

January 29, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Kenny Fontes, Cliff Sylvia, 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 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Decas School Kindergarten Teachers, Wendy Nault and Michelle LeFrancois, presented a letter stating concerns and ideas of staff members regarding the proposed restructuring plan presented by the Superintendent (a copy of the letter was provided to members).

Chair Veugen thanked the teachers for their time and effort and stated that the letter will be reviewed. The budget process is ongoing and feedback is welcomed.

Chair Veugen thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for meeting with the School Committee last evening. The town is facing a \$2.9 million deficit on what is being requested for FY'15.

GOOD NEWS

The Happenings in Wareham Public Schools Video was shown by Ms. Rebhan.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood announced that the following WHS Seniors recently were notified that they received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship for excellence on their MCAS test – Meghan Silvia, Kylie Gillette, Amber Filkins, Tanner Ponte, and Richard Austin.

Dr. Sylvia thanked Mr. Fontes for the MLK Breakfast held at the new Boys & Girls Club facility, which was a well-attended event. This sentiment was echoed by Mr. Flaherty who stated there were incredible speakers and a young man who sang national anthem.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mr. Fontes)

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the minutes of January 15, 2014, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Presentation on DECA Regional Competition

Advisor Cindy Sylvia spoke on not what is DECA but who is DECA. DECA started in 1974 by her father, Dr. Sylvia. She and Co-Advisor Ms. Maurice are proud of these professional young men and women who support each other.

Some of the officers of DECA made the following presentation:

- what DECA means to us
- weekly DECA meetings to discuss events, managing the school store, etc.
- DECA in the classroom where students are project based learners, team oriented, independent, academically prepared

- DECA on the road as partners in the community
- Competition and dress for success

Ms. Sylvia reported that 84 of our DECA students out of 151 attended the regional competition at which 82 students met the national standard in the test; 51 were finalists; 14 who finished in the top 3; and 7 first place winners. Student Nicole Nault competed against 1,000 students in a 100 question marketing test and earned the #3 spot. The day started with students taking the Marketing exam, then a job interview or plan from industry, a case study, and a 100 question Business Administration test. Our student finalists will be attending state competition in March.

The School Committee asked questions and shared comments then the Chair called for a 5 minute break to meet students at 7:33 p.m.

(The meeting resumed at approximately 7:40 p.m.)

Request for Pilot Club WHS

Teacher Dan Nault and Corey Harunkiewicz, student athlete, presented a proposal to create a Weight Room Club as a pilot club at the high school. Members must be present on a select number of days and a letter is earned based on the days present and the number of sports. The club would operate 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. with main lifts. He reviewed the goals of the program and that there would be no cost, but should any arise it will be done through fundraisers. All activity will be under the supervision of Mr. Nault and/or Mr. Penno with a spotter.

There was discussion on the location of the program, competitions and students receiving letters.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the new pilot Weight Room Club, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

DRAFT 2014-2015 School Calendar

The members discussed the draft calendar and made the following suggestions:

- take away Good Friday
- table to discuss it after more feedback from parents
- shorten Christmas vacation

Superintendent Shaver-Hood will go through contracts and list of holidays for contractual feedback and cost.

Mr. Fontes moved to table the School Calendar for 2014-15 for a future meeting at the Chair's discretion, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of Gifts

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended the following monetary donations:

- \$250 from South Coast Sports to the Decas School for physical education supplies.

Mr. Swett moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- \$500 from ReBok awarded to teacher Katie Garcia at Decas School for physical education supplies.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- \$1,372 from Cape Cod 5 awarded to teachers Joy Higgins, John Flynn, and Charles Dyer for WHS student field trips.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- \$7,000 from Gateway Restaurant to WHS for technology in the library.

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Monthly Financial Reports

Business Manager, Michael MacMillan presented the FY14 Function Summary Report through December 2013 indicating 57% remaining compared to 58% the prior year. He highlighted the major accounts: Teachers Classroom - less remaining due to reduction of school choice; Out District Schools – new line for personnel administration for equipment ID cards; and Utilities – increased.

Mr. Fontes asked to have a breakdown of expenditures for major account 3520 other student body activities.

It was noted that major Account 3300 transportation if continued at the current rate of expenditures will be \$100,000 in our favor to allow the purchase of new/used buses from the revolving account if not shifted into regular operations. This projected savings is due to newer buses and less maintenance; optimizing vehicles for homeless runs; and our mechanics working diligently with the maintenance system.

Mr. MacMillan noted that major account 2355 professional development substitutes was in a negative balance due to required training for teachers.

Revolving Accounts Report – December 2013

There are two accounts with negative balances due to expected receipts and/or transfers to the general budget. The positive balance in the School Lunch account is due to the Managers working to improve the participation rate. The School Choice account balance is from a reduction in revenue.

(Mr. Flaherty left the meeting room 8:23 p.m.)

Vote on FY15 School Budget

Chair Veugen asked for a discussion on delaying the vote this evening until the next meeting based on 1) the information provided last evening at the joint meeting; 2) the Finance Committee currently doing work in their advisory role; and 3) her desire to call a meeting next Wednesday for collective bargaining in executive session.

(Mr. Flaherty re-entered meeting 8:25 p.m.)

After discussion and with the understanding that this budget number reflects an elementary reconfiguration and closing East and is what the Superintendent believes is necessary, a vote on the FY15 budget was taken.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood reviewed a timeline for the elementary proposed reconfiguration which includes community involvement, open forums and visits to the elementary schools to answer questions.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the Net School Spending amount of \$26,209,874, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

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

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the Non Net School Spending amount of \$1,494,600, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Swett moved to approve the total FY'15 Budget in the amount of \$27,704,474, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Shaver-Hood updated the Committee on the two searches:

Principal Search for Wareham Middle School closes February 10th – 14 applications have been received and a search committee is being formed.

Mr. Flaherty agreed to serve as the School Committee representative on the Middle School Principal Search.

Director of Curriculum Search closes February 11th – 27 applications have been received. Mr. Swett volunteered to serve as the School Committee representative.

She is seeking volunteers for the steering/guidance committee for the elementary reconfiguration with the first meeting on February 6th and two open forums on February 11th and 25th.

Chair Veugen asked for participants to serve. All information on the forums and the budget will be on the district website.

School Committee Reports

Policy Review Committee

Mr. Flaherty reported that the Policy Review Committee met on January 14th and is making the following recommendations:

Student Exchange Program – There were no suggested changes by Principal Palladino at this time so no changes were made to this policy.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the policy on Student Exchange as presented, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Measuring Body Mass Index – The letter to be sent to parents was removed and the last line in the policy was changed. Now parents may make a written request instead of automatic mailing of the BMI results.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the policy on Measuring Body Mass Index with changes, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School Committee Standing Rules – Mr. Flaherty had forwarded to the members an opinion from Attorney Bowen relative to removing Part II #5 – chair is relinquished before taking part in the debate. He advised that Roberts Rules is a guide only and there was nothing preventing the committee from removing this section.

Mr. Swett moved to delete #5 from the policy, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Part III - Self Evaluation

Dr. Sylvia moved to remove the statement “The School Committee will conduct a self-evaluation annually.” seconded by Mr. Swett.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the Policy Review Committee felt strongly that the School Committee should conduct an evaluation.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Swett moved to approve the policy School Committee Standing Rules of Procedures as amended, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent Shaver-Hood introduced a Social Networking policy to give guidelines to our staff. This policy is to be voted upon at the next meeting.

Procedures for Assemblies by Outside Vocational School Districts – Superintendent Shaver-Hood discussed the procedure which specifically is limited to Upper Cape and Bristol County Agricultural. This procedure will be placed in our handbooks. The policy on Guest Speakers will address these procedures and would go before the Policy Review Committee as an amendment.

Mr. Swett suggested that these outside schools not have student discipline and grades as a basis for denying access to their schools and our district should only report if a student is in good standing for their application to go to Upper Cape.

The Superintendent will review this suggestion and, if possible, recommend a further amendment to the policy.

Chair Veugen asked the superintendent to please provide all info to Mr. Flaherty as Chair of the Policy Review Committee.

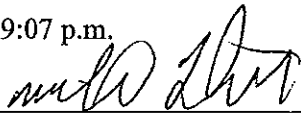
Superintendent Shaver-Hood shared all the programs offered by Wareham High School including DECA, the Arts, JROTC, Foreign Language, AP, Dual Enrollment, and On-line Courses and stated that our district is proud of our offerings from our Level I high school.

Any other business - None

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Concerned Staff Letter to members of the School Committee

Pilot Club WHS

School Calendar 2014-15 DRAFT

Gifts: Decas School

FY14 Function Summary December 2013

Revolving Accounts Report December 2013

Elementary Proposed Re-Configuration – January 29, 2014

Student Exchange Program Policy

Measuring Body Mass Index Policy

School Committee Standing Rules of Procedure

Guest Speakers Policy – Procedures for Assemblies by Outside Vocational School Districts

Correspondence: Newsletter, Personnel List, Vacancy Notice List

