

August 7, 2013

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, Clifford Sylvia and Nicole Russo, student representative, as well as Superintendent Ms. Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Veugen at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

GOOD NEWS

Chair Veugen welcomed the Committee back and Nicole Russo, student rep. She introduced new Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood who started August 1st and came from Blackstone Millville School District.

Ms. Hood shared her passion of putting students first and maintaining a safe environment. She is looking forward to working with the community and will have a Google link for community input.

Chair Veugen introduced our new Business Manager, Michael MacMillan, who came from the Barnstable School System.

Mr. MacMillan stated that he was delighted to be here and has been meeting key people at the sites focusing all resources on our students.

Dr. Sylvia shared that eight Wareham students were honored with scholarships and grant awards by the 100 Club of the Cape Verdean organization.

Chair Veugen announced Wareham's Summer of Celebration in 2014 and the schools having a big part in it. She read the fundraising opportunities: Cabaret at Bay Point, Canal Cruise Onset Pier, and Psychic Fair.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood had a slide show of our students in school this summer and the great things which are happening. Friday are the culminating events for CARE and she welcomed the members to stop by.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett move approval of the minutes of June 19, 2013, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Request to Construct Work Station at WHS

Mr. Palladino previously had construction of a work station in the English and History wing. He proposed the same type of work station in the math and science wing on the second floor at a cost of approximately \$2,500 out of maintenance line item.

Mr. Flaherty moved approval to construct a work station, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

Mr. Swett stated that he would approve the motion with great reluctance since the light and architecture this represents in the school will be eliminated.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of Foreign Exchange Student at WHS for 2013-14

Principal Palladino received a request from a local family who has housed many foreign exchange students to accept a student for this coming school year. He recommended approval of the student if all her paperwork is in order.

Mr. Swett stated that the student's acceptance is still pending at the family level.

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the foreign exchange student as recommended by Principal Palladino, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

While Mr. Palladino was present, Mr. Flaherty asked him to elaborate on the WHS Roof project.

Mr. Palladino stated that Massachusetts School Building Authority approved our Statement of Interest for the roof but more paperwork is needed to move the project forward with the approval of Town Meeting. The reimbursement by the state is at 68%.

Recommendation for School Transportation

Ms. Shaver-Hood recommended purchasing cameras to record both audio and video for each bus at \$12,000 to be paid from the revolving transportation line and several monitors to be rotated throughout the bus fleet at \$6,500 from the operating account. A letter will be going out to parents tomorrow sharing this information with seating of 5th graders in front and working its way back. She will be working with the administrators on student conduct on buses and our district website will have an icon to report Bus Safety Concerns which goes directly to the Superintendent.

There were discussions on a two tier or three tier transportation system and the fifth graders move to the Middle School. Given the time in the school year it would be a daunting task for a three tier system but we are being proactive. The cost of monitors on every bus is costly but floating monitors and cameras will be utilized.

Chair Veugen stated that a previous vote was taken after a public hearing to move fifth graders to Wareham Middle School. The parental concerns were with 5th graders riding the bus with 12th graders. Wareham will keep a two tier transportation system and all students who wish can receive transportation.

Mr. Fontes stated that it is a privilege to ride the bus and had concern for the safety of bus drivers and riders. Classes for drivers are scheduled for August 22nd. There are no bus driver license requirements for monitors but a CORI is required.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that video footage would be reviewed by building principal when there is a bus discipline problem.

Mr. Flaherty talked about the savings of \$100,000 with a three tier system in July and in March a savings \$120,000.

Dr. Sylvia stated that he believed the three tier surfaced to balance the budget with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Swett explained that while Chair there was a \$226,000 deficit in the transportation operating budget for FY12 and the district used School Choice funds to balance this deficit. No member made a motion to go to a three tier system so the status quo was in place. The Committee did not want to go to a three tier system with the hope of working with the Board of Selectmen. This committee felt that denying service to over 130 students and extending miles out was not going to happen. Discussions stopped with less of a deficit in FY'13 and a survey resulting in some children not needing transportation so not all buses were needed. There was a lack of decisiveness by this committee but he was comfortable supporting the superintendent's recommendation and maximizing benefits to students.

Mr. Flaherty stated that there was no vote by this committee because Dr. Rabinovitch withdrew his recommendation. If going this route, don't be surprised if more cuts come next year by the town.

Chair Veugen stated that the committee will have the same discussion for next year during this budget cycle.

Mr. Swett stated that the Transportation Manager ran the department much more efficiently and reduced a \$226,000 deficit to a \$120,000 deficit allowing us to maintain the same level of service.

Acceptance of Gifts

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts to the Minot Forest School:

\$486.72 from Stop & Shop under the A+ Bonus Program

Dr. Sylvia moved acceptance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

\$100 from AD Makepeace towards the Grade 5 Yearbook

Dr. Sylvia moved acceptance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

\$500 from Narrows Crossing towards the Grade 5 Yearbook

Dr. Sylvia moved acceptance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

\$237.06 from Red Robin towards the Grade 4 Big Sha-Bang Program

Dr. Sylvia moved acceptance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

\$544.87 from Red Robin towards the Grade 4 Yearbook

Mr. Fontes moved acceptance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that she would love to meet with members of the community and to please contact her.

Chair Veugen stated that she had met with the superintendent to speak about her concerns and suggested the other members also schedule a meeting with the superintendent.

School Committee Reports

Chair Veugen will sit down with Superintendent to set up advisory committees and assign member reps.

Chair Veugen will address budget planning with the chairs of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee asking for their availability to sit down with the Superintendent, Town Administrator, Business Manager, and Town Accountant with a goal to continue discussions with all boards.

Mr. Flaherty asked that the closing of this past year's budget be an agenda item.

Any other business

Dr. Sylvia asked for the Athletic Report to be an agenda item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Minutes of Meeting

Mr. Flaherty moved to enter into executive session to review the executive session minutes of March 20, 2013, April 10, 2013, April 25, 2013, May 4, 2013, May 28, 2013, and June 12, 2013 and come out to release minutes and adjourn, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

Roll call vote:

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

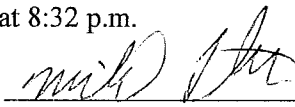
(8:20 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.)

Chair Veugen declared the release of the executive session minutes of February 13, 2013, March 20, 2013, April 25, 2013, May 4, 2013, May 28, 2013, and June 12, 2013.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Profile Foreign Exchange Student

August 6, 2013 Memo from Jeff Tatrow to Committee

August 8, 2013 letter from Superintendent Shaver-Hood to Parents/Guardians of Wareham 5th Grade Students

Memos from Principal Seamans on Gifts

Correspondence – Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy List

