

February 27, 2013

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 27, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Cliff Sylvia, Rhonda Veugen, Michael Flaherty and Cindy Pham as well as recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swett at 6:50 p.m.

### **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Due to a problem with Skype the Committee had a mobile connection with Dr. Adams of Ray and Associates.

- Finalize superintendent profile for the promotional flier and online application form  
Dr. Adams reviewed the WPS Superintendent Search Constituent/Staff/School Committee Survey Results – 152 plus 5 board members responded – also provided were additional comments made.

(Mr. Flaherty entered the meeting at 6:58 p.m.)

The Committee reviewed the document “WPS Seeks A Superintendent Who...” listing the top ten recommended qualities.

After discussion the Committee agreed to make the following changes:

ADD “Has leadership skills that embrace the richness of ethnic and cultural diversity.”

CHANGE by adding technology to read “Has knowledge of emerging research and best practices in the area of curriculum/instructional design, technology, and practice.”

DELETE “Promotes positive student behavior conducive to a healthy learning environment.”

Changes to the Flier included:

Page 1 section The Town of Wareham

First sentence delete “and eclectic”

Last sentence in first paragraph add “town known as Onset”

Last sentence in second paragraph add “Blues Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Fireworks and the Cape Verdean Festival.”

Page 2 section WPC seeks a Superintendent who has a proven ability to...

Change title to **WPS** seeks a Superintendent who has a proven ability to...

First bullet delete the second diamond bullet on this same sentence.

Bullet eight “Promotes positive student behavior conducive to a healthy learning environment.” – DELETE

INSERT new bullet in its place “Has leadership skills that embrace the richness of ethnic and cultural diversity.”

CHANGE bullet nine to read “Has knowledge of emerging research and best practices in the area of curriculum/instructional design, technology, and practice.”

Mrs. Veugen will contact Ray and Associates as to suggestions to change the design of the flier.

The application form was generic and was approved.

The timeline reflects the changes made in the last discussion. The next key date is 4/23/13 semi-finalist names to the School Committee then the 1<sup>st</sup> round of interviews on 4/29/13 for the screening committee to interview.

Mrs. Veugen asked to give an update at the next meeting and to re-open the vote on membership of a screening committee with a job description.

Dr. Adams stated that the applications will be given out electronically but suggested hard copies be made for the meeting on 4/23/13 in executive session.

Due to the probability of Town Meeting on 4/23/13, the Committee changed the date to 4/24/13 to meet with the consultant to review applications at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ruiz will e-mail the changes made to the flier to Dr. Adams and copy his office.

Chair Swett closed the mobile call with Dr. Adams at 8:00 p.m.

#### **Discussion of Educational Vision as a School Committee**

Chair Swett presented the Superintendent's proposed cuts to the FY14 budget as presented by Dr. Rabinovitch at the Finance Committee meeting.

The \$150,000 difference in the non net school budget can be addressed with the three tier transportation system proposal. This proposal eliminates services to High School and Middle School students living within 1 mile of the school, which reduces the number of buses. Mr. Tatro, Transportation Manager, will send out a notice to all parents asking if they want bus service for their child/children in order to determine the bus capacity when considering walkers.

The net school spending difference in the budget is \$1.7 million, which will make the school funding at the FY12 level.

Dr. Rabinovitch's five items to bridge the gap are:

- Level funding expenses line items
- Subtract savings from known retirements
- Eliminate Instructional Leaders
- Borrow funds for texts and technology
- Reorganizing central office

Chair Swett stated that the Town Administrator reduced the school budget by \$130,000 as a result of Cherry Sheet funding and with the new request from Upper Cape the difference is more than \$676,000+ shortage. Any reorganization has to be approved by the School Committee.

The members discussed the proposal including cutting another 17-20 teachers is going to be unacceptable to the education of our children, presenting a contingency budget on Town Meeting floor, advocate with a memo from town leaders, not just the School Committee, and come together and see how we can raise revenues, and each one of the boards talking to the other town boards regarding the Upper Cape Tech School budget increase.

On March 5<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting with Dr. Rabinovitch, Mr. Sullivan, Chair Holmes and Chair Swett to try to get unity with the budget.

#### **Reorganization:**

- Filling the vacancy of Director of Operations/Finance for the school department with the vacancy of Town Accountant for the town

Dr. Sylvia moved not to consider at this time combining the school and town positions, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – (Mr. Fontes; Mr. Flaherty); abstain – 0

Hire a School Business Manager in lieu of the Director of Operations/Finance and due to the retirement of the Director of Student Services, remove one administrative position from this office.

Mr. Flaherty wanted to go on record that he supports the superintendent's proposal.

Mrs. Veugen moved not to recruit for an Assistant Superintendent, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

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

Chair Swett stated that he has asked the Director of Curriculum & Instruction to prepare a report by subject area and by teacher on how many students are being taught in how many classes. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Mr. Fontes left the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

**Any other business**

Dr. Sylvia informed his colleagues that he cannot attend the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting but is available on April 3<sup>rd</sup> if it is the Committee's desire to change the date. Chair Swett will take this under advisement.

Dr. Sylvia asked for a moment of silence for a former teacher at WHS, Mr. Owen Burke, who passed away this week.

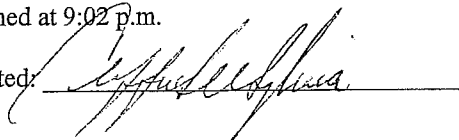
Chair Swett held a moment of silence.

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



**List of documents:**

Superintendent Search Process and Timeline

WPS Seeks A Superintendent Who...

WPS Thirty-Three Characteristics Report Explanation and Additional Comments February 27, 2013

Draft WPS Superintendent Search Flier

Budget Status "Educational Vision"

