

May 21, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, Mel Lazarus and Nicole Russo, student representative, as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Ms. Prada.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deborah Rose, a volunteer at Minot Forest, wanted to know the policy on school buses for field trips and who is charged. She asked if an individual can offer to pay for the busing. She also asked the School Committee not to contract out the school lunch program because they would lose commodities from the government and stated that she still did not have answer regarding the \$60,000 bonus commodities that we did not accept.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood encouraged her to contact Debbie Perry, the Food Service Manager, or Mr. MacMillan, the Business Manager.

Jim Derkin, Council 93 ASME Representative, spoke on outsourcing services. He stated that it would be very difficult to compete on cost basis alone and there would be a revolving door of strangers because the pay of staff is so low. He asked that the committee consider the union factor and that the current employees are residents of Wareham who have given many years of dedicated service to the students of Wareham.

Chris Holbrook, President of the WHS/WMS PTA, asked if the high school's nine lost positions would be reinstated or if the reinstatements could come from anywhere within the district. Chairman Sylvia stated that some would come back but can't say that all would. He stated that the plan is on the website and that there would be some fluidity regarding who comes back. In regard to outsourcing, Ms. Holbrook stated that these workers have invested in Wareham because they have lives, kids and families and need their jobs.

Jean Smith, resident of West Wareham and manager of the WHS Cafeteria, stated that the Food Service Department had always been self-supporting and that they receive commodity food to help subsidize the free and reduced meals. The food service program is regulated as to what can be served and what can be charged. The program would be finishing the school year in the red and the school budget would have to pay the difference, but has not happened for 20 years. In December the managers were told that the projected shortfall needed to be taken care or else the service would be outsourced. The union president came to her office to deliver the message that if anyone was on the fence about the incentive that they should take it. She asked the committee to reconsider outsourcing and find other ways to save money like maybe from the top down.

Brian Fitzgerald, WEA President and teacher, stated that students don't succeed as well on an empty stomach. He said that the women that serve our students know these students and care for these students. He stated that these companies buy their food cheap, process it, overprice it and students receive a meal with less nutritional value which affects test scores.

Nancy Cedarholm, Secretary and President of WSDSA, stated that she worked for this system for almost 18 years and asked that if the committee does seek bids for outsourcing that it look at the current employees and to see if our students would be getting the same care with a private company.

Chairman Sylvia thanked everyone for coming and suggested that the committee take #6 out of order.

Vote on Issuing RFP's to Outsource Cafeteria and Custodial Services

Superintendent Shaver-Hood addressed the cafeteria food service department running at a loss but stated that it had made every effort to correct this. She acknowledged the increasing costs and nutritional guidelines having affected the program. She asked that they issue a RFP to explore options for outsourcing and also to review the program and what it would take to keep it in-house. An evaluation committee would meet and make a recommendation to school committee whether or not to keep the food service program in-house or to outsource.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he understood there would be an impact to education by privatizing but that we are already impacting education with the deficit and believed they should look in to it.

Mr. Swett wanted to be clear that the mandate of this committee was to take a broad look at the food service program and how it is being managed and that one component is an RFP but not the only one. He asked if this committee could seek information from food service management.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that the evaluation committee would welcome that kind of information. She stated that we would be fiscally irresponsible not to explore all options.

Mrs. Veugen stated that this would be an opportunity to get educated on what is going on and make the best decision. Discussion needs to happen from a management perspective to help decrease the overall deficit.

Mr. Lazarus stated that the committee members should have all the information before making a decision and that an RFP going out does not mean this is a done deal.

Chair Sylvia stated that these people were friends and neighbors and the committee needed to have to all of the facts to make an educated decision.

Mr. Flaherty moved to send out a RFP for outsourcing the cafeteria, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that she would like to hold on putting a RFP out for custodial work to review procedures.

Mr. Lazarus moved to put the RFP on hold for custodial staff, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Chairman Sylvia called for a 2 minute recess 7:55 p.m.

Chairman Sylvia reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

GOOD NEWS

Superintendent Shaver-Hood shared a video “Thank you Teachers and Staff” which was filmed during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Chairman Sylvia stated that the Taste of Wareham event was a good time and that the Foundation gave out grants to teachers.

Chairman Sylvia also announced that the DECA Spaghetti Supper and Auction was a great success.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2014 as written, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2014-2015

There was discussion on adding the budget presentations by the Principals and Administration to allow the Finance Committee to attend and ask questions.

Chairman Sylvia suggested that the committee hold off on discussion and give the meeting schedule to the Superintendent to review for a date for a budget presentation meeting.

School Choice District 2014 - 2015

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended that the committee vote that the Wareham Public Schools continue being a school choice district K-12 including the Cooperative School with no students being accepted to West Wareham Academy.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve that the Wareham Public School continue being a school choice district as recommended, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Relocating West Wareham Academy and Wareham Cooperative

Superintendent Shaver-Hood proposed two plans regarding possibly relocating West Wareham Academy and Wareham Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School. Plan A would be if the override passes that they move the Cooperative and West Wareham Academy to the Multi-Service Center. Plan B would be if the override doesn't pass to move Cooperative and West Wareham Academy into the East Wareham School. These moves would save approximately \$110,000 in staffing and budget costs. Planning would begin once voting happens in June.

Some areas of discussion included asking if the town would have to approve moving into the multi service and the benefits moving to the multi service center as opposed to East Wareham School. Everything remains status quo until the override vote.

Mr. Lazarus moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to relocate West Wareham Academy and the Wareham Cooperative Jr./Sr. High School to either the Multi Service Center or East Wareham School as requested, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent's Report

- Summer school – Dates were given for all summer camp and summer school programs and locations including two new programs: Before Care Program and After Care Program, which will continue into the school year and a summer camp open to all students with no eligibility except a fee. There have been 250 inquiries at this point in time.
- There will be elementary field trips for the student to visit their new schools for orientation. Any concerned parents were asked to please call for private tours.

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Mrs. Veugen asked if there would be an Open House for these students. Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that there would be an Open House where high school students would be Junior Counselors and to help with student orientation.

- Tennis Camp - two seniors will running a camp program at the tennis courts this summer

School Committee Reports

- Chairman Sylvia's Vision for School Committee – No changes made.
- Committee Assignments – reviewed assignments; Mr. Swett stated that it would be good to have ALICE Program included; Reconvene Safety Committee; Reviewed negotiations committees; committee agreed to scrap sick bank committee; Some discussion held.

Any other Business

Mrs. Veugen informed the public about two informational open public meetings where citizens can ask the Superintendent and Finance Committee questions regarding the five-year plan and the override - Thursday, June 5, at 5:30 p.m. at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room in the Multi-Service Center and on Thursday, June 12, 5:30 p.m. at the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. The public is encouraged to look at www.Investinwareham.com and their Facebook page.

Mrs. Veugen moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

List of documents:

Meeting Dates 2014-2015

WPS Summer Program Offerings

WSC Committee Assignments 2014-2015

WSC Protocols for Meeting

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy List, Wareham

Emergency Preparedness Forum flier

