

September 18, 2013

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, and student representative Nicole Russo as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Veugen at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

GOOD NEWS

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that it was important to be life-long learners. She shared that a number of our teachers have earned advanced degrees.

She also thanked those who attended the Decas & Minot Open Houses and encouraged parents/guardians to attend the Middle School Open House tomorrow evening.

Mr. Flaherty shared that the swing sets were put in at the Decas School playground and on September 22nd there will be a community build for the PreK playground equipment. All those interested should show up to help.

Mr. Swett shared that he was able to attend the New Bedford Symphony symmetry in music and art program at the elementary schools today.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of September 4, 2013, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

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

Introduction of West Wareham Academy Program

Ms. Miranda, Clinical Coordinator, showed a video of a WWA student speaking about the cookbooks for sale as a fundraiser.

Mr. Brandon Mendez, Paraprofessional, and Evan Bryant, freshman at WWA, spoke about the school store where students may purchase items like school supplies, snacks, and drinks with tokens for good behavior – educational, social and following school rules. The school store was tied into an entrepreneur class where students learned about cost and profit, customer service, making change, ordering and checking in merchandise, accounting, and advertising. The students did both written and on line applications, had interaction with real life businesses, and created and maintained a “saves” account for each student. They are always looking for donations to the school store.

Ms. Lucinda Keith, Teacher at WWA, spoke about pay it forward when a year ago the juniors and seniors researched and developed a garden and landscape and asked for donations. Home Depot donated perennials, mulch, edging posts, and soil. Then the students had to dig and plant. They put together a video and scrapbook and gave it to the Home Depot representative as a thank you.

While working together the students became a community and met the neighbors. They met with Mr. Pichette, Town Conservation, to discuss the vision of what students can do for the West Wareham Nature

Trail near the school building. Students are doing research of the area and want to make a plaque and rebuild the benches in area.

Mr. Fontes gave a \$100 donation to the school store.

Gatemen Organization

Ms. Judy Whiteside, who was a high school teacher, banker, and currently on the Board of Selectmen but tonight came before the Committee as treasurer of the Wareham Gatemen Baseball organization, read a letter dated September 18, 2013 summarizing the improvements made to Spillane Field and its environs by the Wareham Gatemen Baseball, Inc. since 1984. The total gifting to the school department was the sum of \$1,037,000 in in-kind donations, covering the years 1984 through 2013. She publicly thanked Jim Moran, Bob Holmgren and Judy Silva, school employees for their invaluable help over the years.

The School Committee commented on the investments made by Gatemen Baseball organization to the community and felt the organization deserved consideration of a long-term lease or relationship for a comfort level in use of the fields. Mr. Swett suggested a discussion with the Chair and Superintendent take place regarding this matter.

The Committee asked to have Ms. Whiteside's letter on our website as part of the School Committee agenda packet.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve gift from the Wareham Gatemen Baseball, Inc. of \$1,037,000 in in-kind donations over the period 1984 through 2013, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School Transportation Update

Mr. Tatro reported that there are two less buses at each elementary school and we continue to have 22 buses for middle/high school runs. The few very crowded bus issues have been resolved and we are working on others. Next week a head count will be taken. Some major factors which caused the overcrowded conditions were students moved into a portion of town which was not planned for, kids sitting in assigned areas and getting on the bus at the appropriate stop.

The members discussed the overcrowded issue on facebook including the procedures for drivers to report such conditions and why we did not absorb the buses cut at the elementary level for grade 5 students at the middle/high school runs.

If need be Mr. Tatro will work with the Business Manager to put on a bus until the next school committee meeting.

Mr. Tatro stated that a RFP will be put out in October for buses using the \$150,000 in revolving account.

Mr. Flaherty asked that Mr. Tatro address an issue with a parent regarding a bus situation.

FY13 End of Year Financial Report

Mr. MacMillan explained his financial approach is transparency, giving a full picture, a focus on data, and helpful comparisons. The PowerPoint presentation areas of focus were:

- District Enrollment since FY2008
- Staffing since FY2008
- Funding Sources

- Expenditure by Major Account
- Expenditure Trends
- FY13 Expenditure – Proportion by Cost Center
- Grants
- Revolving Accounts
- Areas of Focus #1 – Total Expenditures on Substitutes
- Areas of Focus #2 – Expenditure on Operations and Maintenance by Function

The members would like the following areas of concern addressed:

- a. Report on why the trend is costing more and more for substitutes
- b. Placing activity accounts in our monthly financial report
- c. Including in-kind costs in the pie chart
- d. The true cost for special education students per pupil with a decrease in enrollment
- e. Details of the revolving accounts with earmarked amounts

Hammond School Lease

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that the Hammond School Lease will be discussed on the Board of Selectmen's agenda next Tuesday night. She has had conversations with Wareham Child Care looking to lease the bottom floor of the building.

Ms. Whiteside was recognized by Chair Veugen and stated that the Board of Selectmen was looking for the Committee's preference before signing off on the lease.

The Committee took a vote many months ago when there was only one applicant. Then the town put out a RFP and have two applicants.

(Mr. Fontes left the table at 8:52 p.m. and returned after discussion of the agenda item at 9:00 p.m.)

If a lease is agreed for Wareham Child Care, it must be approved by the School Committee also.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood explained that the Boys & Girls Club received the School Committee vote to occupy Hammond School, then Wareham Child Care raised an issue to the Board of Selectmen and things halted. Because we are not moving forward and other facilities are available for CEDA, Wareham Child Care met with her, the Business Manager, the Town Administrator, and the Board of Selectmen Chair, to seek an alternative, the other side of the Hammond building. Since then Wareham Child Care toured Hammond and would like to occupy the bottom floor. This will leave the 2nd floor available. Superintendent Shaver-Hood suggested moving the lease forward with the Board of Selectmen and acknowledging the Boys & Girls Club.

Since the approved space by the School Committee is the same space within the RFP by the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee has already expressed itself through its previous vote.

Any clarification needed by the Board of Selectmen should be addressed to the Chair of the School Committee and/or the Superintendent.

Acceptance of Gifts

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended the following gifts:

12 \$50 Target gift cards from OBA, JOBA and NuPsi Woman's Charity Group in Sandwich for students for school supplies and clothing.

Mr. Swett moved acceptance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

20 Gifts cards from Walmart for teachers at Wareham Middle School as part of the PBIS initiative.

Mr. Flaherty moved acceptance, seconded by Mr. Swett

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

\$100 gift from Mr. Fontes to the West Wareham Academy school store.

Mr. Swett moved acceptance, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Fontes)

Superintendent's Report

- a. Budget Process Draft Timetable – information for review at the October meeting for discussion
Chair Veugen stated that perhaps a charter change should be addressed for the next town meeting. The Superintendent and Town Administrator agreed to meet in October and discuss proposals of cost sharing and then get together as boards and debate the proposals. She asked the members to let her know if any other agenda items are needed for this joint meeting.
The School Committee meeting date schedule may change for a full budget presentation to December. The Superintendent's Budget Advisory will be meeting soon.
- b. MCAS Data to be released and will be on the agenda in October
- c. Superintendent's Advisory Committee to be formed with a global function and engagement with our community – 2 School Committee members, Administrators, Teachers, Students, and Community Members. This large group to break into subcommittees.

School Committee Reports

- Appointment of Sub Committees/Advisory Committees Proposed 2013-14
Custodian, Cafeteria, Bus Driver are in the same union so it makes sense to have the same people
Units A, B, C should be the same people as well
Swett and Flaherty recommended for Superintendent's Advisory Committee

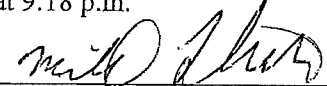
Any other business

None

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Wareham Gatemen Baseball, Inc. Letter of September 18, 2013
FY2013 – Budget Summary

Power Point Budget Summary

Budget Process Draft Timeline

Committee Assignments 2013-2014

Correspondence – Newsletter, Personnel List; Notice of Vacancy List