

March 20, 2013

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty, and Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Student Rep Cindy Pham was absent.

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

Chair Swett began the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Rose Baldwin who served on the Wareham School Committee from April 1976 – to April 1982.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Fitzgerald, WEA President gave cookies and a flier to each member announcing a fundraiser at Chili's for WEA Scholarship Fund on March 21st.

(Dr. Sylvia entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.)

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rabinovitch:

- Nye Scholarship awards to five recipients who graduated in 2008 collected the full \$56,000 awarded to this class. The five students' average GPA was 3.48 and graduated with majors in Management/Nutrition; Biology/PreMed; Psychology; Economics, Psychobiology/PreMed.
- Four teams took part in the Destination Imagination competition – the 5th grade team took 3rd out of 8 teams and earned a Renaissance Award; the 4th grade team also placed 3rd; the Middle school team placed 4th overall; and the 7th grade team made it to the finals. The DI Program is for gifted students.

Mr. Flaherty:

- the DI competition was an all day event and the teams did well
- he went on the Middle School tour given by Student Council members for incoming 4th and 5th graders
- the Honor Society fundraiser at Decas at Flagship Cinemas this past weekend was successful

Dr. Sylvia:

- congratulated students at WHS for their spirit and exemplified good sportsmanship for the entire basketball season
- he congratulated the drama club on their performance
- he thanked the DECA group for their efforts in maintaining high standards in competition at state level with kids going on to the national level

Mrs. Veugen recognized and welcomed Ms. Miranda back to our meetings.

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr. Sylvia moved approval of the minutes of March 6, 2013, seconded Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain -0

Financial Reports

Ms. Miranda reviewed the Function Summary Report by major accounts with negative balances. She gave a breakdown of the substitute accounts and reviewed the heating and utilities accounts, maintenance increases and the encumbered funds in the tuition accounts. Ms. Miranda was asked to look into the surplus in the testing & assessment account.

Dr. Rabinovitch we will be coming before the board at a later time to request transfers.

Chair Swett asked for an executive summary on the substitute accounts for the April 3rd meeting.

Ms. Miranda reviewed the Revolving Accounts – The school property account was used to remove the underground storage fuel tank; the transportation account is up; the athletic account is down at this time but two deposits have been received since this report was run; the FDK portion of this account is committed to pay Para Salaries.

An athletic report is scheduled for the April 10th agenda for fall and winter seasons.

MSBA Statement of Interest – Accelerated Repair of Wareham High School Roof

Principal Palladino asked for the committee's support in form of a vote to move forward with the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program. The 81,000 square foot roof is 22 years of age roof and has multiple levels. There are over 500 patches on the roof. We have been living with leaks, which can pose safety concerns. The application and sign off must be received by MSBA by April 10th. We also will need a vote of support from the Board of Selectmen.

Dr. Rabinovitch gave the timeline for funding – earliest July 1st with an estimated 60% reimbursement so the town would borrow approximately \$400,000. Once MSBA approves the project then October Town Meeting must approve to borrow the funds and we put out a bid for repair of the roof in the fall.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve to authorize Dr. Rabinovitch and Chair Swett to sign the Initial Compliance of Certification in support of a new roof at Wareham High School under the Accelerated Repair Program, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Wareham High School Course of Studies 2013-2014

Principal Palladino, Assistant Principal Freitas and Department Heads Dan Nault, Mike Murray, Henry St.Julien, Brian Nobrega, and Chris Mars presented the Course of Studies for 2013-14.

During the week of April 1st through the history department students will review the course of studies. Additional changes not on sheet:

#1 SAT Prep program requirement for all juniors

#2 Algebra I Honors omitted

Principal Palladino reminded the committee that graduation requirements are increasing 5 credits each year to meet MassCore.

Career & Technology – added Virtual Business Retailing and Virtual Business Restaurant courses Gr.9-12 – competitive national DECA activity using a simulation with an instructor in the classroom

Mr. Flaherty asked to have a list of courses not being offered this year.

ELA – added Film Study II

Fine Arts – add Creative Arts and Learning; Fundamentals of Music; Music Appreciation

Dr. Sylvia stated that he had a problem with no applied arts courses to meet MassCore requirement and asked if students are aware that if they are enrolled in a career and technical Ch. 74 program they can bypass the foreign language requirement in MassCore.

Foreign Language – no changes – students can take courses on line

It was noted that we currently have five dual enrolled students.

Mathematics – added courses Algebra I Honors; PreCalculus courses in Honors or CP and an elective Statistics course.

Chair Swett – PARCC, accuplacer, MCAS – commented by principal

Physical Education & Health – no changes

Science – added Earth Science; Intro to Computer Science

Social Studies – no changes

In response to Mr. Fontes' question on the JROTC program there are 2 instructors and there needs to be 10% of the students which is 61 and we are at 80 students. Mr. Fontes complimented the staff on an excellent program.

Chair Swett asked Principal Palladino when the information is available to give the committee the classes anticipated to teach and their enrollment. Principal Palladino will know more when funding is set and could report during his School Improvement Plan in June.

Principal Palladino will report back to the Superintendent after he investigates Dr. Sylvia's suggestion to maintain fine arts or applied arts or a combination of the two to provide the school with flexibility to meet MassCore and graduation requirements.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the WHS Course of Studies as amended for the next school year, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Flaherty asked about the removal of social studies last year at the Middle School. At the elementary and middle school level only core subjects are offered and deletion of a course is not mentioned in the law.

Presentation of 3-Tier Transportation System

Mr. Tatro, Transportation Manager, reviewed the current transportation system and a proposed 3-tier system with time changes and students transported.

The purpose of the plan is to reduce the number of vehicles, maximize ridership, and address some of the safety concerns parents had for 5th graders riding the bus with high school students.

12 drivers WHS with a change in start time of 7:10 a.m.

16 drivers WMS Gr.5-8

8 drivers Decas

8 drivers Minot

Alot of logistical work had to be done to maximize the drivers' time. The plan has gone to the drivers for review. The plan affects 45 students at WHS and 83 students at WMS requiring walking if living within 1 mile. Currently we have a no walking requirement.

The fleet would be reduced by 6 buses and drivers for a savings in our proposed budget of \$125,000 to meet town numbers and frees up revolving account funds to purchase buses.

The committee members were impressed with the plan and the support from the bus drivers. They expressed concerns with communicating to specific families to be affected, the perimeters of walkers, and creating more traffic.

Chair Swett wished to proceed as a plan for the fall with notification to parents. He stated that we do not need to address this until after town meeting when the operating budget is determined.

Dr. Sylvia asked if there was a recommendation from the Action Committee.

Dr. Rabinovitch respectfully withdrew his recommendation until after town meeting when we know what the budget numbers are.

Mr. Flaherty suggested notifying parents that this could happen.

Mrs. Veugen stated that the plan was a viable option with the least amount of impact and solves the issue of moving grade 5 to middle school. She suggested when talking about this plan to have an alternative transportation to school and get this information from the parents affected before town meeting.

- Recommendation to Town Administrator to Award Bid for Used School Buses

Mr. Tatro wrote a letter recommending the award of the bid for three used school buses. Dr. Rabinovitch explained where the funds were coming from. \$55,000 capital appropriation and in April 2012 \$60,000 was encumbered in the revolving account. \$35,000 is left in this account leaving a total of \$90,000 to spend on used vehicle. The bid and vendor offered three 2007 vehicles for \$90,000 with a trade of 2 out of service obsolete 1998 school buses. Heavy duty maintenance and tires were included in the bid before we take possession of the transit style buses.

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended asking the Board of Selectmen to award the bid to purchase three vehicles for \$90,000. Mr. Fontes moved the recommendation, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Enrollment Report

- NESDEC Enrollment Projections - Dr. Rabinovitch briefly reviewed the report. The projection was 11 students off in the 2012-13 school year. The report indicates a drop in total enrollment over the next few years.
- January 1st School Attending Report – The six year data indicates enrollments in the regional technical school and out district choice students are on the increase.
- Mid-Year Attendance Report – comparison from last year to this year – need 95% attendance rate.

Superintendent's Report

- PARCC – Dr. Rabinovitch asked the members to look at the website, specifically the technology component for the assessments on line. All students per grade must test at the same time. The only devices we currently have meeting the recommended requirements for PARCC are the ipads. The test begins September 2014 so we need to build in \$235,000 for computers or ipads in the FY'15 budget.
- Everett Educational Center Relocation – The curriculum office is now in the Middle School due to water leakage in the roof. We are doing an air quality test tomorrow.

Mrs. Veugen moved to go beyond 10:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School Committee Reports

Superintendent's Search – Appointment of Interview Committee –

Mrs. Veugen reported that Ray and Associates have 15 completed applications to date for Superintendent which have been filtered through the first level. The application deadline is April 11th. There are 5 applications started, 7 applicants who expressed interest at the conference are being contacted, and the agency is talking with 2 current superintendents.

There was a late submission letter from the non profit category. Mrs. Veugen reported on the letters of interest received for the interview committee:

- 3 principals applied for 1 vacancy
- 2 WPS staff applied for 2 vacancies
- 1 business for 1 vacancy
- 1 non profit for 1 vacancy
- 6 parents/citizens for 3 vacancies

Screening Committee Members:

Board of Selectmen – Steve Holmes
Town Administrator - Derek Sullivan
Finance Committee – Donna Bronk or appointee
School Committee – Rhonda Veugen (Chair and facilitator)
Union President – Brain Fitzgerald
Principal – Scott Palladino
WPS staff – Christina Kunze, Stacey Rogers
Business rep – Linda Burke, AD Makepeace
Non profit rep – Laura Prisco, YMCA
Parents/Citizens – Jessee Clements; Lisa Irish; Jamie Pelletier

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the recommendation of the Chair of the Search Committee, Mrs. Veugen, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen will send out an email asking for availability for 3 meetings to introduce screening committee; to utilize the review protocols; and to interview semifinalist candidates.

Any other business - None

Mr. Flaherty moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of executive session minutes and collective bargaining and to reconvene to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

Roll call: Mr. Fontes – yea; Dr. Sylvia – yea; Mrs. Veugen – yea; Mr. Flaherty – yea; Mr. Swett – yea

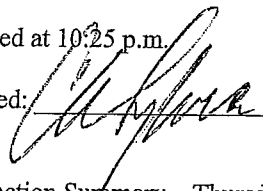
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Flaherty moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Wareham School Function Summary – Thursday, March 14, 2013
Revolving Accounts 3/14/2013
MSBA Initial Compliance Certification – WPS, WHS
Changes to the Program of Studies for WHS
WHS Program of Studies 2013-2014
Proposed 3-Tier Transportation Plan
Used Bus Bid Contract Price page
NESDEC Projections
School Attending Six Year Data
School Attending 2013
Student Attendance 2012-2013
PARCC email from Dr. Rabinovitch
Superintendent Search – Screening Committee Members – Proposed
Wareham Superintendent Search – Interview Committee Applicants
Correspondence – Newsletter, Notice of Vacancy Listing, Personnel