

October 17, 2012

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, and Cindy Pham, student representative, as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swett at 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch announced the following items:

- On October 12 the Wareham Police Department conducted a safety drill at WHS with drug dogs escorted by WHS administration and searched both rooms and cars on school grounds; no drugs were found.
- At the PM2 Open House parents met their child's teachers and spoke with the job coach. Students attending both PM1 and PM2 sessions receive a box lunch from the cafeteria. Also a bus is available to PM2 students.
- Invitation to the recognition of the new playground East Wareham School Early Childhood Center on October 22, 2012.
- At Decas School a service person came to surprise a student relative; on October 25th is a family breakfast; on October 31st is the annual costume day

Mr. Flaherty announced that at last Tuesday's Board of Selectmen meeting, WHS students presented their petition on the WHS Gymnasium roof which was well received.

Dr. Sylvia announced that a regularly schedule night football game is this Friday.

Mrs. Veugen reported that she attended the Minot Forest School Council meeting at which a presentation was made about Beyond School Time. An office is now open at the Middle School for parents as a resource center and to coordinate activities. She suggested using the calling system to let parents know of the volunteer opportunities and services available.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2012, seconded Mrs. Veugen.

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

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept as presented the minutes of October 3, 2012, seconded Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School Committee Reports

- Action Committee – Mr. Swett reported that at last Wednesday's meeting the committee discussed the implications of the presentation by the Maine Military Authority to refurbish our school buses. Maine Military Authority will look at the number of our vehicles for a joint vehicle inspection at a cost of \$35,000 each, not including the engine or drive train. The next meeting is November 4th to proceed with a joint vehicle inspection and a report from the Town Administrator after a review by Town Counsel on the RFP.
- Curriculum/Technology Superintendent Advisory – Dr. Sylvia and Mrs. Veugen reported on the district' technology infrastructure and how it impacts learning. The advisory committee has a vision statement.
- Policy Review Committee - Dr. Sylvia presented the following recommendations:

Recognition of School Personnel – no change

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Legal Counsel – compliance for gender identity law

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Distribution of School Committee Meeting Documents – “mail” changed to “make available by mail or electronically”. Mr. Swett suggested adding “and applicable supporting documents” but it was decided not to make this change.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

WSC Meeting Minutes – Under executive session added at the “next” executive session

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Funding Proposals and Applications – add “and staff” in first sentence Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Governing Use of Facilities – Hold Harmless Agreement – in compliance with gender identity law

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Harassment – in compliance with gender identity law

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Automated External Defibrillator – deleted “of the schools involved” and added “at participating schools, in consultation with”. Mr. Swett asked why “Cape and Island EMS Inc. Medical Director” was in the policy and asked that “targeted responder” be defined in 1st sentence.

Flaherty moved to send this policy back to Policy Review Committee, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Hiring – compliance with gender identity law. Mr. Swett asked as supervision and changing “shall apply” to “shall be hired”. He then reclused himself from further discussion as he is a coach. No further changes were made.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 1 (Mr. Swett)

Residence Regulations – compliance with gender identity law.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Search and Seizure – The School Committee had asked for legal clarification last year. Dr. Rabinovitch read from the legal opinion affirming our right to search cars in the parking lot. Also added “a second administrator or designee” in item 2.

Mrs. Veugen asked to hold this policy for Mr. Fontes to be present since he brought up the initial concern.

Superintendent’s Report

- FY’14 Budget Timeline – The January 3rd meeting at Wareham Middle School Library is a full day meeting of the budget advisory members and we will invite Finance Committee members and other School Committee members. We will ask to have this meeting televised and posted.
- A meeting has been scheduled on October 23rd with the budget advisory committee to discuss major accounts policy.

- The next Curriculum/Technology meeting is November 16th at 7:30 a.m.
- During a building inspection of WHS it was noted that the fire door release closers are no longer working. A quote for \$17,000 with an architect signature was received. Principal Palladino went on his listserve and received a quote of \$8,000. This item is ready to fix.
- Attending school council meetings to discuss space needs. Dr. Rabinovitch will bring information back to committee at a later date.

School Uniforms Discussion

In response to an email he had received Chair Swett asked for School Committee input on school uniforms.

Mrs. Veugen was in favor of exploring the idea with counsels and parents and wanted to know what the cost would be to the district and to a parent

Mr. Flaherty stated that he has already been seeking input from people he meets and reactions have been universally positive with a concern of the cost.

Dr. Sylvia does not like the term "school uniforms" and suggested discussing a uniform code for school clothing. He agreed we need a standard of public school dress with a broad based committee.

Miss Pham agreed that to have students wear what is acceptable would be beneficial.

Principal Palladino and Assistant Principal Freitas informed that Committee that a survey through their advisory committee as conducted last June for student input. At next Monday's School Council meeting the results of the survey will be discussed. The high school is considering a modified uniform (color, type of pant or shirt) and giving enough time to parents, if a change is decided.

It was the consensus of the committee to move forward and gather data. Mrs. Veugen will be the committee's point person.

AP/SAT Report

Principal Palladino and Assistant Principal Deb Freitas reviewed the test scores.

AP tests were given in Studio Art 2D Design – Studio Art 3D Design – Studio Art Drawing – Biology - Calculus AB - English Language Composition - English Literature and Composition - Environmental Science - Macro Economics – Micro Economics – Statistics - US History.

Percent of Total WHS AP Students with Scores of 3+ (qualifying scores)

2010 – 38

2011 – 41

2012 – 51

Number of students taking at least one AP test

2009 – 76

2010 – 76

2011 – 74

2012 – 69

Scores went up 5% across the board.

The High School is looking to receive a grant extended time on learning, i.e., Saturday school, labs at night.

Discussion and comments were heard from the Committee.

SAT Results for 2012 were reviewed giving a comparison between WHS – State – National results in Critical Reading, Critical Writing, and Math.

Principal Palladino asked the members for their philosophy on taking SATs. The members shared their thoughts.

The % of seniors that took the SAT were:

08/09 = 69

09/10 = 73

10/11 = 72

11/12 = 74

Principal Palladino is seeking to have a SAT prep program next year. The E20 20 on line program is currently being used by students in preparing for SATs.

NEASC – Substantive Change Report

The School Committee asked Principal Palladino about his letter to NEASC authorities and its impact to the budget cuts. Principal Palladino is optimistic that WHS will stay at the warning level. We need to submit a report in February for the highlighted recommendations and results of our progress and/or actions. This report would be more crucial and we can be more positive.

There was discussion to emphasize our strategy for an override effort and the concern being expressed by students about the high school accreditation.

October 1st Data/Class Size Report

Dr. Rabinovitch reviewed the class size report and expressed concern with some grades averaging over 25 students at the elementary level. The total October 1st enrollment is 2,863 students. He also provided a list of the average class sizes at Wareham Middle and WHS. The number of Wareham students attending outside of the district under school choice, home schooled, charter, occupational education, and vocational schools was provided.

The committee was concerned with the class size at Minot and the possibility of redistricting at the elementary level. A complete enrollment report will be conducted in January and reported back to the committee.

Financial Reports

Dr. Rabinovitch reviewed the function summary reported indicating 84.6% of fund remaining this year compared to last year at 83.77%.

Account #2415 had only 9.91% remaining. Dr. Rabinovitch explained that this account was used for textbooks since the funding was not received. Usually this account is for workbooks, software, and manipulative.

Dr. Rabinovitch then presented the revolving account balances.

Dr. Sylvia moved to go past the hour of 10:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Request to Transfer Funds FY'13 Budget

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended transferring the amount of \$38,000 from athletic accounts to WHS Teacher Salaries and WHS Para salaries and \$51,000 from Hammond accounts due to the closing of the building to Decas Teacher salaries.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the cut was originally \$56,000 and asked why only \$51,000?

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that we need to keep the building open until the town votes to take it over.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the transfers, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of a donation of \$500 from the Wareham Athletic Association to purchase supplies towards the Global Education Dinner fundraiser.

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

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VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of a donation of a \$200 gift card from Target to the Minot Forest School.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of a donation of 10 \$50 gift cards to Minot Forest School and 10 \$50 gift cards to Decas School given to teachers in a random drawing.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Any other business

Dr. Sylvia informed the Committee that registration for the NSBA conference opened today.

Dr. Sylvia moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____

List of documents:

Policies for recommendation
Preliminary Budget Development FY'2014 memo from Ana Miranda October 11, 2012
SAT & AP Test Results 2011-2012 WHS
Substantive Change Report – NEASC – September 14, 2012 from Principal Palladino
Class Size Report 2012-2013
Wareham School Function Summary October 11, 2012
Revolving Accounts 10/12/2012
Appropriation Budget Transfers FY'13 Memo – October 11, 2012
Recommendation Gift WAA
Recommendation Gift Target
Department of Early Education and Care - Informational



