

February 29, 2012

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, and Rhonda Veugen as well as Dr. Rabinovitch, Superintendent, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent were members Cliff Sylvia, Rachel Gillette, and student rep, Jessica Hanson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Swett

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch read a report from the Nye Scholarship Trust. Six students who received the Nye Scholarship recently graduated from Suffolk University, Bridgewater State, UNH, University of Tampa, and Sacred Heart University with GPAs of 3.07, 3.81, two with 3.67, and two with 3.48. He congratulated both the students and the high school staff for getting the students ready to compete. Dr. Rabinovitch will ask for a similar report from the Barth Foundation.

Dr. Rabinovitch shared that 23 younger students who participate in Wareham Tigers Football Program will be honored as All-Scholastic Athletes at Gillette Stadium on March 31st. The Tigers organization will be making a donation for the fields.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2012 Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2012, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the minutes of January 25, 2012, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2012, seconded by Mr. Fontes

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

School Committee Reports

Policy Review – Mrs. Veugen reviewed the Concussion policy, which was approved as an interim policy. The Policy Review Committee recommends the following changes: from 7-12 to K-12; coach provides copies of appropriate paperwork; physician makes the determination return to play; keeping records from 3 to 7 years.

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the policy as recommended with changes, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Budget Advisory – Dr. Rabinovitch reported that the directors, Chair Swett and Ken Fontes, by conference call, with him and began a line-by-line item analysis of the FY'13 budget to see where we could trim. If the budget is level funded, a 1.7 million dollar cut would be required (10% cut to all major line items, which means 25 staff members cut and class size up in all grades). He will be prepared to discuss specific line item cuts at the next meeting of the advisory committee.

Action Committee – Chair Swett reported on the meeting held tonight. Privatization or staying in house was not formally decided by a vote and is still on the agenda, but the numbers clearly support keeping transportation in-house. We cannot afford either choice with the revenue stream for capital expenses of the fleet. The following options are being explored: 1) debt exclusion - spread cost of five buses every year, which will cost the median taxpayer approximately \$30 per year. The Board of Selectmen must vote to place this on the ballot if Town Meeting says yes. 2) Some reduction in services and/or fees to ride the bus and in addition get some percent of the meals tax to support the effort of purchasing buses on an annual basis.

FinCom Meeting Request – Chair Swett relayed the Finance Committee's request for the School Committee to present a level funded budget and the consequences of this type of budget to the school system at its meeting on March 7th at 6:00 p.m. The Finance Committee has also asked for a joint FinCom, Board of Selectmen, and School Committee meeting to bring order to the FY'13 budget which Chair Swett initially agreed to but wanted committee member's input.

Mr. Fontes supported the idea of the meeting. Mrs. Veugen supported the meeting but wanted to have the objective of the meeting first.

The School Committee gave its formal consent of a joint meeting with the objectives outlined first.

Request from the Class of 2013 for Senior Prom

Judi Debonise, Class Advisor, along with the Head of the Prom Committee and Class President requested that the Senior Prom for the Class of 2013 be held at Christina's in Foxboro on May 18, 2013.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the request from the Class of 2013 for Senior Prom, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rabinovitch updated the committee on the status of the Minot Forest School project. The MSBA liaison has been contacted, the status of compliance form was signed and mailed, and a building committee is being established. Under a feasibility study the building committee will put out a RFQ for a construction management company and for an architect (traffic, geological, site drawing) then MSBA votes to allow a design plan.

Chair Swett appointed himself and Mrs. Veugen as representatives to the building committee.

Program of Studies WHS 2012-13

Principal Palladino and Assistant Principal Freitas presented the course of studies with input from students and staff. The changes are as follows:

- Updated graduation requirements with Mass Core requirements
- Added course in Child Care to Career & Tech instead of Business Department
- ELA – added Age of Mythology and Critical Writing as electives

- Fine Arts added Plastics Arts
- Foreign Language – added French 1 and Spanish 1 Honors
- Math – Problem Solving for STEM course as an elective
- Physical Education – new course Leadership and PE Gr.11-12
- SS – include American Politics, Case Studies in Law as a semester course, Intro to Political Science, Mass Studies, Psychology as a semester course, JROTC one year to equate as a PE requirement for one year

There were questions and comments from the committee members.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the Program of Studies for 2012-2013 as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Vote on Articles for 2012 April Town Meeting

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that March 9th is the last day to submit articles for the warrant. He read each of the articles and the explanations.

- Debt exclusion – purchase new or used vehicles for transportation department

Mr. Swett explained that debt exclusion is a temporary increase in property taxes to cover the cost in incurring the debt. He stated that this debt exclusion could be an annual event.

\$24.48 on a median tax bill for one year payoff or less if borrowed over more years.

Mrs. Veugen moved to support the article as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Debt exclusion – funding repairs to WHS gymnasium roof

\$7.48 on median tax bill for a one year payoff

Mrs. Veugen suggesting adding to the explanation the cost and types of repairs done and perhaps pictures.

Mrs. Veugen moved to support the article as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Debt exclusion – funding the purchase of instructional materials in the classrooms

\$23.19 on median tax bill for a one year payoff.

Chair Swett stated that the Chair of the FinCom recommended this article since there is more than a five year life span on textbooks and technology spread out over a number of years.

Mrs. Veugen stated that this is a way to close the gap between the School Committee budget and Town Administrator's budget and we are not asking for more money.

Mrs. Veugen moved to support the article as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Debt exclusion – Minot Forest Elementary School Feasibility Study MSBA Grant program

All debt exclusion articles add up to \$1,386,000 or \$100.00 per median tax payer and could be less spread over more years.

Mrs. Veugen moved to support the article as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Dr. Rabinovitch explained the revolving accounts formed under Ch.43, which is town law and limits the amount of total expenditures to 1% of the previous year's tax levy. The articles are asking to reconfigure the revolving accounts under Ch. 71, school law.

- Ch. 71, Section 71F – special education tuition revolving fund

Mr. Fontes moved support the article as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Ch. 71, Section 47 – preschool and kindergarten revolving fund

Mr. Fontes moved support the article as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Ch.44, Sec.53E ½ transfer to new revolving account special education tuition under Ch. 71, Section 71F

Mr. Fontes moved support the article as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Ch.44, Sec 53E ½ transfer to new revolving account preschool/kindergarten tuition under Ch. 71, Section 47

Mr. Fontes moved support the article as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Establish a School Building Committee for the Minot Forest Elementary School project

Mrs. Veugen would like to have the community representatives be experienced architects, engineers, and/or in the construction field.

Mrs. Veugen moved to support the article as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Dr. Rabinovitch asked to have another article considered:

- To see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of funding the purchase of new or used vehicles for the school transportation department or take any action relative thereto.

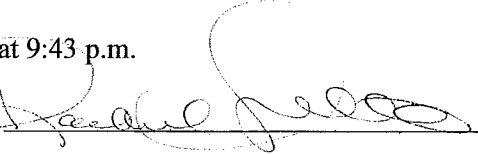
Dr. Rabinovitch would like to use the current revolving account to purchase vehicles for transportation.

Chair Swett asked to hold off on voting this article until next week's meeting and asked Dr. Rabinovitch to check the charter language first and get feedback from Capital Planning and the Town Administrator.

Mrs. Veugen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Concussion Policy

Memorandum School Committee Proposal – Class of 2013 Prom

Program of Studies 2012-2013 w/ changes

School Department Articles – April 2012

