

April 25, 2012

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, and Jessica Hanson as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swett at 7:03 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

- Principal Panarese and Jennifer MacKerron of the Decas Playground Committee thanked the school and community for its support in raising approximately \$30,000 through fundraisers, grant support and donations over the last fifteen months for the playground. They presented a slideshow of the playground which has become a community place to gather.
- Dr. Rabinovitch shared the following good news:
 - a. Minot student contest winners for the MARC bullying awareness contest. The students are invited to a ceremony at Bridgewater State College on May 1st.
 - b. The Southcoast Academic All Stars luncheon honoring our top five WHS students.
 - c. Foundation for Wareham Education awarded six monetary awards to the following teachers totaling \$2,580: Kate Lyons, Peace Team; Craig Berriault, study of Crested Grekos ; Kathy Moore-Minkle, increase parent engagement; Amy Dion, student field trip to NYC ; Sarah Haskell, creating a piece of art for the school. The Foundation's next event is a "Taste of Wareham" on May 18th 6-10 p.m. at Tihonet Marketplace with student musicians playing.
- Mrs. Veugen was pleased that the symphony came to the Hammond School to play for students and thanked the citizens for coming out to Town Meeting the past two evenings and for supporting the article to go onto the ballot for instructional materials and technology

(Jessica arrived 7:18 p.m.)

- Miss Hanson shared that the spring concert is tomorrow evening at WHS & the Drama performance is on May 10-12th. Also as news MCAS and AP tests are coming up.
- Mr. Swett shared the following:
 - a. It is necessary for town meeting to authorize the borrowing for debt exclusion. Now the Board of Selectmen needs to approve to place this on the ballot for citizens to vote. The override is necessary to cover this school year's budget because of lack of revenue. If approved, this means the town now has \$780,000 of additional revenue each year into the general fund and establishes a new base to build in support of the schools.
 - b. At the NSBA conference, he was proud of our school district for its work on organization and instruction specifically Instructional Leaders and RTI and the work on evaluation of our educators is at the cutting edge. One place Wareham needs improvement is in technology as it relates to curriculum/data collection.
- Dr. Rabinovitch shared that in a telephone conference with John Foster and the MSBA Wareham has to borrow the full, \$575,000 for the Minot Forest Feasibility Study, but there is a 14 day bill turn around on receiving 60% back to pay off borrowed amount. Mr. Foster is working on a spreadsheet of per \$1,000 to inform the voters at Town Meeting.

NEASC Reaccreditation Report

Principal Palladino reviewed the process of the High School accreditation site visit and the roll out of the final report. Wareham High School has received accreditation with a warning status. One third of the recommendations must be completed with evidence within 18 months. By February 2013 we will have a priority list. If the priority list is not done WHS will be placed on probation effective immediately and will have the next 3 ½ years to comply.

- Steering Committee was recognized
- Commendations and Recommendations summary
 1. Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Standards
 2. Curriculum
 3. Instruction
 4. Assessment of and for Student Learning
 5. School Culture and Leadership
 6. School Resources for Learning
 7. Community Resources for Learning
- Follow up Committee established
- Next Steps – Roll out Report – Prioritize Recommendations – Special Report due Feb. 1, 2013 – Establish two-year report committee

The committee commented on the following recommendations: school culture commendation; ROTC and DECA programs mentioned throughout; capstone activities are on a cutting edge; community is a great supporter of the schools; recognition of students having at least one individual in the school as mentorship besides the counselor;

Principal has trust of supervisor to do the job; happy with class size in guidance and infrastructure and block scheduling.

A Recommendations summary handout was highlighted by color:

green – items to be taken care of right away

yellow – items having some financial implications

red – items requiring funding

The School Committee will receive a report when the green recommendations have been met and an update on the other items will also be given.

School Committee comments on recommendations included: insufficient time to write and revise curriculum that serves 21st century learning standards; recommendation for collaboration of Department Heads and Curriculum Director; lack of communication between high school and sending school; common template; vertical articulation should be two way; not using rubrics; not rest our hats on teachers doing more with less; common planning; School Committee as a stakeholder was not involved in core values

Ms. Freitas, Assistant Principal, reminded the committee that the self study was done two years ago and since then communication has improved with ILs; teachers are provided regular formal dedicated time to discuss all forms of student assessment with new schedule and instituting INFORM

(Mr. Flaherty left meeting room 9:50 p.m. – 9:54 p.m.)

Mrs. Veugen moved to continue the meeting past the hour of 10PM, seconded by Dr. Sylvia

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

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

Mid Cycle Review of Goals

Dr. Rabinovitch gave his mid cycle review of goals report. The Chair asked that written comments from members be given to the Chair to be addressed at another meeting.

- Student Performance - based on assessment of need and district readiness and resulting design – progress Teachers 21, RTI training and implementation, INFORM training, 80%/15%/5% in progress
- Student Achievement – provide a system of integrated programs and curriculum – walk throughs, new INFORM, Literacy/ELA, District Leadership Cabinet, Evaluation Sub-Committee
- Technology – integrated technology instruction - iPads, better utilize district and school websites to communicate with parents and the community, point of contact, social networking, long-term plan, wireless feasibility study to develop plan for expanding wireless infrastructure, survey staff in progress, embed technology benchmarks in Core Curricula
- Community – partnerships with parents & school community, expansion of power school in elementary, partnerships with the community and school community to enhance global education, communicating the needs of the district and students to the general community
- Resources – improve physical space of facilities to maximize educational opportunities – facility space needs study, Be Safe Program, Emergency Closing Policy, collaboration youth sports and community organizations, Minot SOI

Award of Contract – Master Study

Not addressed due to time.

Committee Assignments

Chair Swett announced that he was not on an assignment but will pitch in when someone cannot make it. The following assignments were given:

Superintendent's Advisory Curriculum/Technology – Dr. Sylvia, Mrs. Veugen

Superintendent's Advisory Budget – Mr. Fontes, Mr. Flaherty for FY14 (continue with Mr. Fontes and Mr. Swett for FY'13)

Policy Review – Mr. Fontes as Chair, Mr. Flaherty (upcoming school year)

CCC – Mr. Swett

VIP – Mrs. Veugen, Mr. Fontes – recommendation to School Committee

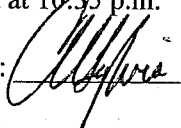
Any other business

Chair will meet with Superintendent to look at the schedule of meetings, agendas, and times.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Good News Student Awards for Bullying Awareness Contest

Good News PCC and Cape Cod Collaborative Programs

NEASC Reaccreditation Report 2012 – Commendations and Recommendations Summary

NEASC Report of the Visiting Committee for Wareham High School October 16-19, 2011

NEASC Reaccreditation report 2012 – Recommendations

Mid-cycle Goals Review – March 7, 2012

Agreement Town of Wareham, MA Contract for Designer Services

