

August 22, 2012

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Michael Flaherty and Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swett at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Eckstrom respectfully requested that a RFP be done for the High School roof with an updated price before going to town meeting. She also asked Chair Swett if she could be placed on an agenda of the School Committee or the Action Committee to discuss transportation issues. She has done research from 1994 on and has a formal presentation in written form and PowerPoint to share.

Chair Swett stated that he would take her suggestion under advisement for the roof.

Mrs. Eckstrom stated that the goal of her request to be on the agenda is to provide additional information to make a presentation.

GOOD NEWS

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of August 8, 2012 with the Finance Committee, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of August 8, 2012 regular meeting, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School Committee Reports

- Report on Board of Selectmen's Meeting of 8/21/12
Chair Swett stated that it was his understanding that the School Committee would be asked to present to the Board of Selectmen on two sums of money coming to the town and warrant articles. The Board of Selectmen Chair shared with Chair Swett that it was his sense the requests were in order and not to worry about the articles. We will be invited when Selectmen review the warrant articles.
- Cape Cod Collaborative – As School Committee representative, Mr. Swett reported that FY12 was successful for Cape Cod Collaborative. There are plans to create a satellite location for an alternative learning location. CCC has established 3 different reserves – operating; capital; other post employment benefits.

Superintendent's Report

- School Choice Funds – Dr. Rabinovitch explained the DESE calculations of choice funds and where the majority of funds are expended. He then explained the revolving fund chart and how funds can be used. Choice funds are for Education Expenses such as salaries and capital items and there is no spending limit with the balance carried forward to the next fiscal year. This is the reason we used choice money to pay for transportation for gasoline to the town at the end of FY12. Some students are choice students and get transported.

Mr. Flaherty recalled a conversation at a previous meeting and was under the impression the school department was going to town meeting floor with a deficit in transportation. He was concerned about setting a precedent and if there was a fixed cost on outsourcing transportation, we would not have to deal with this each year.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that our problem has been that the transportation department has been underfunded for a long time. We still need to come up with a long plan solution.

Mrs. Veugen asked for the number of Wareham students going out of system this year under school choice.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that this report will be done in October.

Request for Senior Privileges

Principal Palladino requested that senior privileges start the first week of school. This action will alleviate some of the numbers in study halls and award students who excel and meet the requirements. Students must sign in every morning and then are computer generated for release. Senior privileges are based on an accumulation through their junior year and re-evaluated each term. The Department Chairs, Deans and staff members were unanimous in maintaining the same criteria.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve Senior Privileges for the Class of 2013 as presented, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Request for Pilot Club at WHS

Principal Palladino stated that the request for Rachel's Challenge pilot club was from student Quinn Staley, Sophomore Class President. The club would have a minimum of 12 students and meet academic eligibility requirements. He stated that he had contacted the Monteiro Foundation who is willing to give resources to train students in this club.

Miss Quinn stated that the club would reinforce values needed in the school and make school more pleasant.

The Committee applauded Miss Quinn for coming forward and suggested periodically reaching into both the middle and elementary schools as role models.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve Rachel's Challenge as a new club at WHS, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of a Gift

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended accepting Mr. Noah Young's donation of \$212 to be used at the school department's discretion for textbooks, salaries, or repairs.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the gift with thanks, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

FY12 Final Report for Revolving Accounts

Ms. Miranda reported the balances in the revolving accounts as of June 30, 2012 current August balances.

Mr. Flaherty asked about the transportation encumbrance as per town meeting with the maximum we can spend of \$60,000.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that no encumbrance was made since all the money in the revolving account was spent on the operating expenses for FY12.

After discussion Chair Swett asked Dr. Rabinovitch to seek counsel's opinion on whether we need to unencumber these funds and to confirm this for the next meeting.

Mrs. Veugen asked for a summary to accompany the revolving report on where the funds are being spent.

Any other business

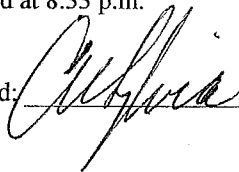
- a. Mr. Flaherty asked about the status of recalled teachers
Dr. Rabinovitch will report on budgeted staff FTE comparisons for FY11, FY12, and FY13 at a later date.
- b. Mrs. Veugen asked about a training schedule for power school.
Dr. Rabinovitch stated that since the ballot question was denied, the roll out of power school at the elementary level is not happening. We will continue with the pilot and expand it by the end of second term with student assignments.

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

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

DESE School Finance: School Choice -- Revolving Funds

Senior Privileges Class of 2013

Rachel's Challenge Pilot Club Proposal

Revolving Accounts 8/16/12

