

May 8, 2013

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Kenny Fontes, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen and Geoff Swett as well as Superintendent Dr. Rabinovitch, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent was student representative, Cindy Pham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Veugen at 6:30 p.m.

Recognition of Service

- WHS – Principal Palladino recognized Chris Mars (30 years); Deborah Anastasia (20 years); Tina Clark (20 years); Jeaninne Alexander (20 years); and those not present Ernest Emery (20 years) and Nancy Brown (20 years)
- Middle – Principal Gilmore recognized Robin Cambra (30 years); Deborah Maxim (30 years) and those not present Jerald Ulrich (20 years) and Karen Landry (30 years)
- Decas – Principal Panarese recognized Elizabeth Youngson (30 years)
- Minot – Principal Seamans recognized Chris Bonham (40 years); Julie Cardoso (20 years); Rachel Kuklinski (20 years)
- East – Principal Seamans and Coordinator Mary Morgan recognized Paul Gould (20 years)
- District – Principal Seamans recognized Pam Schluter (30 years)

Chair Veugen announced that the meeting would recess to give an opportunity for school committee members to recognize and thank individuals personally for their time and commitment to Wareham.

The meeting recessed at 6:57 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

GOOD NEWS

- Report on Global Education Team Trip – nine students and six chaperones participated in the trip to Cape Verde this past April vacation. The students each expressed how the trip impacted him/her.
The chaperones spoke on the goal to get kids to think globally, the Skype session held while there with Wareham; a May 31st celebration to thank people who helped put the trip together will be held at the Middle School from 6-8 p.m. with pictures. The group felt they were treated like royalty while there and were presented with two plaques from Cape Verde
- Introduction of New Middle School Principal – Dr. Rabinovitch introduced Ellen Bankston as the new Middle School Principal and explained the screening and interview process to arrive at his selection.
Ms. Bankston introduced herself and her background. Her focus will be on instruction/learning; helping staff meet students' needs; using all the assessment data; and building channels of communication.
- Accreditation Maintained for East Wareham Early Childhood Center – The annual report was reviewed and accreditation was maintained through NAEYC.
- Accreditation Continued for Wareham High School – NEASC has reviewed the special progress report and continued the school's accreditation but the school will remain on warning for the standards for accreditation on curriculum and community resources for learning.
- South Coast Conference Academic All Stars – Dr. Rabinovitch attended with Principal Palladino where five WHS students were recognized: Wyatt Harunk, Anna Richard, Tyler Russell, Elizabeth St.Germaine, and Allison Wade.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved approval of the minutes of April 10, 2013, seconded by Mr. Fontes

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Dr Sylvia)

Mr. Swett moved approval of the minutes of April 17, 2013, seconded by Dr. Sylvia

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Fontes moved approval of the minutes of May 1, 2013, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

Mr. Flaherty asked to amend the minutes by adding “joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen” and the Chair “recessed” the meeting, not adjourned the meeting until 6:30 p.m.

Flaherty withdrew his second and Fontes withdrew his motion.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of May 1, 2013 as amended, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Dr Sylvia)

FY’14 Budget Discussion & Possible Vote(s)

Dr. Sylvia called for a point of order and wanted to know if the committee goes over the budget tonight what is the purpose of tomorrow’s meeting if it’s suppose to be a joint effort?

Chair Veugen stated that tomorrow evening the boards will be reviewing the town’s budget and school’s budget with one slide each.

Dr. Rabinovitch reviewed his understanding from the meeting of May 7, 2013 with Derek Sullivan:

Deficit \$1,169,094 on May 1

Deficit \$1,044,325 on May 8 (minus transportation by town) then Mr. Sullivan agreed to a 63.5%/36.5% split and if additional revenues come to the town we will share this split as well.

The cut is \$663,146 for the school and \$381,179 for town government.

Cuts as proposed by principals with their impact:

- Minot – interventionists 4 0.5fies – reduces effectiveness of Tier II & III interventions
- Middle - \$75,000 non instructional accounts, reduce student activities and supplies and eliminate 1 guidance counselor position, no services
- WHS – 4.83 fies staff lost – adjustment counselor, art, 1/3 band, 3 clubs, 3 department heads, 0.5 secretary, social studies teacher, 1 teaching assistant, cut in athletics to impact services of needy students and activities
- Decas – 2 classroom teachers, 1.5 teaching assistants and maintenance supplies -impact higher class size in grade 4, missing technology help, and shortage in maintenance supplies
- Central Office – savings from on-going negotiations

Budget Slides – FY12, FY13, FY14 recommended by TA indicated a 0.6% increase over FY13 and 0.5% increase of total budget.

How many employees have we lost? Total of 35.35 over these three years.

Each elementary school and the middle school cut is \$130,000 each and the high school cut is \$250,000.

Each member voiced his/her concerns with individual cuts. Mr. Flaherty asked for the town side of increases in this time frame.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that we don't want to cut but we don't have resources. We need parents of children in schools to become politically active and show up at town meeting and vote. We are talking about the education of their children.

Chair Veugen stated that she would not be asking for a vote tonight in order to hear the presentations tomorrow evening. On the agenda for tomorrow evening's joint meeting is a vote, if necessary. It would be a good faith gesture to vote tonight on the non net school spending amount for tomorrow's meeting.

Mr. Swett moved to reduce the non net school spending budget in FY'14 from \$1,601,056 to \$1,476,287, seconded by Mr. Fontes for discussion.

There was discussion as to the appropriateness of the vote at this time.

Mr. Swett withdrew his motion and Mr. Fontes, his second.

The joint meeting will be tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Library.

(Mr. Flaherty left the meeting room 8:44 p.m.)

School Committee Schedule of Meeting Dates

After a brief discussion about having no meetings scheduled in July, Mr. Fontes moved to approve the meeting schedule, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of Gifts

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the gift of \$1,000 from CITE-New England to the Global Education Team Cape Verde Trip, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the gift of \$1,000 from Dick Melloni Youth Foundation to the East Wareham Early Childhood Center for the RIF program, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the gift of \$15,000 to be paid in 3 installments of \$5,000 per year for the parent resource center and parent cafes from Southcoast Hospitals Group, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

(Mr. Flaherty entered room 8:47 p.m.)

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the gift of \$125 from Domenic's Fine Clothing of Plymouth and \$1.00 from Student Paths to WHS for technology in a classroom, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Amendment to 2013-14 School Calendar

Mr. Swett moved the recommended change in the early release date from April 28, 2014 to April 7, 2014, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Superintendent's Report

Update Administrative Searches – A screening committee has been chosen for the Administrator of Special Education and interviews are scheduled for next Monday with Mr. Fontes as the committee's representative. Dr. Rabinovitch hopes to have a recommendation for appointment by the school committee at the next meeting.

The search for a Business Manager is in the paper screen phase and Dr. Sylvia will be the committee's representative.

For the record Mr. Flaherty stated that cuts in Central Office on tonight's slide are in addition to the \$95,000 already cut due to the administrative reorganization.

School Committee Reports

- Superintendent's Search Update – Chair Veugen reviewed the process: 64 applicants were screened by Ray and Associates to 10 candidates and reviewed by the school committee in executive session. These candidates were narrowed to 5 semi-finalists and interviewed by an interview committee and the school committee on Saturday, May 4th in executive session. The school committee narrowed the candidates to 3 finalists – Elise Frangos, current Assistant Superintendent at ORR; Anthony Pope, Educational Consultant and former Superintendent of Marlborough; Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent Blackstone Millville. The school committee is working with Ray and Associates to set up site visits, then final interviews by the school committee. Chair Veugen commended the individuals who served on interview committee for their thoroughness and wanted to harness their power in the future. Mr. Fontes stated that the selection of the three finalists was a joint process with the interview committee. Dr. Sylvia stated that the chair has done an admirable job in this time-consuming process.

MASC Legislative Advocacy Day – May 21st

Mr. Swett stated that he has registered for the legislative advocacy day and will be bringing some high school students. Chair Veugen stated that this is an opportunity for the committee members to speak with our legislators as well.

Any other business

- a. Mr. Flaherty questioned the NEASC letter – page 2, school officials progress report due May 13th. Principal Palladino stated that due to the financial picture in the upcoming year, he asked NEASC to hold off until after the June 18th town meeting.
- b. Dr. Rabinovitch informed the Committee that on May 22nd from 12-1 p.m. Secretary of Education, Matthew Malone, will be visiting the district and speaking to the administrative team. One of the topics we will be addressing is Chapter 70 aid and the lack of funding in Wareham. If members are available, there will be a brief session at the end of the visit.

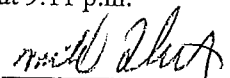
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- c. Chair Veugen shared an invitation to the Cooperative Graduation on Wednesday, June 5th at 5:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. She asked members to RSVP to Mrs. Blake or Mrs. Ruiz.
- d. WHS Graduation is Friday, June 7th 5:30 p.m.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Wareham School Committee Recognition Night
Ellen Bankston resume
Annual Report Accreditation Maintained
NEASC April 2, 2013 letter to Principal Palladino, WHS
Where the cuts would come from – May 8, 2013 powerpoint
Memo Re: Understandings from Combined meeting of May 7, 2013
Meeting Dates 2013-2014
Recommendation Gift Global Education Team – Dick Melloni Youth Foundation – Southcoast Hospitals Group
School Calendar 2013-2014
Legislative Advocacy Day
Correspondence – Superintendent's Newsletter, Notice of Vacancy Listing – Personnel List