

January 15, 2014

A joint meeting of the Wareham School Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium.

School Committee present: 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.

Board of Selectmen present: Judy Whiteside, Peter Teitelbaum, and Alan Slavin as well as Town Administrator Derek Sullivan. Absent: Steve Holmes, Patrick Tropeano

Finance Committee present: Larry MacDonald, Dominic Cammarano, Tom Worthen, Marilyn Donahue, Bonnie Cottuli, Joan Fontes, Jeffrey Tufts, David Heard, Marilyn Jordan

### **Call meeting to Order**

Mr. Swett moved and seconded by Mr. Flaherty to call the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Roll call by Finance Committee and opened its meeting.

Chair Teitelbaum opened its meeting with a roll call.

### **FY'15 Budget Public Hearing**

Chair Veugen read an opening statement on the FY15 Public Hearing and reviewed the process taken to get to this point and how we would be proceeding this evening. She began by announcing a fundraiser event on April 19<sup>th</sup> WMS Comedy Night at Salerno's.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood shared a power point presentation on the FY15 Proposed Budget. The goal is to ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve at their maximum potential. The budget is \$27,704,474 or a 3% increase over FY14. It is not a level funded nor a level service budget. A level service budget increases due to salaries, contract services, supplies and materials, and special education/out of district costs. To provide a same level of service budget as FY'14, there would be an increase of 5.9%.

The Superintendent provided grants totals, which have decreased; contract services expenditures; and Chapter 70 trends from FY'09 to FY'14. The salaries from 2009 to 2014 included the number of employees. The FY'15 salaries are tied to actual expenditures and reflect negotiated salary increases and rely less on grants and school choice.

Proposed reductions of 16 positions for a savings of \$662,038; supplies \$103,209; closing East and reconfiguring Minot Forest (PreK, K, 1) and Decas elementary schools (Gr.2-4) for a savings over \$280,000.

She then gave an overview of budget accounts by function showing proposed increases in FY15.

Chair Veugen stated that all budget information can be found on the school district website. She opened the meeting for questions.

Finance Committee questions and comments included:

- anticipated further grant funds this year FY14 and in FY15
- student population projections

- salary increase in Department Heads and increase in Contracted Services
- materials and technology adequate in this budget?
- all schools wireless?

Board of Selectmen questions and comments included:

- 16 position cuts any taken from retirees?
- employee count 2013 to 2014 showing 3 but told 22 positions were cut
- in the future list number of employees with cuts and additions
- enrollments back to 2009 be provided by category elementary – middle – high school
- good efficient move to shut down an old school and grade shuffling to achieve curriculum benefits
- how to pay for positions not in the current budget and added back in?

Chair Veugen opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments, which included the following:

moving young children to a new school and new surroundings in developmental stages; teaching positions being cut; sending the students in MCAS grades to a school which has not done well year after year; how students are being affected on buses; schools with a similar model of grades; which grade levels will have Chrome books and cost to parents; switching may hurt Wareham in the long run if parents take their children out; need care from the district for teachers and students in these moves with team building; perhaps training and standard of expectation is needed for our substitutes; any thoughts to stagger times and monitors on buses; how will this reconfiguration enhance my children's education; what happens to the PTA funds when we split the grades; STEAM academy in this proposed budget; the number of kindergarten classes and multi-age groupings; playground equipment be brought from East; what supplies are being cut; LEAP program at Decas; and any consideration grandfathering current Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students so there will not be moves two years in a row

The Finance Committee stated that the town is facing a \$2.4 million shortfall and it will be doing a lot of work at their upcoming budget meetings held on Wednesday evenings.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that if there are more questions, please go to the district website for all budget information and questions will go directly to her. We will then post the questions and answers on FAQ so everyone can see. If anyone wishes to be part of a committee as we move forward, please volunteer.

Chair Veugen thanked everyone for attending and reiterated that our district website is available and public participation is on each school committee agenda.

Chair Teitelbaum thanked the school committee and the superintendent and her administrative team for a most comprehensive budget hearing.

Mr. Slavin/Ms. Whiteside moved to adjourn. 3-0-0

Chair Veugen announced that the Harlem Wizards fundraiser will be 7PM this Saturday.

Chair MacDonald thanked the school committee and staff as well for this budget process and invited the public to attend the finance committee meetings each Wednesday evening and Town Meeting.

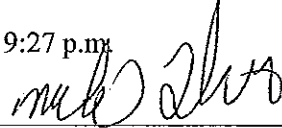
It was moved and seconded by the Finance Committee to adjourn. 9-0-0

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Flaherty", written over a horizontal line.

**List of documents:**

Wareham Public School District January 15, 2014 OPEN HEARING FY15 Proposed Budget PowerPoint