

March 5, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 5, 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 Nicole Russo, student rep, 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

Chris Holbrook stated that personally school uniforms were not a good idea with the town at 50% low income. She also stated that if high school buses are to be cut, this will be a setback at the high school.

Chair Veugen stated that school uniforms was first discussed at the Superintendent's Advisory Council. The administration has been gathering feedback through schools and on line and no decision has been made. She encouraged anyone who has an opinion on this matter to give the superintendent feedback on the district website.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that school uniforms is being discussed at school council meetings and then this input will go to the Superintendent's Advisory Committee for a decision by the School Committee in April.

Shannon Rose stated that school uniforms don't let children be individuals and the schools should enforce the current dress code. In regard to the bus situation, it affects the community as a whole.

Missy Decas stated that the bus issue concerned her as a taxpayer and she is a proponent of this public school.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood announced that she will be visiting different locations in town with the Town Administrator to address budget concerns starting this Friday in Onset. Other locations will be published and anyone is welcomed to make a request for a meeting but suggest a date, a time, and a location.

Jaime Pelletier was concerned with those students having sensory concerns and sizes relating to school uniforms and regarding the bussing issue, kids will be going to places that have buses.

Mark Holbrook asked if the elementary re-configuration bus concerns had an effect on high school transportation and where are the cost savings.

Based on concern of the parents Mr. Fontes moved to take agenda item #7 to the #3 spot, seconded Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Brian Fitzgerald, teacher/president WEA, thanked the seven people whose positions were cut during this school year for their service. They are appreciated and valued and they will be missed.

GOOD NEWS

- Happenings in Wareham Public Schools Video – shown by Jaime Rebhan

- Superintendent Shaver-Hood promoted the K registration continuing on March 6 & 7. She also stated that the Board of Selectmen presented a proclamation to Tariq Johnson declaring March 18, 2014, Tariq's sixteenth birthday, to be Tariq Johnson Day in the Town of Wareham. The proclamation was read by Chair Veugen.
- Recognition of Student Athlete – Principal Palladino introduced Amber Filkins, student athlete at Wareham High School who scored her 1000th point in basketball this season.

Amber stated that the team went into the season with high expectations and thanked everyone for their support.

Committee members recognized Amber for her volunteering in the JBA, commended her on academics and Viking spirit, and giving back to the younger kids through her part-time job at the YMCA.

- Recognition of Student Earning EMT Certification – Mrs. Miranda introduced Jarrett Speroni, a senior at West Wareham Academy who has met all requirements for graduation.

Jarrett shared his struggles and, since coming to West Wareham Academy, his successes. With the help and support of his West Wareham Academy family, he was able to obtain his EMT license through Bridgewater State and will be a lifeguard at the YMCA summer camp in Middleboro.

- Chair Veugen announced a fundraiser Comedy Night to benefit WMS PTA on April 19th.
- As a volunteer for the Credit for Life Program, Mr. Swett stated that he received uniformly positive results from our high school seniors and Cape Cod Five Bank representative stated that Wareham students were great.
- Mr. Flaherty announced that the Decas School Band Concert is March 11th.

Proposal for Reductions to FY15 Budget

Business Manager Michael MacMillan shared the proposed reductions to the school's FY15 Budget. He gave an overview of the challenges to meet and stated that the savings are estimates.

Reductions:

- Reconfiguration Elementary Schools – 1 teacher; 3 support staff for a savings of \$235,000 plus \$45,000 health/dental town savings for in-kind but unemployment costs would be an offset
- Supplies/Materials \$103,209
- Reorganization Special Education - 10 teachers & paras and 2 contracted service positions for a savings of \$430,000 plus \$60,000 health/dental
- Middle to Jr High model - 7 teachers \$360,000 plus \$70,000 health/dental
- Athletics \$20,000 savings
- Transportation \$30,000 savings on out of district runs
- Other staff cuts – 5 teachers and 3 support staff for a savings of \$255,000 plus \$65,000 health/dental
- Total LEA savings of \$1,433,209

Options for Final Reductions:

- Option 1 Transportation – no bus service for high school students \$163,000
- Option 2 Reduction supplies/materials \$13,000

Staff cuts 4 teachers, 1 support staff \$130,000 plus health/dental \$13,000
Cutting down to late buses only once a week \$20,000

Other Cost Reduction Measures Being Explored:

- Joint working with the Town of Wareham
- Outsourcing services
- Energy Efficiency Measures
- Coordinate/Centralized purchasing
- Early Retirement Packages

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended a vote to approve the elementary re-configuration by closing the East Wareham Early Childhood Center and having Preschool and Grades 3 & 4 at Minot Forest School and Kindergarten and Grades 1 & 2 at the John W. Decas School. She reviewed the projected class sizes and the number of rooms needed per grade.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood explained the changes to be made from a middle school to a junior high model: social studies will be added back to the curriculum and teachers will teach 5 classes with one prep and lunch. This model must be negotiated with the union as a change in schedule.

The administration's goal is to provide a quality education for our students. We looked at all budget lines outside of teaching to come up with a level funded budget, which is a \$1.6 million reduction. This is a fluid document and we will continue to work with the town.

Chair Veugen took questions/comments from members on each section.

Middle School to a Junior High Model – will have public forums to provide further information and answer any questions.

Athletic Reduction – reduce training costs and increase user fees modestly aligned within our conference
Transportation – Option #1 no bus service for high school students and Option #2 were both discussed. Most members agreed that having no bus service for high school students was not an option. We need an option #3 to get more revenue into this town. These cuts bring us to a 0% increase from FY14 to FY15 with the same problem next year.

Chair Veugen was thankful for the collaborative effort by the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee boards on the budget.

(Mr. Fontes left the meeting room 8:57 p.m.)

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of February 12, 2014, seconded by Mr. Flaherty for discussion.

Mr. Flaherty suggested the following changes:

Page 1 - ...this SRO – add in parenthesis Karl Baptiste

Page 4 WHS Course of Studies – add Bridgewater would provide transportation “at no cost to the Wareham Public Schools”

Page 5 – full name of East to East Wareham Early Childhood Center and Hammond School

Mr. Swett moved approval of the minutes of February 12, 2014, as amended, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

(Mr. Fontes returned to meeting 9:00 p.m.)

Presentation by WHS Guidance Counselors

Present were Principal Palladino and Guidance Counselors Lisa Shields, Pamela Franklin, and Robin Cambra.

Mrs. Franklin read the mission statement. She stated that the counselors remain with students throughout their years at the high school. She reviewed each counselor's job responsibilities.

The Curriculum Guide is a 4 year delivery system:

- Grade 9 introduction/transition; Graduation Requirements; 4 year plan Chart
- Grade 10 Career Building
- Grade 11 College Workshop and topics/timeline
- Grade 12 College & Career Readiness/Transition and topics/timeline

Other information shared was Student Services, College Visits and Acceptance Lists, Responsive Services & Topics, Additional Programming, Professional Development and Student Experiences.

Comments/Questions from committee members

Dr. Sylvia moved to go past 10:00 p.m. in order to finish the agenda, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Vote to Declare Property Surplus

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that the committee needs to vote in order to return the Everett Educational Center building back to the town.

Dr. Sylvia moved to declare the property of Everett Educational Center as surplus to its requirements, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the donation of \$100 from Convention Data Services, Inc. of Bourne to WHS Music Booster, seconded by Mr. Fontes.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the donation of \$250 from Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation to WHS for band uniforms, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the donation of a mount to a telescope system from Edward Holleran of Wareham to WHS for its astronomy class, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the donation of \$1,000 from Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank to WHS for the Credit for Life Fair, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Swett moved to accept the donation of \$1,000 from the CEO of Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank to WHS to be used towards a new sound system in the gymnasium, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Swett moved to accept the donation of Christmas items valuing \$1,200 from Walmart to the Wareham Public Schools, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Superintendent's Report

- a. Re-configuration of Elementary – Dr. Sylvia moved the recommendation of the Superintendent for the elementary re-configuration plan for Decas School housing Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 and the Minot Forest School housing Preschool, Grade 3, and Grade 4 for the 2014-2015 school year, seconded by Mr. Fontes

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- b. The administration is exploring a day care before and after school program for next year.

School Committee Reports

None

Any other business

Dr. Sylvia asked for an agenda item to discuss the reinstatement of Officer Baptiste as our SRO.

Mr. Fontes stated that at the last meeting he asked the Superintendent to make this a priority and felt that a security officer is not what a SRO can do.

There will be an update at the next March meeting.

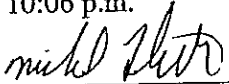
Mr. Flaherty asked for an update on the Middle School Principal position. The superintendent stated that a candidate will be meeting staff on Tuesday.

Dr. Sylvia suggested in future discussions to refer to *standard of dress* instead of *school uniforms*.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

FY'15 Budget Proposed Reductions March 5, 2014 versions 1 and 2

PowerPoint Presentation WHS Guidance Department

Proclamation from Board of Selectmen TARIQ JOHNSON DAY

Correspondence: Newsletter, Personnel List, Vacancy Notice List, After School Clubs