

February 12, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 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. Dr. Cliff Sylvia was absent.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the Middle School Student Council presented a gift to each board member since it was thank you week. The craft item had a patriotic theme and student council members were giving this thank you gift to each staff member of Wareham Middle School, the bus drivers, and central office staff.

Citizen, Ron Robinson expressed his concern with not funding the Resource Officer. He asked the School Committee to please consider safety and security of the students when allocating funds and for the Committee and Police to come together for funding this position.

Chair Veugen clarified that this action was not a School Committee decision and that the safety of children is most important. The town chose to cut this position in order to meet budget reductions and the needs in the police department. The School Department is working with the Police Department and the Town Administrator to meet the needs of the students for the current school year and going into FY15.

Laureen Decas, parent, had funding questions on the School Resource Officer position and asked that any decision made be relayed to parents.

Chair Veugen stated that updates will be given at School Committee meetings.

Jayla Silva, WHS student, presented a student petition stating concerns about cutting the SRO position and asked to reconsider this decision.

Kylie Decas, WMS student, also presented a student petition regarding the SRO position being cut.

Chris Holbrook, parent, stated the need for not just a SRO but this SRO (Karl Baptiste) and this cut is not fair to our kids.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood replied that she is not happy, and she has voiced our concerns to the town, and will work collaboratively with the town to keep our students safe.

GOOD NEWS

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

- WMS Robotics
- Viking Anchor Wareham positivity
- Coop students solar house
- Engineer visit to grade 7 students
- WMS Honor Society service project
- Amber Filkins 1,000 point
- Beyond School Time Mosaic Madness

Chair Veugen stated that the Superintendent had asked realtors to meet our students, tour our buildings, and get to know Wareham better. She then read a quote in Wareham Week by Mr. Worrell about our "diverse community".

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2014, seconded by Mr. Fontes

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of January 29, 2014, seconded by Mr. Fontes

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Presentation from Middle School & High School Honor Societies

WMS Honor Society – The five officers read a poem written by the students. They reviewed the five Pillars of Success (Leadership; Character; Scholarship; Citizenship; Service) and spoke on the many community service projects the students participate in, i.e. Relay for Life (Wareham), Canned Food Drives, Peer Tutoring.

Jr. National Honor Society WHS – Two members were present and spoke on the Pillar of Character and the types of Community Service projects they are involved with.

National Honor Society WHS – Members spoke about what is service, scholarship, leadership, and character and how to become eligible to join the honor society.

40 hours of community service is a requirement for a complete year and 20 hours for half the year. The students also participate in an Honor Bowl, a friendly competition with other districts in the South Coast Conference.

Chair Veugen called for a recess at 8:10 p.m.- 8:18 p.m.

Acceptance of Gifts

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

\$500 from Bag2School for the East Wareham Early Childhood Center Playground.

Mr. Fontes moved to accept the gift with thanks, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

\$45 from Mrs. Anne Marie Fillion for the East Wareham Early Childhood Center Playground.

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

\$100 from Water Wizz for WHS Band Uniforms.

Mr. Swett moved to accept the gift with thanks, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

\$500 from Onset Bay Association for WHS Band Uniforms.

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

\$75 from Paul Kopyschianski for WHS Band Uniforms.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the gift with thanks, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

\$200 from Spas by Paul for WHS Band Uniforms.

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

\$600 from Arbella Insurance for the WHS Chess Club.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the gift with thanks, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

\$300 from G.H. Dunn Insurance for the WHS Chess Club.

Mr. Swett moved to accept the gift with thanks, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

DRAFT School Calendar 2014-15

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that she had explored various options for the school calendar. If we start before Labor Day and have no February or April vacations, there will be conflicts with having a March vacation due to MCAS week.

She recommended adopting the calendar starting school August 27, 28 for Teacher In-service and September 2nd as the first day for students with June 25th as the last scheduled day. A start before Labor Day is a contractual item with possible discussion during negotiations moving forward.

It was noted that the cost to have school on Good Friday would be \$10,080 due to contractual obligations.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the 2014-15 school calendar as recommended by the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Policy on Facebook and Social Networking

(Mr. Swett asked to recluse himself from the table for this agenda item.)

Superintendent Shaver-Hood gave the members the town's social networking policy and asked them to review it and then we would place this item on a future agenda.

Mr. Flaherty suggested this topic be on the next Superintendent's Advisory agenda.

Credit for Life Program – WHS

Cape Cod Five representatives were present and showed a video on a Credit for Life Fair, which is an educational day for Senior students and a volunteering opportunity for the bank workers and the community, teaching students how to manage a budget.

Mr. Palladino stated that a Credit for Life Fair will be held on February 28th at WHS Gymnasium from 7:45 – 11:00 a.m. involving local businesses. Principal Palladino thanked Senior Dean for bringing this opportunity to his attention

There was discussion on measuring the success of the fair, verbal feedback from students, an extensive evaluation completed by the students the day of the fair and follow up lessons available if necessary.

WHS Course of Studies 2014-15

Principal Palladino reviewed the changes to the course of studies by department.

Ms. Freitas spoke on Dual Enrollment opportunities including a new partnership with Bridgewater State University. Under the agreement Bridgewater would provide transportation, at no cost to the Wareham Public Schools, and a reduced tuition rate from \$700 to \$200 for the students to take 2 courses per semester plus the cost of books.

On March 13th there will be an informational night for parents on dual enrollment and AP.

Principal Palladino reviewed Graduation Requirements, an increase to 130 credits for future classes; MASS Core requirements included; Electives Offered; and MMSI AP Courses.

Career, Culture & Wellness – Cindy Sylvia – changes in Business courses, Fine Art changes in course descriptions, new courses in Art and Graphic Design, Intro to Musical Theater; and minimal changes in Foreign Language on prerequisites.

English/History – Mike Murray – articulation with Bristol Community College; new courses added including Intro to Economics; and course description changes.

Math/Science - Katie Marchessault – changes to Algebra I honors for incoming 8th graders and added new courses Adv. Math Decision Making, Physical World Honors, and Intro Astronomy.

The School Committee thanked all department heads for their work in meeting the needs of our students and for being present this evening.

Mr. Fontes moved to approve the changes to the WHS Course of Studies as proposed this evening, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Financial Reports

Mr. MacMillan reported that he is currently seeking a grant for a software management system to provide more efficiency and accuracy of data. He will be having small focus audits in the district to identify key areas of risk and if changes need to be made.

- Monthly Summary – January 2014 instructional materials spent less – heating down from last year – substitutes spent more on professional development but overall substitute expenditures down – other student body activities includes school field trips and school store at WWA.
Mr. Flaherty asked to place the #code under the account name on the new format.
- Revolving Accounts – since the general budget is so tight we will be using these accounts where we can.

FY14 Budget Reduction Request from Town

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that she had received a request from the Town Administrator asking the schools to provide \$250,000 in cuts since DOR asked the town to cut its FY14 budget by \$500,000. The town has cut \$250,000. We have monitored our spending, reduced 4 paras and 3 cafeteria employees and are freezing revolving transportation to meet this obligation. The money will stay with our budget until requested to be transferred over.

Superintendent's Report

- 24 applications have been received for the Principal WMS – a search committee has begun
- 40 applications have been received for the Director of Curriculum – this search should begin soon
- Anyone with questions about the \$400,000 from FY13 budget raised last evening should contact the Superintendent
- April Town Meeting Warrant Articles
 - #1 – rescind town article for school buses since a vote was taken prior to the money being placed in the revolving account and this article was not allowed by DOR
 - #2 return the Everett Educational Center to town control
 - #3 ask the town to appropriate/borrow money \$2,365,986 for the roof at WHS. Wareham is eligible for 68% reimbursement from MSBA

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve Article #1 for discussion, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Mr. Flaherty questioned why we did not have a new transportation article to replace the one we are withdrawing. Mr. MacMillan explained that as part of an agreement with the town to reduce the FY14 budget we are not spending the money in the transportation revolving account. We cannot have an article this coming town meeting but hope to have an article for school buses in the fall.

Mr. Swett stated that the article was #19 at the April 22, 2013.

Mr. Swett withdrew his second, Mr. Flaherty, his motion.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve Article #1 as amended, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve Article #2 for discussion, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Mr. Flaherty asked why we are not giving Hammond School back to the town. The Superintendent stated she was advised by town counsel not Hammond School but wait until the fall since we have possessions in the building and in the fall we will also give control of the East Wareham Early Childhood Center back to the town.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Swett moved to approve Article #3 seconded by Mr. Flaherty.
Chair Veugen stated that last year the feasibility study was approved and this is the next phase.
Mr. Swett stated that the \$2.3 million means a cost of \$750,000 for the town because of state reimbursement.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- Elementary Reconfiguration – open forum on February 25th at Decas
- FY15 Budget continues to develop with proposals for further reductions at the next School Committee meeting

School Committee Reports

Mr. Swett reported on a joint meeting with Cape Cod Collaborative and MASC Division VII which was attended by school committee members and superintendents. There was a presentation by DESE on Common Core and PARC Assessment.

Any other business

Mr. Fontes asked for the superintendent to make it her priority to continue to be engaged with acting Chief Walsh and Derek Sullivan about the SRO position in the schools for the remainder of the school year.

The School Committee agreed to make this a high priority with daily conversations and report back at the next meeting on this topic with email updates.

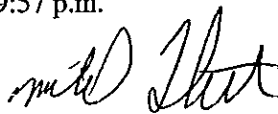
Mr. Flaherty commended the superintendent for being visible in the community.

Mr. Swett moved adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____



List of documents:

Gifts: Bag2School & Memo from Principal Palladino February 4, 2014
DRAFT School Calendar #1 2014-15
DRAFT School Calendar #2 2014-15
Social Networking Policy for Staff
Policy on Facebook and Social Networking Websites
WHS January 14, 2014 Credit for Life Fair
Changes to the Program of Studies for WHS
WHS Program of Studies 2014-2015
WPS FY2014 Budget Function Summary: January 2014
WPS Revolving Accounts Report January 2014
Articles for Town Meeting January 2014
Correspondence: Newsletter, Personnel List, Vacancy Notice List

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