

April 3, 2013

A workshop meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Library. Present were Geoff Swett, Rhonda Veugen, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty, and Kenny Fontes as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swett at 6:39 p.m. and announced that the meeting was a workshop meeting and there will be no public participation.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2013, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

(Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Fontes arrived at 6:40 p.m.)

Reconsideration of Votes taken at February 27, 2013 Meeting

Dr. Sylvia asked to have these votes on the agenda for reconsideration. He had voted in the affirmative not to reorganize at that time. Dr. Rabinovitch was not at that meeting to provide insight. Dr. Sylvia wanted to have an opportunity for further discussion on this matter.

Dr. Sylvia moved that the vote taken on February 27, 2013 for combining a business manager and town accountant be reconsidered, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that a meeting was held before the Finance Committee where he discussed his thinking of reorganizing the administrative team to save money. Also he had a meeting with the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, the Chair of the School Committee, and the Town Administrator to discuss the reorganization. After these meetings with further discussions, Dr. Rabinovitch decided that it did not make sense to have one person do the job for both the town and school department.

Dr. Sylvia recommended not reconsidering the vote.

VOTE: yea – 0; nay – 5; abstain – 0

Dr. Sylvia moved to reconsider the vote of February 27, 2013 relative to not to recruit for an Assistant Superintendent position at this time, seconded by Mrs. Veugen for discussion.

Dr. Rabinovitch expressed his concern with losing three directors. There is a need for an Assistant Superintendent and he proposed not to fill this position until the committee hires a new superintendent.

After discussion about the budget deliberations being proposed with the complete administrative reorganization package, a vote was taken.

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

Chair Swett announced that the committee would come back to this item later.

FY'14 Budget Review

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that in FY'12 the net school spending amount was \$25,390,794, in FY'13 the net school spending amount was \$25,260,847, and if we settle for the town's proposed net school spending the amount is \$25,370,536.

The objective for tonight is a discussion on the educational costs of not having the voted upon level service budget and obtaining a consensus on the budget reduction strategies to be presented this evening.

In December the requested budget was \$28,888,119 and the Superintendent's budget was \$28,619,381. The April 3rd vote by the Committee was a budget of \$27,525,514 and Town Administrator's recommended budget is \$26,829,536 or a difference of \$695,978.

The Superintendent's recommended cuts totaled \$951,811 and included

- Level funding accounts \$118,033
- Teacher retirements \$261,834
- Therapists retirements \$60,239
- Administrative Reorganization \$95,995
- Warrant Article for Books/Technology \$397,589
- Negotiations \$18,121

The Committee questioned and commented on the administrative reorganization.

The Principal's Cuts, if forced to cut, would total \$700,000. The principals each presented the following:

Minot Forest School – Principal Seamans \$150,000 cut

Class size chart - cannot cut any classroom teachers due to class size

Direct services to children to be cut would be 4 (0.5) Interventionists and 1.0 Paraprofessional in Title I

There was discussion on the \$175,000 investment over the past three years in Rti with Instructional Leaders and Interventionists.

Wareham Middle School – Principal Gilmore \$150,000 cut

Class size will be 24-28 next year so he is not recommending any teacher cuts

Non instructional accounts would be reduced by \$15,042; instructional accounts reduced by \$60,400; and a staff cut of 1.0 Guidance Counselor for \$75,000

There was discussion on cutting the heat account and core services to kids in intramurals, clubs and advisors, late buses and guidance services.

John W. Decas School – Principal Panarese \$150,000 cut

Cuts with the least amount of impact for student learning were in staff – 1 K Teacher; 1 K Para; 1 Tech Para; 1 Music Teacher, 0.54 Integrated Arts Teacher – and Maintenance accounts for \$2,776.

There was discussion over the transient rate in schools over the last three years; the need for more guidance counseling services; and a comparison of the staff at each elementary school.

Wareham High School – Principal Palladino \$250,000 cut

9th graders have many options for schools and are being drawn away from the high school.

No specific positions but 5.0 FTE positions will be cut (teachers, counselors, and clerical)

Sports – 2 major sports cut

Extracurricular Activities – clubs based on low enrollment
Study Halls – up to 80 students
Reduce # of credits required to graduate; may not meet MassCore requirements
AP/SAT courses may not be offered
May need to file another NEASC report depending on further cuts

Discussed was the scheduling change done two years ago to meet the needs of students and MassCore requirements and the effects of this cut.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the decisions to make:

- a. Go to town meeting with \$1,700,000 over the Town Administrator's proposed school budget
- b. Accept the reductions of approximately \$1,000,000 leaving \$700,000 over the Town Administrator's proposed school budget
- c. Take a reduction in the non net school spending budget

The committee thanked the administration and principals for their hard work in the budget process.

Mrs. Veugen moved to cut our current budget by \$951,811 as recommended by the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Flaherty for discussion.

Mrs. Veugen stated that she did not want to tie a structure of administration to this cut. The administrative reorganization should be determined by the new Superintendent.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that student services and business management needs to continue and be in place. The position of Assistant Superintendent can be held at this time.

Mr. Flaherty wanted the budget cuts with the reorganization as presented by Dr. Rabinovitch.

Mr. Fontes stated that he wanted to fight for all we need \$1,459,000 more and he could not support any budget cuts.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 1 (Mr. Fontes); abstain – 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

Mrs. Veugen moved to reduce the FY'14 school budget from \$28,619,381 to \$27,667,570, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

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

Any other business

Mrs. Veugen asked the members if they were available for a full day meeting of interviews on 4/29/13 to begin at 1:00 p.m. with the interview committee in executive session. She will make the request again at the next meeting giving the members a chance to check their calendars.

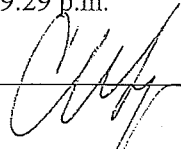
No action taken on a reconsideration vote taken earlier this evening.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

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The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

February 27, 2013 Minutes for Reconsideration of Votes Taken

Budget Workshop Power Point 4/3/2013

Budget Workshop Power Point 3/28/2013

Potential Budget Cuts FY14

Correspondence - Newsletter

