

April 10, 2013

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, and Kenny Fontes as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Rabinovitch at 7:00 p.m.

School Committee Reorganization

Superintendent Rabinovitch accepted nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Flaherty moved that Rhonda Veugen be Chair, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Cast one ballot unanimous vote in favor 3-0-0.

Chair Veugen asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Swett moved that Dr. Cliff Sylvia be Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Swett nominated Mr. Mike Flaherty as Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

Decas School Fundraiser

Student Joey Ferro, along with fellow Honor Society members Brian Gallagher, Andrew Brightman, Joshua Flaherty, Emma Fitzgerald, and Isabella Deblois, explained his idea for a school fundraiser held at Flagship Cinemas in Wareham to see the movie “OZ: The Great and Powerful”. The Honor Society voted approval and the students raised over \$1,000.

The School Committee congratulated the students on taking the initiative to raise money for their school.

(Mr. Fontes arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Mr. Flaherty shared that at the Finance Committee meeting the Superintendent at Upper Cape complimented our Middle School students on their grades allowing them acceptance to Upper Cape.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett asked to Delete the statement “The school budget will go to town meeting as an unbalanced budget” on page 3.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of April 3, 2013 as amended, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Blended Learning Presentation – Homework in the Classroom

Mr. Swett announced that Ms. Lasorsa was an honored PSB innovative teacher award winner for the work she has done in the presentation tonight.

Ms. Lasorsa introduced Sharon Burbidge as co-teacher in the classroom. Her presentation included:

- Own Struggles in Class
- Why now? Looped with students from grade 6 to grade 7
- Setting of a traditional classroom and home
- The Flip! Watch a video – complete google form
- In Class – Students' Work
- Award received was "Ladders of Success" based on mastering common core standards
- Results – increased Student Engagement; increased time for students to solve problems; homework rates 68% to 83%; parent satisfaction 48 out of 69 responses; overall grades raised; increased individual attention; few behavior issues
- Next steps
- Comments from students and parents who were present

The School Committee thanked everyone for the presentation and being here and commented on the outstanding program and teachers going above and beyond.

In answer to the question about using this method in other subjects for other teachers Ms. Lasorsa stated that the school department would need to teach teachers how to use the tools during professional development. Ipads are not needed to use the flip process, but are an asset to learning.

Fall & Winter 2012-13 Athletic Report

Principal Palladino introduced Mr. Rumbolt as the part-time Athletic Director due to a resignation.

Mr. Rumbolt presented both the Fall & Winter Reports including the budget; community service; meet the coaches night; captain's luncheons - theme humility; booster club to provide \$600 for conference championship jackets for the boys' basketball team; hall of fame induction; SCC All Stars, Honorable Mention, and Sportsmanship awards.

100 students participated in the fall – asked to have it by sport; waivers; GPA by team (last year totals as well)

He reviewed the Coop Program with Carver for wrestling and ice hockey. Carver will be paying Wareham \$5,400. Discussed was the number of students involved and cost per athlete with an expectation for participation to be up in ice hockey next year.

Chair Veugen asked to have the School Committee and Athletic Department work together to develop a report format to be filled out each year for consistency in reporting. Mr. Swett agreed to work with other members to provide the template.

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of \$270 from Chili's and \$100 from JENDAVIS, LLC to support Grade 4 Sha-Bang Multiplication at Minot Forest School for student awards.

Mr. Swett moved to accept the gift from Chili's, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the gift from JENDAVIS, LLC, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of a gift of \$250 from Arbella Insurance for the WHS Chess Team.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the gift from Arbella Insurance, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Rabinovitch recommended acceptance of a 6 x 10' U.S. Flag from adoptaschool.com and Franklin Flags for the Minot Forest School from Mr. Geoff Swett.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the gift of a U.S. Flag from Geoff Swett for the Minot Forest School, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mr. Swett)

DRAFT of 2013-14 School Calendar

Dr. Rabinovitch explained that the revised calendar moved April vacation week to include Patriot's Day. Elections have not been coordinated with this calendar but police are called on election days for extra help.

Mr. Fontes moved approval of the 2013-14 school calendar as presented, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Chair Veugen asked for the school to get word out as to safety concerns during election times.

Superintendent's Report

Curriculum/Technology – Discussed at last meeting was an update on the wireless project; E-rate claims; conversion to Google email system; benchmark assessments; Edwin Teaching & Learning; elementary literacy lab; STEM pilot at Wareham Middle School; focus standards of practice in common core; IL and Interventionists; funding issues.

School Committee Reports

Superintendent's Search Update

Chair Veugen reported that there are 40 applicants; semi-finalist round will be 8-12 applicants to be determined at a meeting on April 25th 6PM in Executive Session for protection of applicant; on May 4th 1PM Executive Session interview committee and School Committee will both interview semi-finalists then choose the finalists; on May 6th the finalist round in open session by the School Committee for 2-3 applicants and live taping by WCTV and live streaming with blogging on Wareham Week.

It was agreed that three members have to agree if another applicant wants to be added for an interview if the search firm does not have this person on the list. Any member may contact Ray and Associates about a particular candidate directly.

Policy Review Recommendations

Mrs. Rotella presented the following policies:

Controlled Substances – reviewed with current laws; town policy; no changes
Mr. Swett moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Retention – The policy reflects the principals' recommendations and policy review input.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School District Wellness – This policy was vetted by school nurse and Mrs. Perry, District Cafeteria Manager. The wellness coordinator is no longer a position and was replaced with curriculum director or superintendent designee or principals where appropriate.

Mr. Swett moved to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Reconsideration of Instructional Resources – This policy was originally embedded in the library policy. This is a recommended MASC policy.

Mr. Swett moved to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Home and Hospital Instruction – This policy was reviewed by the policy review committee with information provided by Mr. Louzan and he addressed the concerns about highly qualified teachers.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Attendance Grades 9-12 – This policy was discussed with no substantive changes.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Early Graduation – There was discussion about the number of students who take advantage in any given year.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Leasing of Hammond School by Boys' & Girls' Club

Dr. Rabinovitch provided the Committee with a request to rent the Hammond School by the Boys' & Girls' Club; his letter to Attorney Bowen requesting a lease; and the lease. The area requested to lease is 7,821 sq.ft. at \$1.52 per sq.foot for \$991.00 per month.

Mr. Louzan stated that the rental will provide \$12,000 in revenue and be cost neutral based on actual figures while the building was in full use; any remaining leases to be compatible. We are in compliance with local codes from the inspectional services. There is one space reserved at Hammond for the Beyond School Time Office depending on space at middle school next year.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the applicable law cited allows the School Committee to rent space in a school building not being used as a school. It is possible with another lessee CEDA. There may be space for the staff at Everett in the multi service center, accessible by elevator, when the job center is moved out.

Mr. Swett expressed his concerns with valuing the space at zero and not a fair market value. He was uncomfortable from a legal perspective.

After discussions with the town, it was agreed that this lease was in the best interest of the town for use of that facility. Municipal law allows us to lease up to 10 years.

Mr. Louzan stated that the per sq.ft. cost was first done by our business office before any conversations with any lessees.

Chair Veugen stated that when Hammond was closed there was a concern about maintain the grounds. Whose responsible for improvements under the lease?

Mr. Louzan stated that discussions had taken place in regards to the courts, grounds, and parking. The Boys' and Girls' Club will put together and present to School Department their request. If CEDA is able to occupy the building, it can use grant funds for improvements.

The monthly rent will be placed in the revolving account for building/grounds but segregated for use of Hammond only. The Boys' & Girls' Club would like to move in prior to this summer season.

Mr. Flaherty wanted a full board present before making this decision.

Chair asked for specific concerns if she were to delay the vote for tonight.

Mr. Swett stated that he was uncomfortable with the process but had no problem with the tenant.

Chair Veugen asked for a motion.

Mr. Flaherty moved to lease the Hammond School building to the Boys' & Girls' Club, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 2; nay -1(Mr. Swett); abstain - 1 (Mr. Fontes)

Any other business

The Chair congratulated the new Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Peter Teitelbaum. Three talking points from their meeting last evening were:

1. Cannot be us vs. them; this is one town
2. Schools are a priority because it affects the entire town
3. Work together to find solutions with this budget crisis

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee will be meeting next Wednesday, April 17th in a joint with the School Committee if willing.

Superintendent – not available

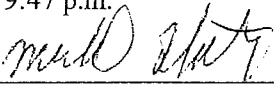
Swett – yes
Fontes – not available
Flaherty – maybe
Veugen – yes
Chair will contact Dr. Sylvia as to his availability

Dr. Rabinovitch believed the agenda for this joint meeting would be to look to delay the vote on the budget and hold a special town meeting 60 days after town meeting to give all boards time to continue to negotiate.

Mr. Swett moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Minutes April 3, 2013
Power Point “The Flip!” in Nobel 7 Math, Bonnie Lasorsa
Wareham High School Athletic Department Fall 2012 and Winter 2012/13
School Calendar DRAFT 2013-2014
Memoranda from Joan Seamans April 4, 2013 & March 18, 2013 Gifts; WHS Scott Palladino Gift
Arbella Insurance
Policies: Retention; School District Wellness Program; Reconsideration of Instructional Resources; home and Hospital Instruction; Attendance Grades 9-12; Early Graduation; Controlled Substances
Boys & Girls Club of Greater New Bedford/Wareham letter January 24, 2013; Memo to Derek Sullivan
Re: Request of Attorney Bowen’s Services; Lease Agreement
Correspondence – Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy