee, he will come back to the School Committee to reconsider this vote.

Dr. Sylvia asked for the recommendation of the budget subcommittee.

Mr. Swett stated that cuts have to be made on the school budget and he agrees with the numbers presented by the superintendent. The ad hoc committee needs to come together with a consensus to bring the town budget into balance. He supports the superintendent's recommendation.

Mrs. Veugen stated that she supports the superintendent's recommendation but hard choices need to be made with an open mind to the ad hoc meetings.

Mr. Swett moved to approve a non net school budget of \$1,490,268, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Ms. Gillette moved to approve a net school budget of \$27,091,413, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the FY'12 school budget of \$28,581,681, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Vote to Decrease FY'11 School Budget per April Town Meeting

A reduction amount of \$407,660 is to be backfilled with EduJobs grant money received from the state.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the reductions in the FY'11 Budget as presented, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

Mr. Swett explained that on town meeting floor this past April \$822,660 was reduced from the school budget with an addition of \$417,000 from free cash leaving a net loss of \$407,660.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Monthly Financial Statement

Ms. Miranda reviewed the monthly financial statement by major accounts and any significant changes.

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of the following gifts with thanks.

Mr. Swett moved to accept 20 compaq computers from the U.S. Army to the ROTC classroom and computer lab at Wareham High School, seconded by Ms. Gillette.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Ms. Gillette moved to accept \$1,537 from the Dick Melloni Youth Foundation to the Hammond School towards RIF books for students, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Any other business

Chair Sylvia announced the need to take a vote on participating on the AdHoc Committee which is meeting tomorrow. This item was not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting.

Mr. Fontes asked that one of our reps bring to the attention of the AdHoc that their meetings should be open to the public.

Mr. Fontes moved to participate in the AdHoc Committee on the budget, seconded by Ms. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The Chair appointed Geoff Swett and Rhonda Veugen to represent the School Committee on the Ad Hoc Budget Committee.

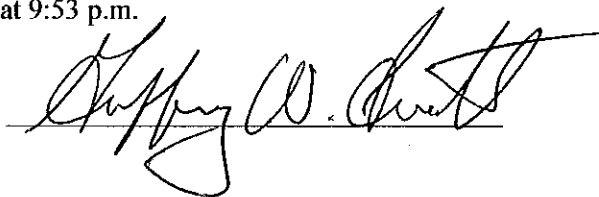
Chair Sylvia announced that in light of working with the Ad Hoc Budget Committee, the Chair is disbanding the budget subcommittee at this time and recommends that the superintendent has an advisory committee he can work with for budget input.

Chair Sylvia expressed the need to meet next Wednesday for committee reports and review bids on transportation.

No meeting was set. These items will be taken up on the February 9th agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Swett", written over a horizontal line.

List of documents:

Policy Review Committee minutes of January 28, 2011
Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy
Transportation of Drivers' Children Policy
Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response Policy
Policy on Crisis Response
Policy for Measuring Body Mass Index (Wareham Public Schools)
Cleaning Up Spills of Body Fluids Policy
Administration of Medications Policy
Emergency Health Procedures
School Improvement Plan Review – Minot Forest, Ethel E. Hammond, and East Wareham
Schools Power Point 1/21/2011
Memorandum to Dr. Barry Rabinovitch from Ana Miranda Re: Education Jobs Grant 12/23/10
Wareham School Function Summary January 20, 2011
WPS Monthly Financial Report 1/26/11 Power Point
Email from Scott Palladino Subject: Gift 01/04/11
Letter from Nancy Ames to Dr. Rabinovitch – January 10, 2010 Gift