

February 2, 2011

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2011, at the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Dr. Cliff Sylvia, Mr. Geoff Swett, Ms. Rachel Gillette, and Mrs. Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent, Dr. Rabinovitch and recording secretary, Mrs. Prada. Absent were members Mr. Ken Fontes and student representative, Miss Jessica Hanson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was scheduled for a particular purpose.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

Transportation Department

Power Point Presentation – School Bus Transportation Bid (handout)

Dr. Rabinovitch reviewed the following:

- Bid specifications
- Bid Results - 4 qualified bidders
 - Tremblays
 - Birnie Bus (from New York)
 - First Student
 - Durham (#2 in the State)
- Low bid was Durham
- Presented Lowest bid vs Wareham
- Replacing the fleet
 - Would need to replace 29 vehicles to make average age 2.8 years old
 - Cost would be \$2,526,373.33

It was stated that field trips and athletic costs are not part of this price. A fee is charged to those groups. The plan would be to replace another 16 buses, getting us on a regular replacement schedule.

Dr. Rabinovitch suggested a proposal to the appropriate boards to increase the meals tax in order to fund this capital expense.

Discussion ensued as to the number of buses to be replaced each year, the average age of the fleet, the cost of replacement and support from the town.

Mr. Swett stated that the AdHoc budget committee will be looking at and receiving a presentation from the capital planning committee.

Mr. Tatro, Transportation Manager, was present and agreed with Dr. Rabinovitch that it is more cost effective for Wareham Public Schools to provide the transportation to Wareham students.

Mrs. Veugen made a motion to continue with providing our own transportation and not accept any bids, seconded by Mr. Swett.

It was suggested and agreed to that a report of any discussions with the town administrator for replacing our bus fleet be on the agenda.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Report from Transportation Director – Jeff Tatro
Status update (handout)

Inspections

- One bus was unable to be inspected
- 47 out 48 inspected – up 10% from last time in regards to pass/fail
- 75% pass rate
- Inspected 3 times a year; end of April is the next inspection

Mrs. Veugen asked if this inspection could be posted somewhere for people to see.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that it can be put on the website.

Staffing

- Brought in three more drivers and two more monitors

Vehicles and Maintenance

- Preventative maintenance program every 4,500 miles

Safety

- A safety in-service meeting in February

Policy on Transportation of Drivers' Children

The committee members expressed their concerns to Mr. Tatro as to the age of the drivers' children on their bus, perception in this situation, liability, and communication to parents.

Chair Sylvia asked that this policy be sent back to the policy review committee for further discussion.

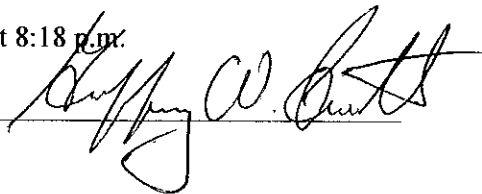
Any other business

Mr. Swett moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Gillette

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Wareham Public Schools Bus Bid – Sealed Bids were opened on December 20, 2010
February 2, 2011 Status Update Transportation Department
Bus Fleet Inspection Report