

January 8, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, Cliff Sylvia and Nicole Russo, student representative as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent was member Kenny Fontes.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Veugen at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Sylvia reported that the basketball teams are doing well.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of December 18, 2013 seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

STEAM Academy Grade 7

Tracie Cote presented a proposal to establish a STEAM Academy at Wareham Middle School (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), the mission statement and why STEAM.

Janice Barton, Gr. 7 Science Teacher reviewed the positive attributes and curriculum objectives.

Julia Walker, Gr. 7 STEM Teacher reviewed the Thematic STEAM Units exploring our community and covering all standards in Mathematics, Science, ELA & Literary in History, SS, Science and Technical Subjects.

Bonnie Lasorsa, Gr. 7 Math Teacher reviewed the staffing of teachers and a STEAM Coordinator. She also explained the 3 year implementation plan for 2014-15 in Gr. 7; 2015-16 in Gr.7 & 8; and for 2016-17 in Gr. 6-9.

Sue Taber, Gr. 7 Science Teacher reviewed the schedule for students/teachers and location of the program as well as the technology needs.

Bonnie Lasorsa listed some of the partnerships with community, business and higher education and the goals of the program.

Comments and questions from the School Committee included how students will be chosen; using existing curriculum or creating it; budgetary implications; examples of making kids job ready; concerns with dealing with only a selected number of students and concerns with being in direct conflict with dual enrollment program at WHS in the third year; dual certification of teachers; enrollment from year to year of students in the program; schools that are STEAM; how many projects per school year; transition students to this new type of learning; partnerships giving.

WHS Fine Arts Trip to New York City

Teacher Amy Dion proposed a student trip to New York City to see the 911 Memorial, The Discovery Times Square Museum and various galleries and a performance by Cirque du Soleil.

Mr. Swett moved approval of the trip as presented, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

2015 February Vacation Trip to Costa Rica

Teachers Christina Kunze and Craig Berriault presented a proposed trip to Costa Rica: "A Touch of the Tropics". This is the same nine-day trip done two years ago visiting volcanos, cloud forests, mountains, the coast, a school, and plant trees. The cost is \$2,200 and includes a tour guide from EF Tours. Student fundraising will take place.

Nicole Russo thanked the teachers for making this tour available.

Mr. Flaherty moved approval of the trip as presented, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

FY15 Budget Presentation

A Good News video was shown.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that the budget is fiscally prudent and within the guiding beliefs, our goals and our commitments to students. The program objectives/priorities are in curriculum, technology, and personnel.

She reviewed the FY15 District Initiatives and gave a Budget Overview. This is a level service budget, not level funded. Increases are due to increased costs and reduction in revenues.

The FY15 budget started with a 5.9% increase over FY14 and then was reduced as follows:

- Reduction of 16 or 13.08 FTE positions in administration, teachers, clerical, paraprofessionals, and custodians for a reduction of \$662,038
- Reduction in supplies/materials of \$103,209

The projected FY15 budget is \$27,704,474 or a 3% increase over FY14. This budget proposes the closing East Wareham Childhood Center and a reconfiguration of grades at Minot Forest School of PreSchool, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 and at Decas School of Grades 2, 3, and 4 (reduction of 7 of the 16 positions)

There will be Special Education Adjustments in caseloads and contracted services in order to maximize the services offered to our students.

Proposed Areas for Cost Sharing with the Town under consideration include purchasing, technology and transportation maintenance department.

We have examined all expenditures. The next steps are the January 15th Public Hearing and the January 29th School Committee vote. Superintendent Shaver-Hood encouraged questions and feedback.

The budget packet was made available and will be on line with an icon on the website and a running list of questions with answers.

Chair Veugen read a prepared budget statement. She thanked the administrators for being present this evening and their work put into this budget.

Superintendent's Report**Acceptance of Gifts**

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- \$150 from Noah Young for athletics. Mr. Swett moved to accept the donation with thanks, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- \$20,000 from The Maurice and Anne Makepeace Family Foundation for the continuation of the alternative day program (Coop). This has been an annual donation. Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the donation seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The Superintendent's Advisory Committee will meet tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

School Committee Reports

Policy Review Meeting will on January 14th.

Chair to Release Executive Session Minutes

Chair Veugen released to the public the following executive session minutes:

April 10, 2013

August 7, 2013

September 4, 2013

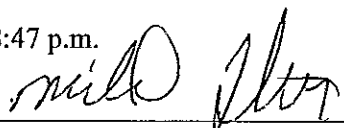
Any other business

Dr. Sylvia formally announced his candidacy for re-election for another term on the School Committee.

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

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

STEAM Academy 1/8/14 and 1/6/2014

Wareham Public Schools Proposed FY15 Budget January 8, 2014

Town of Wareham School Committee Public Hearing Notice

The Maurice and Anne Makepeace Family Foundation 2013 Grant

Correspondence: Newsletter, Personnel List, Vacancy Notice List