

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.

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