

March 19, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 19, 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 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

G. Allen Perry, a Grade 11 student from WHS and Student Council member, addressed the Committee regarding school uniforms. He was against having school uniforms due to a lack of individuality. He was against conformity and felt the current dress code could be altered slightly or be enforced.

Jane Barboza, parent of a student at WHS, also addressed the Committee regarding the cost of having uniforms to both the parent and the school budget. She was upset that no transportation for high school students was even under consideration since the transportation policy was addressed recently by the Policy Review Committee.

GOOD NEWS

- The Happenings in Wareham Public Schools Video was shown by Jaime Rebhan. After the video Chair Veugen asked for a moment of silence in memory of a member of our community, 8th grade student Tariq Johnson.
- A new segment introductory video called Spotlight on Viking Alumni was shown.
- Kiwanis Kids – Minot Forest School – Ashley Doherty, teacher and faculty advisor for K Kids Service Club and students Brandon, Jillian, and Heather shared the community service project for this month – Warm Feet, Warm Heart - collecting socks for the homeless.
- 351 Project Student – Wareham Middle School – Principal Marks introduced Jeffry McDougal who shared that he was nominated by his teachers as the 8th grade ambassador for Wareham to visit the State House and meet the Governor. One ambassador from each town in the state attended the 351 Project for a day of service and each ambassador was asked to share with their school the community service project- Spring Green, a children's clothing and shoe drive to benefit Cradles to Crayons in Boston. Jeffry is working with student council members for the drive.
- DECA Finalists – Wareham High School – Cindy Sylvia informed the Committee that the International Development Conference is in Atlanta GA on May 3rd. Wareham had 15 finalists take home medallions and 4 students qualified for Nationals. She thanked Ms. Monice, the instructor, and the Principal, the Superintendent and the School Committee for supporting this program. A video was shown by students Rae-Lyn Pina & Ariel St.Germaine, who submitted the video to qualify for Nationals. The 4 finalists shared their awards and what DECA means to them:
 - Teddy Mathews – Sports & Entertainment – 1st place and medals in tests
 - Paige Fehskens – 1st overall in category \$1,000 scholarship to Bay State College and medals
 - Cory Harunkiewicz – trophy
 - Erica Trask – 12th at regionals and did a hospitality project to make it to states - trophy
- Presentation of Plaque – Mr. Kenneth Fontes was personally thanked by members for his service on the Committee. This was his last meeting since he is not running for re-election to the School Committee. Chair Veugen presented Mr. Fontes with a plaque of appreciation for his service on the School Committee from April 2008 – March 2014. Mr. Fontes thanked his colleagues for their kind comments.

- Announcements – Chair Veugen announced a silent auction of student art work from 5-7:00 p.m. on May 7th at Minot Forest School and Mike Naughton's Yankee Doodle Circus tickets are available for a performance for the whole family on Saturday, March 29th at the WHS Gym.
- Mr. Flaherty announced that last Sunday three teams from Wareham Middle School and one elementary team participated in Destination Imagination Competition. The elementary team won 2nd place and one middle school team placed 1st. The finals are in Worcester on March 29th.
- Mr. Fontes was proud of everyone who stepped up for Tariq Johnson Day.
- Chair Veugen asked the students to continue their hard work this week in taking the MCAS tests.

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr. Sylvia moved approval of the minutes of March 5, 2014, as presented, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Acceptance of Gifts

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- \$15,000 from the Georgia Decas Chamberlain Trust Fund to the John W. Decas School Library.
Mr. Swett moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Flaherty
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0
- \$5,000 from Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank to Wareham Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School for its Technology Initiative Program
Mr. Swett moved to accept the gift, seconded by Dr. Sylvia
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0
- \$500 from Target and First Books to WMS to purchase books
Mr. Fontes moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Flaherty
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Financial Reports

Business Manager MacMillan presented the February 2014 Budget Function Summary noting an increase in heating costs.

Mr. Flaherty asked to add a column for transfers and send another report.

(Mr. Fontes left the meeting room at 8:35 p.m.-8:37 p.m.)

In the revolving account report the after school programs and school property accounts are currently in deficit but we are awaiting receipts. Funds for the Hammond School rental go into the school property account.

Dr. Sylvia asked for a comparison report and maybe a forecast for grant funds.

Mr. Swett asked for an in-kind presentation.

Enrollment Reports

- Mid-Year Attendance – The superintendent read the % of Attendance figures for 2013 to 2014. The committee members had questions on the number of tardies and absences and the % of attendance figures for the Cooperative and High schools.
- School Attending - 2,714 students in Wareham Public Schools with 586 students going out of district. There has been a declining population in the number of students in Wareham.

Mr. Flaherty had questions on choice and foster care numbers. The Superintendent will get back to members on specifics at the next meeting for further discussion.

Superintendent's Report

Update on School Resource Officer – The Superintendent reported that she had met with Chief Walsh and they are working on a MOA between the Police and School for funding sources and developing a job description for a School Resource Officer (SRO). The safety plan discussion is ongoing.

Mr. Fontes asked if there was a report from school administrators on safety since the SRO was taken out of the schools and the status of a security officer position for remainder of this year.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that the security position was part-time (3 hours/day) and would cost no more than \$5,000 for this school year. We are obtaining references on a candidate, who has police experience. Due to a lack of clarity there was hesitation with going forward with a SRO.

Dr. Sylvia was not in favor of a security officer and asked, if police presence is required at games, why not each day with 700 people assembled?

Mr. Swett stated that a motion for an override is about restoring these needs.

Chair Veugen stated that meetings with the Superintendent, Town Administrator and Chairs of the Finance Committee, School Committee and Board of Selectmen have taken place. We will be asking town meeting voters to weigh in on a balanced budget and a second motion that considers an override and what the funds will be used for. The Town Administrator and Superintendent are working on the presentation, override, and five year plan to be brought back to the chairs then a joint meeting of the three boards next week.

Chair Veugen asked the members to look over the presentation beforehand and ask your questions before the joint meeting. At the next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting she will be asking for votes.

School Committee Reports

- Safety Advisory Committee – Chair Veugen asked the superintendent to re-constitute this committee to make recommendations to the Town Administrator and Superintendent regarding policies and procedures of safety and security in the schools. The Chair will bring this item to the School Committee as to the make-up and function of the Safety Advisory Committee.

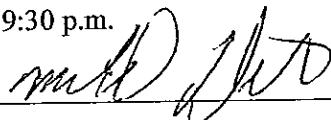
Any other business

Mr. Flaherty announced a meeting of the Chair of the Library Trustees with the Mass Board of Library Commissioners regarding the library accreditation on April 3rd. Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Swett will be attending.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Massachusetts State DECA Conference 2014

Georgia Decas Chamberlain Trust Gift

Technology Initiative Wareham Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School Gift

WPS FY2014 Budget Function Summary: February 2014

WPS Revolving Accounts Report: February 2014

School Attending Seven Year Data; School Attending 2014; Student Attendance 2013-2014

Correspondence: Newsletter, Personnel List, Vacancy Notice List