

August 20, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Melvin Lazarus, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, and Nicole Russo, Student Representative, as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Sylvia announced Superintendent Shaver-Hood received her doctorate. She was congratulated and the School Committee presented her with a name plaque "Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent of Schools".

Chair Sylvia called for a moment of silence for a colleague who passed away after an illness - Melissa Drake.

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced that on September 20th at 1:00 p.m. a Celebration of Life Memorial will be held for Melissa Drake at Stevie B's. Donations are being accepted and proceeds will be given to WPS in Melissa's name. Also a Memorial Fund has been set up at Rockland Trust.

Sarah Lima, Vice President WHS, Heather Hogan, Vice President WMS and President Kim Cormier were present from the WMS/WHS PTA. The PTA is working on a comedy show for the high school students and a Halloween Dance Party and Scavenger Hunt at WMS. The PTA will be meeting on September 11th at 6PM at WMS Library.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced the following:

- Middle School 5th Grade Orientation
- Elementary Meet and Greet – Decas, August 26th and Minot, August 27th
- August 28th Kindergarten Rally 6:00 p.m. Onset Bandshell
- August 27th start for teachers and September 2nd for students
- Town Administration, the Superintendent and the School Administrative Team have worked together to have the School Resource Officer (SRO) back in school during this school year

Mr. Flaherty announced a fundraiser for the WHS football team by purchasing a discount card to area businesses.

Mrs. Veugen attended the MASC Division VII meeting which addressed PARC testing. Present were the Bridgewater State Dean, our Superintendent and other school committee members, who were impressed with what Wareham is doing for the PARC testing.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of July 8, 2014, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mrs. Veugen)

July 23, 2014 – Approval was placed on hold and will be on the next agenda so that all members have the correct set of minutes.

New Policies

Social Networking for Staff – Dr. Shaver-Hood asked to place the policy on hold for review by our attorney.

Chair Sylvia asked member if they had any comments to add to this policy to let the superintendent know.

Mr. Swett moved to table the Social Networking for Staff policy to the October 1st meeting, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

School Property Disposal – Michael MacMillan presented a policy which allows us to present a list to the School Committee for a vote.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the policy for disposition of obsolete equipment as presented, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mrs. Veugen motioned to place the obsolete equipment list on the agenda at the request of the Business Manager, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. MacMillan explained that the list is all unused obsolete technology equipment of no saleable value.

Mrs. Veugen moved to deem this list presented as obsolete equipment, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Discussion on Academic Standards for Co-Curricular

Chair Sylvia stated that this topic was on the agenda at request of Mr. Flaherty. Mr. Flaherty stated that it is the practice of the Wareham Public Schools to allow students to fail classes and still participate in extra-curricular activities and sports. He has a zero tolerance for this practice and asked for members opinions.

Mr. Swett stated that he has been told in the past that he does not fully understand the implications this type of policy will have on WHS and that the MIAA allows our standards, which are more rigorous than MIAA rules. Mr. Swett felt our students will rise to the occasion and participation will be equally good.

Nicole Russo, student rep, expressed a need for a safety net like a probation period if a student fails classes.

Chair Sylvia explained that a process used in a neighboring town was a contract written by a team (student, parent, teachers, advisor/coach) for student to abide by in order to stay playing and only one contract in their high school career. We want to encourage kids to stay in the Wareham Public Schools and a zero policy may be a risk.

Mrs. Veugen stated that she has not heard a valued argument yet as to why we cannot do this and it is important for a debate to take place by all parties involved.

Mr. Lazarus asked if there is a no fail policy anywhere in south coast conference.

After continued discussion Dr. Shaver-Hood will make this a topic at her next scheduled open forum on September 15th and we can invite two members of the school committee to attend.

Vote to Submit Articles for Fall Town Meeting

Superintendent Shaver-Hood presented three articles for the School Committee to consider:

1) Incline Wheelchair Lift at Minot – The existing lift is not working and we cannot get parts. We are not in ADA compliance. The cost of the article is approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000.

Mr. Flaherty moved to place the Incline Wheelchair Lift at Minot as article on the October Town Meeting warrant, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

2) Return Hammond School to Town Control – Mr. Flaherty moved to place the article to return Hammond School to town control on the October Town Meeting warrant, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

Mr. MacMillan explained that the current tenant is the Boys & Girls Club and the cost to the school department is for remainder of the building and any indirect costs of managing the property.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

3) Return West School to Town Control – Mrs. Veugen moved to place the article to return West School to town control on the October Town Meeting warrant, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Timeline for Superintendent's Evaluation

Chair Sylvia distributed a time table for getting the superintendent's evaluation done. He would like by the September 3rd next meeting additional including the Superintendent's Self-Evaluation. By September 17th all School Committee members should have completed their evaluation forms and given to the Chair (paper copy). The Chair will prepare a consolidated report by September 29th for presentation at the October 1st meeting.

Mr. Swett would like a presentation of the MCAS results first before the superintendent's evaluation.

Chair Sylvia stated that a presentation on all testing is scheduled for the September 17th meeting. Based on the testing presentation Chair Sylvia moved the deadline of September 17th date to September 23rd.

Chair Sylvia asked Mrs. Ruiz to send the superintendent's evaluation form with updated timeline out to the members electronically.

Acceptance of Gifts

Mrs. Veugen moved the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the gift of 5 U.S. Flags donated by Dunkin Donuts of West Wareham under Franklin Flags to each of our school buildings, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Lazarus moved the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the gift of brooms, mops, and brushes from Home Depot to the Transportation Department, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Vote on National Fingerprint Check for Subcontractors

After reviewing the committee members' concerns from the last meeting, Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended to require all subcontractors including bus drivers, construction or maintenance related workers to complete a Background Check in accordance with the new Act Relevant to Background Checks beginning with the 2014-15 school year.

Both a CORI and a national fingerprint check must be completed.

Mr. Flaherty moved the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Superintendent's Report

- a. WHS Roof Project is starting next week and all workers involved in that process are being CORI'd and fingerprinted at the companies expense.
- b. Update on Transportation – Mr. Jeff Tatro stated that changes have been made to the bus routes in neighborhoods where stops will be at the main streets. There is a ½ mile average walk to a stop and a 30 minute average bus run. He asked for patience the next few weeks from parents.

Discussed were ways to communicate to parents including the newspaper and an email address transportation@wareham.k12.ma.us has been set up for concerns.
The number of runs are the same as the end of last year - 20 HS/Middle; 8 each for elementary.

Mr. MacMillan explained that he has received clarification from the town attorney regarding purchase vehicles. To purchase new vehicles we must have town meeting approval, but not for used buses. We will go with an invitation to bid and we have informed the Town Administrator. We intend to have these newly purchased used buses available mid-October.

- c. Back to School Report – Superintendent Shaver-Hood thanked our unsung heroes, the secretaries, administrators, and custodians for all the moving and the teachers and staff for their patience in boxing classroom materials. The School Committee members are invited to the August 27th opening day celebration.

School Committee Reports

- a. Appointment of Sick Bank Representatives – Traditionally the members who negotiated the union contract are sick bank representatives. The Committee agreed to continue this practice.
- b. The Chair asked for two members to meet with the superintendent to address some minor discrepancies in her current contract. Mrs. Veugen and Mr. Swett agreed and the Chair will send them the areas of the contract to address.
- c. Meeting dates for joint meetings with BOS and FinCom – Chair Slavin suggested a joint meeting on September 8th or 15th. Since the Superintendent's open forum is scheduled for September 15th the committee agreed to September 8th with a substantial agenda for all parties to review in advance.

Any other business

- Chair Sylvia stated that a testing presentation is scheduled for the September 17th agenda.
- Chair Sylvia asked to place on the September 3rd agenda a discussion on the administrative structure and cost both centrally and school wide with a comparison to other districts.
- Mrs. Veugen asked for an update on transportation on the September 17th agenda.
- Mr. Flaherty asked for a financial report since the closing of books for FY'14. This will be on the September 3rd agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Negotiations Update Unit A

Mrs. Veugen moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of and update on negotiation with Unit A and not taking any votes except to come out to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Roll call vote:

Mrs. Veugen – yea; Mr. Lazarus – yea; Mr. Flaherty – yea; Mr. Swett – yea; Dr. Sylvia – yea

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0.

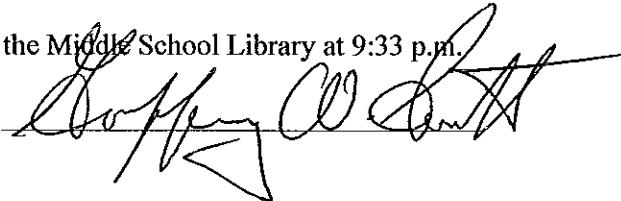
(8:43 p.m.)

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0.

The meeting adjourned in the Middle School Library at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

**List of documents:**

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy List
Social Networking Policy for Staff
Disposal of Obsolete Equipment
Obsolete Equipment List
Schedule Evaluation of Superintendent
Town Warrant Articles (3)

RECEIVED
SEP 10 2014