

December 5, 2012

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 5, 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 Cindy Pham as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swett at 7:00 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

#### **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Rabinovitch shared the following:

- West Wareham Academy went through the re-approval process with the state and received full approval as an accredited special education program from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.
- West Wareham Academy now offers an on line French class for its students.
- Decas School children will be having a tea and cookies with our Wareham Senior citizens and the Chorus will have a performance.
- Decas School will be holding its elementary honor society induction.
- The pre-bid meeting for WHS gym roof was today and next Wednesday is the bid opening at 2PM in Superintendent's Office.

Mr. Swett shared that at the Cape Cod Collaborative finance meeting, it was reported their student enrollment is down because more systems are keeping their students in system.

(Dr. Sylvia entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)

Cindy shared that WHS students went to the middle school to promote the high school and the Drama Club had a successful play last weekend.

#### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the minutes of November 28, 2012, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 2 (Dr. Sylvia; Mrs. Veugen)

#### **Proposed WHS Student Trip to New York – Ms. Dion/Mr. Palladino**

Art Teacher, Amy Dion requested a student trip to New York City on April 12, 2012 to visit museums, Time Square for dinner and see a Broadway play, returning home 2:30 a.m. The students are fundraising for the play and bus costs. The trip is planned for 45 students and 5 chaperones.

The committee expressed concerned with having the trip on a school day instead of during vacation week. It was noted that having it on the Friday before vacation allowed more students to participate who may otherwise be on a family vacation, and it keeps the cost down if it is not during a school vacation.

Dr. Sylvia highly recommended the students visit the 9-11 museum while in New York.

Mrs. Veugen expressed that she had been a chaperone on an art department trip before and that it is a huge educational opportunity for our students.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the WHS student trip to New York as presented, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The Art Department is also planning a trip to the International Center for the Arts in Boston for 45 students funded through the Foundation for Wareham Education and recently went on a trip to an art museum in New Bedford.

#### **Acceptance of a Gift**

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended accepting the donation of \$50 towards the Decas School playground from member Mike Flaherty. Mr. Fontes moved the recommendation, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mr. Flaherty)

#### **School Committee Reports**

- Policy Review Committee Recommendation – AIDS Attendance Policy – Chair Swett asked if it is a parent option to inform the school if their child has AIDS and if we don't know if child has it, it is only logical to assume all children have the disease and treat as if.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that if a child presents symptoms, he/she is sent to the nurse and proper safety precautions are taken. A parent must have the child cleared by their personal physician. All the protocols are in place.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the policy as presented, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Sylvia reported that the Policy Review Committee met last evening and more policies will be coming before the committee at the next meeting.

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

- Superintendent's Budget Advisory met today and will meet again tomorrow with principals/coordinators to present their budgets in preparation for the Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> all day budget review, which will be televised. At the Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting there will be two public hearings; one on grade configuration and one on the level of transportation services. On Jan 16<sup>th</sup> is the public hearing on the budget with the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator.

Chair Swett asked Mrs. Veugen to think about having a discussion on student uniforms at this meeting as well. Chair Swett explained the budget process including the number of meetings held.

Mr. Flaherty asked that the budget document be made available at the public hearing.

- Status of Maintenance Projects

- a. WHS Gymnasium Roof - Mr. Palladino met with vendors on WHS Gym Roof pre-bid conference today with a bid opening on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2PM.
- b. Decas School Walk-in Freezer compressor broke; a box freezer was rented and is being used while a company is fabricating walls and replacing the compressor. Funding for this project is from the food service revolving account.
- c. WHS Underground Fuel Tank – Comm Tank, on state bid list, was awarded the project to remove and install an above ground 1,000 gallon tank. The Mass DPW failed our underground tank.
- Dr. Rabinovitch read a memo from him to the School Committee in response to his public evaluation (Rebuttal of the Oct. 3, 2012 Evaluation of the Superintendent 10/31/12) and announcing his retirement as Superintendent effective July 31, 2012. This document will be on the website along with the School Committee's evaluation of the Superintendent.

**Any other business**

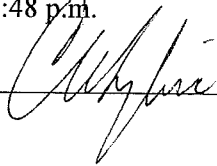
None

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_



**List of documents:**

Draft Minutes of the Meeting November 28, 2012

WHS Art Department

AIDS/School Attendance

Rebuttal of the Oct. 3, 2012 Evaluation of the Superintendent 10/31/2012

Correspondence: Newsletter

