

October 1, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 1, 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

Brian Fitzgerald, Teacher & WEA President, was speaking for himself about the MCAS data scored by Measured Progress. He quoted a journal article about how scores are manufactured. There is a profit by Measured Progress on every test scored. He saluted the people in the opt-out movement against MCAS.

GOOD NEWS

A video was shown on "What is Your Favorite Thing About School So Far?"

Superintendent Shaver-Hood reviewed the good news of the district including a renewed partnership between East Partnership for Success and the Town Library; a Big Bus Grant to Cape Cod Museum of Science; Chrome books; cash donations to the schools; a baby grand piano to WMS; Readers; Meet greet night at the elementary schools; teachers embracing grade level teams; projectors; 8th grade dual enrollment; the roof on target at WHS; technology improvements; the volleyball team's 4-7 record.

Mr. Lazarus referenced a headline in Monday, September 29th Boston Globe edition where fewer schools win top rating. Last year 510 schools were at level 1 and this year 424 schools statewide. WHS is one of the school at level one this year and we should be proud.

Chair Sylvia thanked Mike Flaherty for chairing the last meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2014, as presented, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

Report on MCAS Test Results

Chair Sylvia publicly thanked tonight's presenters and all the people in the audience for making Wareham Public Schools what we are.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that she had invited the faculty tonight as part of our plan and thanked those who came out tonight in support.

Dr. Schwamb and the Leadership Team presented the MCAS data. Dr. Schwamb presented our Pillars for Strategic and School Improvement - Literacy, Mathematics, Technology, and Safe & Secure Schools – and the Guiding Questions. She had a chart showing the Distribution of Enrollment of WPS Students as of September 2014 and Student Demographics for 2013-14.

Dr. Marks reviewed the Students with Disabilities Data and plans through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process related to the pillars.

Dr. Schwamb then reviewed the Low Income MCAS ELA and Math results and future plans for Title I.

Dr. Panarese gave the Historical Student Achievement in ELA, Math, and Science/Engineering/Technology comparing 2013 and 2014 under the common core and the Student Growth in ELA & Math for 2014.

After Dr. Schwamb's review of the plan for change under the four pillars and what has begun, the School Committee asked questions and made comments.

Dr. Schwamb then stated that the Decas ELA and Math scores improvements were astounding and Decas went from a Level 3 school to a Level 2 school from 2013 to 2014 and the growth is commendable.

Donna Noonan, Decas School Principal, stated that Decas is reinvented now and everyone is working together. She reviewed the current and future plans and stated that the K-2 school is laying the foundation so when third graders, the students will be ready to take the MCAS test.

Joan Seamans, Minot Forest Principal, stated that their ELA and Math scores declined from 2013 to 2014. She reviewed the current and future plans and stated the Minot Forest School remained a level 2 school.

Questions and comments from the School Committee

Dr. Panarese explained what took place last school year which helped improve the MCAS scores at Decas.

The committee asked for accurate data on tier instruction when it is available.

Dan Minkle, Principal Wareham Middle School, reviewed the scores in ELA, Math and Science/Engineering/Technology for 2013 to 2014 and the current and future plans, including school-wide writing days with cooperative scoring; dual enrollment with junior high model; and STEAM Academy. He stated to the students and staff that a Level 3 school is not good enough.

Scott Palladino, Principal Wareham High School, reviewed the scores in ELA, Math, and Science/Engineering/Technology and the current and future plans including a Makepeace Grant for PARC training for our teachers.

Kathy Moore, Principal Wareham Cooperative and West Academy, was present to support her colleagues.

Questions and comments from the School Committee included:

How are we going to roll these plans out to the students, teachers, and our parents to help move the district forward?

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that we will be working on how to tell parents what we need. We have a solid leadership team with a plan. We will see movement with change using data to show our weaknesses. We intend to educate our students to prepare them for the future, not teaching to the test.

Chair Sylvia stated that Wareham needs to focus on expectation. He concluded the discussion and on behalf of the School Committee thanked the leadership team for its presentation.

The meeting was recessed by the Chair at 9:25 p.m. and then resumed at 9:29 p.m.

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- 1) Shoppers of Walmart for school supplies valuing at \$500 to the district.
Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Swett.
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0
- 2) Shaws Point of Purchase Program of \$400 to WHS for student activities in the classroom.
Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0
- 3) \$560.45 from donors through the online fundraising campaign to purchase flags
Veteran's Day.
Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0
- 4) Dr. Stephen Menkes for a Baby Grand Piano to Wareham Middle School.
Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.
VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Vote on Articles to Return West Wareham School Building and Hammond Elementary School Building to Town

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the Committee had already voted on these articles but have been asked on clarification that the vote includes the grounds that surround the schools. The members agreed so Dr. Shaver-Hood would be writing a letter to the town with this information.

Discussion on Public Participation

Dr. Shaver-Hood provided members with a copy of the current policy and research documents.

Mr. Flaherty asked for this item to be placed on the agenda as a result of a parent asking if there is any chance for the public at large to discuss agenda items during the meeting because now they are not allowed. He stated that he wanted this format from day one and would like a discussion with the whole board.

Mrs. Veugen stated that she had done research and some agenda items would be positive. But how do you structure it, to not be reactive or emotional? One school district terms it as communication and people must write a formal communication to the chair or administration and the purpose. It is at their discretion whether this topic is placed on an agenda. Then the requestor is informed and may speak after the presentation and committee's deliberations with public participation under that piece or have a sheet to sign before the meeting begins making a request to the Chair that you wish to speak to a specific item.

Mr. Lazarus stated that the agenda must be posted 48 hours in advance and is on our website and at town hall. He does not want meetings turned into public debate. We already have public participation on the agenda and he was not in favor of opening our meetings up to public participation at will.

Mr. Swett stated that this issue deserves to be piloted and if it proves to prevent from finishing a meeting or becomes explosive, the committee can go back. We may be creating an environment where more people are inclined to attend. He would like to ask the policy review committee to make a recommendation for the School Committee's consideration after research and deliberation again.

Dr. Sylvia stated that there is a policy now that would require a change. Anyone can ask for agenda item or a hearing. Local boards certainly can come to the chair ahead of time. This is our deliberative business meeting and public participation encourages us to form future agenda items. We also conduct public forums on specific issues. He was willing to devote 15 minutes at the end of the meeting for public participation.

Chair Sylvia will ask the policy review committee to review the current policy to bring back a recommendation to the School Committee.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Shaver-Hood distributed the FY16 Budget Process Timeline for the committee's review, adjustments and approval as well as budget guidelines. She suggested holding a workshop meeting on October 23rd or 28th. It was agreed to post a workshop meeting focused on the FY16 Budget for October 28th at 6:00 p.m. with the location to be determined.

Mrs. Veugen moved to continue the meeting beyond 10:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

School Committee Reports

- **Review of MASC Resolutions** – Mr. Swett, the committee's voting delegate, reviewed the resolutions and his opinion on the votes as follows:
 - #1 Greater Transparency and Accountability for Out of District Placement Costs - Looking for detailed reports on how out-of-district educational settings come up with costs for tuition – voting yes
 - #2 Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts – support legislation to provide access to good, quality universal pre-k for all children in Massachusetts – voting yes
 - #3 Charter School Reform – voting yes
 - #4 Fingerprinting – MASC Resolution Committee wants DESE to be the main control point as part of normal licensing for teachers – voting yes
 - #5 Reinstitution of Earmarking – voting against it
 - #6 Unfunded Mandates and New Testing – voting yes
 - #7 Assessment System in Massachusetts – theoretically there will be a process so voting yes is what is intended to happen anyway
 - Proposals to Amend the MASC By-Laws - voting yes

Mr. Swett's suggested votes were the will of the committee members.

Any other business

Dr. Sylvia had provided members with a copy of an article "The Quest for Mastery" from Education Leadership as information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Veugen moved enter into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining and executive session minutes and coming out only to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Roll call vote:

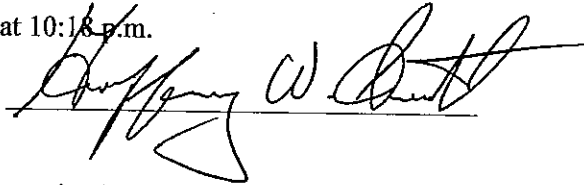
Ms. Lazarus – yea; Mrs. Veugen – yea; Mr. Flaherty – yea; Mr. Swett – yea; Dr. Sylvia – yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

(10:04 p.m. the Committee moved to the WMS Library to hold its executive session)

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, List of Vacancies, Personnel List
Power Point WPS 2014 MCAS Results & Plan
Donation to WHS Shaws Point of Purchase
Donation to WMS Piano from Dr. Stephen Menkes
Public Participation Policy and Research Documents
FY15 Budget Development Guidelines and DRAFT FY16 Budget Process Timetable
Report of Resolutions Committee MASC
The Quest for Mastery Article