

March 21, 2012

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Cliff Sylvia, Rhonda Veugen, and Jessica Hanson as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair 7:04 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jane Barboza, parent of a student at Wareham High School, brought a complaint against Dean Cinelli and Principal Palladino for not communicating back to her about a situation in the classroom with her daughter and another student. Ms. Barboza expressed her feelings that the type of behavior displayed by the other student should not have occurred nor should it be tolerated.

Chair Swett informed Ms. Barboza that her complaint and the incident will be investigated.

Rabinovitch stated that he had not received Ms. Barboza's email and he will investigate her complaint and speak with Principal Palladino.

Mr. Fontes asked for the Dr. Rabinovitch to report back to the committee at the next meeting.

#### **GOOD NEWS**

The following good news was shared:

- The Destination Imagination Team from the Middle School will be moving on to the state tournament on March 31<sup>st</sup>; the Minot Forest team placed second and the High School team came in third.
- List of college acceptances received thus far for the Class of 2012
- A 24-1 record for the Boys' Basketball team this season; congratulations to Coach Brogioli, the A.D., the team and fans for their attendance
- Decas School PTA is rebuilding the playground
- 15-20 students went to the DECA state competition and 7 students are going on to national competition – proud of this academic achievement. DECA generates more competent, articulate young adults in seeking employment in these tough times.
- Student Rep, Jessica has been accepted to five colleges so far
- Chair Swett participated in the YMCA – Boys & Girls Club job preparation interview and job preparation skills workshop
- Wareham Works this year about education. The DECA students will be doing a presentation for the Wareham Public Schools and manning the table promoting the programs offered at Wareham High School.
- Annual Talent Show and a Visual and Performing Arts Show coming at the High School

**Minutes of the Meeting**

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the minutes of February 29, 2012 seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2012 seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Progress Report INFORM**

Making a presentation were Robert Louzan, Director of Student Services, Teri DeFilippo, Coordinator of Technology, and Ted Linquist, Director of Technology in Farmington CT and Trainer of Pearson INFORM.

Mr. Louzan gave an overview of the training done so far in the district and handed out a copy of the Academic Improvement Plan & SMART Goal.

Mr. Linquist gave a demo of INFORM at the district level; building level; teacher level; and individual student then shared Wareham's data at the district level to date.

Mr. Louzan stated that the next steps are to have the Instructional Leaders gather information and have it placed on a common template.

Dr. Rabinovitch addressed the current formative assessments done in Wareham.

Questions and comments were received from the committee members. The next update to INFORM will be in late fall.

**School Committee Reports**

- Policy Review Committee Recommendations  
Use of Facilities – identified the decisions to be made at the building level and Superintendent level

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the Use of Facilities policy as amended, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Network Acceptable Use – one addition added in Introduction paragraph. Chair Swett was concerned with the infrastructure that exists to make it easier to bully.

(Mr. Fontes left the meeting room 8:28 p.m.)

Dr. Sylvia moved accept the Network Acceptable Use policy as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Distribution of Condoms – no changes

Dr. Sylvia moved accept the Distribution of Condoms policy with no changes, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education - changes made around timeline decisions.

(Mr. Fontes returned to the meeting 8:32 p.m.)

Dr. Sylvia moved accept the Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education policy as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Designer Selection Committee – Master Plan Study – Dr. Rabinovitch reported that the Designer Selection Committee interviewed two architectural firms and offered the Master Plan Study to SMMA. He now must put together a contract with a price and will have a recommendation for the School Committee at the next meeting.
- Action Committee – Plan B Transportation – Mr. Swett reported that the Action Committee met five times and is unable to resolve any issue on any agenda. It was agreed to meet again when the Town Administrator is ready to present his summary from colleagues relative to privatization vs. town operation of transportation.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

- Superintendent's Budget Advisory – Dr. Rabinovitch moved into the budget discussion item for a presentation.

#### **FY'13 Budget Discussion & Vote**

Dr. Rabinovitch's power point presentation included the following information:

- Cost of amending the FY13 budget
- How to eliminate the achievement gap
- Net School Spending \$1,804,576 increase or 7.1%
- Town Meeting Article 20 – explanation texts/technology – currently in our budget – need approval at town meeting and the Selectmen's vote to place on this item on the ballot
- Town Meeting Article 26 – explanation – teacher layoffs
- Proposed new Net School Spending is \$27,195,370 less the two articles \$341,000 and \$780,000 = \$26,074,370. Using the Draft budget by the Town Administrator \$25,003,019 leaves a shortfall of \$1,041,351 in cuts. This is not level funded.
- In order to reach a level funded budget, cuts recommended in tutoring, no free summer school at the middle school, additional staff cuts, custodial, secretarial and administration costs cut, sub & misc cuts, and savings from retirement replacements totaling \$676,135. He informed the Committee that the FinCom will cut us below level funded if we keep our current proposed budget.
- Additional items for discussion with new figure from the Town Administrator today would result in cuts in extracurricular, sports, and instructional leaders for a total of \$223,747.
- Four Year Comparison Municipal vs. School (no in kind on either side) town 2.25 increase; school 1.25 increase

Dr. Rabinovitch explained that it's not our expenditures; it's our revenue. That's why we're asking for override and debt exclusion so town citizens can make that decision.

Strategy: Newsletter; empower parents; attend town meeting; vote on April 3<sup>rd</sup>; contact elected officials

Chair Swett explained the Non Net School Spending – Transportation budget.

- ❖ Plan A is the January 25<sup>th</sup> vote - operating budget with school share of meals tax and capital planning funds is no longer available
- ❖ Plan B – lower level funded operating budget, take surplus in revolving account to create a balanced operating budget. The use our share of meals tax plus a debt exclusion will create a break even operation and a replacement of a fleet. The problem is debt exclusion is an unknown, meals tax is unavailable, and no consensus among political leaders of town to support debt exclusion.
- ❖ Plan C – under consideration – lower level operating budget and use revolving surplus but replacement of vehicles would require reducing services Gr.7-12 and students less than 2 miles away not being transported. Also requires bus fees of \$90-\$100 per child – fleet age would average to 10 years.

Dr. Sylvia stated that the Committee has a moral obligation. There are risk factors for kids walking our streets with few sidewalks in town. He asked that the cut strategy presented tonight remain fluid with more input. He will not approve cuts that dismantle the academic framework of the Wareham Public Schools.

Mr. Fontes asked to look into the potential closing of the Cooperative School as an option.

Mrs. Veugen asked to look at “non essential” items. It is important to show we are willing to make the cuts and vote in a new budget number.

Chair Swett reported that no agreement was reached at last Saturday’s meeting, but there will be significant cuts on the town side of government as well.

Chair Swett recommended reducing Non Net Spending to \$1,341,652, the number in the Town Administrator’s budget, which will require the revolving funds to supplement our transportation budget with the hope of passing debt exclusion for vehicles. He then recommended the debt exclusion for texts/technology and an override to reduce teacher layoffs combined value of \$1,121,000 bringing the Net School Spending to \$26,074,370.

Mrs. Veugen moved to reduce the Non Net Spending by \$243,625 to \$1,341,652, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the Net School Spending budget to \$26,074,370, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Chair Swett announced a FinCom meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. at Multiservice Center for budget discussions. Mr. Swett, Mrs. Veugen and Dr. Sylvia will all attend.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the FY’13 Budget at \$27,416,022, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 1 (Dr. Sylvia); abstain - 0

(Dr. Sylvia left the meeting room at 9:51 p.m.)

**Request to Transfer Funds**

Ms. Miranda recommended an appropriation budget transfer in the FY'12 budget of \$12,923 in order to pay for the system IT Specialist from the Para account to System IT account.

Mrs. Veugen moved the recommendation for the budget transfer of \$12,923, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Financial Reports**

Ms. Miranda reviewed major budget account balances including substitute teachers.

(Dr. Sylvia returned to the meeting at 9:56 p.m.)

Mrs. Veugen moved to continue the meeting past 10:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

(Miss Hanson left the meeting at 9:58 p.m.)

Ms. Miranda reported that as of two weeks ago only essential purchasing is allowed. She will do further projections in salary accounts and will be bulk purchasing with Barnstable County for paper again. Less has been expended in the heating accounts at this time last year and more in utilities.

There is a 2.5% variance in net school spending and 4.5% in non net spending accounts. There has been no significant activity in the revolving accounts since the last report.

**Mid Cycle Review of Goals** – Due to the hour, the mid cycle review of goals by Superintendent Rabinovitch will be reported at the next meeting.

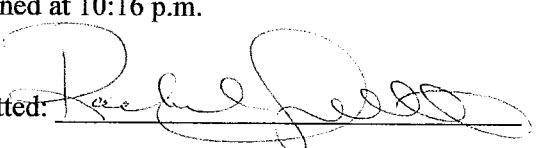
**Any other business**

A transportation report from Mr. Tatro will be scheduled for a future meeting.

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

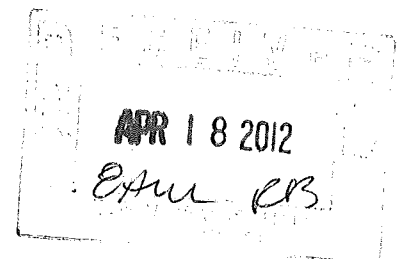
VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

**List of documents:**

Class of 2012 College Acceptances  
Academic Improvement Plan & SMART Goal  
Policy and Regulations Governing Use of Facilities  
Network Acceptable Use  
Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education  
Distribution of Condoms  
3/21/12 Powerpoint - The Cost of Amending the Budget for FY 2013  
Transportation Plan B  
FY'13 Reductions for Level Funded Budget 3.16.12



1/25/12 NSS and NNS – Transportation Plans

Appropriation Budget Transfer FY'12

2012 March Financial Report – Revolving Accounts – School Function Summary

Mid-Cycle Goals Review