

September 17, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Melvin Lazarus, Michael Flaherty, and Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent was Dr. Cliff Sylvia and student representative Nicole Russo.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Flaherty at 7:00 p.m.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Citizen Missy Decas asked if the committee would be willing to change the public participation forum to allow citizen participation during the agenda items.

Mr. Flaherty stated that this topic was brought up by him when he was first elected but this committee did not agree.

Mr. Swett stated that he had never been part of a meeting run that way but felt her frustration. He suggested that if this format was adopted, we would at least put time limits and agreed it was worth considering.

### **GOOD NEWS**

Mr. Swett congratulated Coach Ben Katerle for his outstanding job in preparing our students for their volleyball games.

Mr. Lazarus reported he had attended the Cape Cod Collaborative meeting and everything is going smoothly.

Mr. Flaherty reported that parents were pleasantly surprised at how well the elementary reorganization went for the opening of school.

A video "Introducing our Athletes" was shown.

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Mr. Swett moved to accept the minutes of September 3, 2014, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain - 0

### **Update on Transportation**

Mr. Tatro, Transportation Manager, reported that the transportation department is into a routine now and students are being transported in a timely fashion. We will have the official student head counts this week. There are more bus stop issues to be addressed and our parents have been very patient. We are trying to hire some bus monitors. There is a 40 minute maximum ride for a student on the bus as of today. Changes being made to accommodate for a smooth running include route adjustments, may be adding stops and going into neighborhoods, and the loading process at the schools.

### **Discussion of Timeline for Superintendent's Evaluation**

Mr. Flaherty reported that since the timeline for the superintendent's evaluation was based on a review of the MCAS results, Chair Sylvia had suggested a change in the schedule or perhaps a workshop meeting.

After discussion, Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that she was willing to move the date of her evaluation past the October 1<sup>st</sup> date in her contract.

Mr. Swett moved to make the following changes to the evaluation timeline:

October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> for the public presentation  
September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup> for the completion of the consolidated report by the Chair  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup> for members to submit individual evaluation forms to the Chair

Seconded by Mr. Lazarus

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

#### **Request for Pilot Club at WHS**

Student Azariah Lima and member William Jenkins from the Kiwanis Club were present. Ms. Lima explained that the Key Club would involve the student body in service learning and a school culture community. Twenty students have signed up to participate.

Mr. Swett did not want to see redundancy with the same community service type projects with other clubs i.e. Code Club.

Ms. Lima stated that she plans on speaking with the Code Club members to discuss their plans.

Principal Palladino stated that the Key Club would be a pilot club. Our cost would be for an advisor for the first year. The Kiwanis Club will pay the charter cost.

Mr. Swett moved to approve a pilot year for the Key Club at WHS, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

(Mrs. Veugen entered the meeting 7:27 p.m.)

#### **High School SAT & AP Report**

Principal Palladino & Assistant Principal, Debbie Freitas made a presentation.

AP results for five years for WHS and the Massachusetts average in the following areas:

- Studio Art 2-D Design
- Biology
- Calculus A B
- Chemistry
- English Language Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- Environmental Science
- Macro and Micro Economics
- US History
- Statistics

Increased participation by 34%; increased qualifying scores from 40 out of 112 to 57 out of 150.

Questions and concerns from the committee members:

Mr. Swett stated he did not see a positive trend and was concerned about math. He would like to see a correlation between grades in classes and grades received on AP exams.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the administration is looking at data and pinpointing areas to focus on. Regular meetings with department chairs are being held and asked how do we increase quality and rigor? This is a work in progress and we are making internal adjustments giving our students every opportunity they deserve.

Mrs. Veugen suggested adding as a data point a student's class grade to the chart, and asked about offering such courses at the middle level.

Principal Palladino stated our philosophy is to get more kids involved and college ready. It's not all about the average.

#### SAT Test Data

The report indicated a five year comparison. The 2013-14 scores were:

Critical Reading – 465, state 516 national 497

Critical Writing – 462, state 509, national 487

Math – 460, state 531, national 513

#### **Report on School Nutrition**

Debbie Perry, Food Service Manager, explained that Wareham was approved for Community Eligibility Participation whereby every student receives breakfast and lunch at no charge. The program is working well and we are serving 400 breakfasts at each elementary school and 300 at the middle school and 187 at the high school. The lunches served increased by 11% and breakfast rose 57%. She reviewed the reimbursement rates for FY15.

There were questions from committee members. The cafeteria managers brought some of the cold lunches being served for the committee members to try.

The Cafeteria Managers are Christine Lappierre at WHS, Andreas Colp at Minot, Sheila Pierce at Decas and Mary Klueber at WMS.

Mr. Swett asked for a before and after data report in another few months.

Ms. Perry stated that the staff is making a lot more meals and more staff is needed but how many to breakeven is not yet determined. CEP is for four years and Wareham can opt out if it wishes.

#### **Vote on WEA Unit A Contract**

Mr. Lazarus moved to ratify the WEA Unit A contract as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 1 (Mr. Flaherty); abstain – 0

#### **Superintendent's Report**

- School Nutrition Reimbursement Rates FY15 – The rate sheet was included in the packet.
- Parent Forum held Monday night and there were questions about transportation. She asked parents not to use the transportation link anymore but to email her directly. The elementary PTA postponed their meeting to October 20<sup>th</sup> so that parents could attend the superintendent's open forum. The superintendent and food service staff will give parents a taste test of breakfast and lunch items at their PTA meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Decas School.
- The High School roof project is progressing.

**School Committee Reports**

- MASC Voting Delegate – Mr. Swett was willing to review the MASC resolutions before the November conference. He agreed to be the voting delegate and Acting Chair Flaherty appointed Dr. Sylvia as alternate voting member.

**Any other business**

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared how the community has once again showed its support. After meeting with the Veteran's Day Committee, it was suggested to line Viking Drive with flags and in also in front of our schools. There are approximately 1,800 veterans in Wareham. She and Jamie Rebhan created a GoFundMe account on line Friday for \$550 and by Saturday morning had surpassed the goal. The flags have been ordered and will be displayed to signify our veterans. Dr. Shaver-Hood thanked the community for its help.

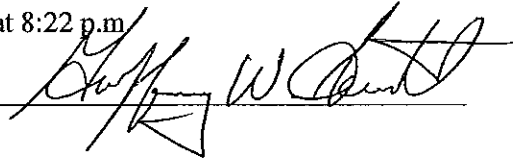
Mr. Swett shared that at a Board of Health meeting there is a new effort to clean up Wareham. He was hoping our education community - school committee, faculty and students - would be supportive of this ongoing commitment.

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

**List of documents:**

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, List of Vacancies, Personnel List  
Schedule Evaluation of Superintendent  
Key Club brochure  
SAT & AP Test Results 2013-2014  
Memorandum of Agreement – WSC & WEA  
Mass Department of Elementary & Secondary Education National School Nutrition Programs  
Reimbursement Rates for Fiscal Year 2015  
MASC Voting Delegate

