

December 17, 2014

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 17, 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

Mr. Kevin Brogioli, parent, taxpayer, and basketball coach at WHS commented on the eligibility report on the agenda later this evening. He stated two views and that Wareham has the second highest eligibility requirements in the conference. He asked the committee members to keep his comments in its discussion later in the meeting.

GOOD NEWS

Wareham won its opening Boys' Basketball Game.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2014, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 1 (Mr. Lazarus)

STEAM Academy Cranberry Bog Presentation

The following presentation was made by students from the Middle School STEAM Academy:

Joshua Flaherty – 86 students in STEAM Academy

Aaron James – explained the 3D printer purchased from a donation from A.D. Makepeace and had some objects created using this printer

Jason Klemp – Innovation Products – examples of logos

Nico Lembo-Volpe – field trips taken to Camp Lyndon and A.D. Makepeace which tie into the class – examples of sustainability booklets done in the Humanities class

Amanda DaCruz – Verizon App Challenge contest – poster

Nico Lembo-Volpe – coding in engineering class “An Hour of Code” – showed a computer game

Joshua Flaherty – Finch Robots

Jasmine Black – Math textbook – showed an “interactive student notebook”

Trinity Donnell – Science life skills

Katelynne Fisher – Cranberries – building a bog – sample of bog in a cup

Other students present were Lukas Watkins, Walter Weber, and Sarah Westgate

Committee members had questions for the students. The Chair thanked the students for their presentation and for being great representatives.

Teachers Julie Walker, Sue Taber, Bonnie Lasorsa, and Janice Barton presented a proposal for a working bog outdoor classroom that students have designed and will build. The bog will enhance science classes with hands on learning and an awareness of our community. There will be 2 adjacent 20 x 40 feet bogs with a pathway down the middle and around the bogs. The location was surveyed and will be off of the D wing of the Middle School outside of the cafeteria doors with seating. Cape Cod Cranberry Growers, A.D. Makepeace, Cranberry Grower's Service, and Beaton's Cranberry are all supporters of the project. The project has been awarded a \$2,500 community grant from Eastern Bank. Materials will be donated, and we have a letter of support from cranberry industry organizations.

Questions from the School Committee included a long-term plan for funding, concerns about initial construction, maintenance and a timeline.

The plan is to break ground in March and plant in May. The Beyond School Time is partnering with the STEAM Academy for the summer work on the bog.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the STEAM Academy outdoor classroom cranberry bog on the south side of the Middle School, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Request for Student Trip

DECA Sports & Entertainment Marketing Conference

Two DECA students presented a trip to Florida on February 4-8, 2015, exclusive for Senior DECA members. They reviewed the itinerary and safety concerns. The cost will be \$925 per student with a payment plan option. The conference will reinforce marketing standards. Eligibility to attend the trip will be based on the current athletic eligibility requirements. 15 students have signed up to attend with 2 advisors. There are also fundraising opportunities through DECA.

(Mr. Lazarus left the meeting room at 7:56 p.m.)

Principal Palladino stated that all 15 students are in good academic standing.

Teacher Janine Enos stated that the students have been proactive in reaching out to their teachers with emails for homework they will be missing during the trip.

Chair Sylvia held on the vote until member Mr. Lazarus returned to the meeting.

Report of the Eligibility Committee

Principal Palladino reported that he had comprised a committee to review the current requirements for athletic/extracurricular eligibility. The eligibility committee voted unanimously 6-0 for the eligibility requirements to stay as is. He also reviewed the requirements for athletic/extracurricular eligibility with the school council for a unanimous vote. He distributed a document giving the eligibility requirements for area schools in the conference.

(Mr. Lazarus returned to the meeting for the vote at 7:59 p.m.)

DECA Sports & Entertainment Marketing Conference

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the student trip to the DECA Sports & Entertainment Marketing Conference, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

Mr. Swett moved that the academic requirements not be athletic eligibility but be the eligibility requirements of Senior Privileges, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

Vote on the amended motion:

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Vote on the main motion to approve the DECA Sports & Entertainment Marketing Conference Florida trip as amended applying the Senior Privileges eligibility requirements.

Principal Palladino stated that at the end of January the administration will review senior privileges.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Principal Palladino continued his presentation reviewing the handout on SCC Athletic Eligibility for the following towns: Apponequet – Bourne – Case – DR – Fairhaven – GNBVT – ORR – Wareham and Rule #58 MIAA – classes required to pass.

Dr. Sylvia stated that he would honor the process and recommendation of the school department officials.

Mr. Flaherty was concerned with the composition of the eligibility committee not being what was stated previously.

Principal Palladino stated the concern of the eligibility committee was that students would not take academic risk if possible failure and those students without the academic skills will be eliminated and perhaps drop out of school.

Miss Russo stated that we are “student athletes” and maybe only fail one course for eligibility.

Ed Rodrigues, A. D. informed the committee that the MIAA rules review quarterly grades.

Mr. Lazarus stated that we are dealing with children who make mistakes and with a zero tolerance policy we would be making a mistake.

Mr. Swett thanked Coach Brogioli for his comments earlier this evening and stated there was merit on both sides. He asked if it was acceptable to eliminate the policies applying to “F”s and go to a GPA. We need a system that is fair and holds students accountable.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that it is our ultimate responsibility to educate with academic rigor and believes in a process. If we are raising standards, it is our responsibility to provide interventions.

Mrs. Veugen stated that she places a high importance on this and we need to educate the student, parent, and community.

The committee discussed having a zero tolerance with safe guards in place.

Mr. Swett stated that any change in eligibility effects fall of 2015 and asked the Chair to request the administration to come back at its earliest convenience, hopefully in January.

Chair Sylvia sensed from his colleagues the Committee wants something more than the status quo. The administration will come back with a recommendation and plan.

Fall Athletic Report by Athletic Director

There was concern for the overall performance of our fall teams, kudos to the volleyball team on its season, questions on the expenses for football and the coaching cost per student participant, user fees, and pleased with 29 8th graders participating. Also discussed was the expectation of current coaches and players for a feeder program.

Overview of Curriculum and Professional Development

Dr. Schwamb, Director of Curriculum, shared her personal vision and core beliefs. She then reviewed student growth in ELA and Math. She explained that the Formative Assessment for Teachers (FAST) done in K-6 for math and reading and Gr. 7-8 for reading is statistically significant, data driven and can

report growth. The results were received in early October 2014 and pilot programs in Lexia and Symphony math were instituted.

The Committee members had comments and questions

Dr. Schwamb shared her SMART Goals, which match the pillars of the school improvement plan, and gave some examples of what has occurred so far in the Curriculum Office.

Dr. Schwamb gave a brief overview of her vision for professional development.

Mrs. Veugen stated that there is a clear plan with her SMART goals and suggested that parents dissect the FAST information sent home to help their child.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced:

- Budget meeting tomorrow in Room 228, at the Multi-Service Center from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- There are now 12 stories of success on the website
- Christmas break begins December 19th and classes resume January 5th
- Winter sports have begun

School Committee Reports

Recommendations from Policy Review Committee

Mr. Swett gave the recommendations of the Policy Review Committee.

Mr. Swett moved to approve the following policies with no change, seconded by Mrs. Veugen:

Superintendent's Evaluation

Districting Areas

Approval of Handbooks

Succession of Authority

Purchasing

Payment Procedures

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Background Checks – Mr. Swett stated the change reflects a change in the law. We inserted a section under Adverse Decisions and deleted a section under CORI Requirements and added reference links.

Mr. Lazarus moved approval of the Background Check policy with the changes, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

Mrs. Veugen expressed concern with the procedures and asked for a presentation on the procedure in writing how the background check information is communicated to buildings when staff/volunteers come into the school buildings.

Dr. Sylvia suggested this procedure be placed in the district handbook.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds – Mr. Swett stated that language has been inserted regarding signage as recommended by MASC.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds policy as presented with changes, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Social Networking for Staff – This is a new policy.

Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the Social Networking for Staff policy as presented, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

Mr. Flaherty expressed concern with letter “g” friending district students. It was explained that employees should not have online interactions with students on social networking sites unless dedicated to academics.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Any other business

Chair Sylvia asked for Mr. Swett to review his meeting with the Superintendent regarding her evaluation and the weighing of goals as a follow up to the last meeting.

The standards and goals were at 60 points and 40 points. He and the Dr. Shaver-Hood agreed to change the evaluation to Goals/Objectives 40 points, Impact Student Learning 20 points and General Responsibilities 40 points but to weigh the goals the same. So the 16-16-16-12 breakdown would now be 10 2/3 - 10 2/3 - 10 2/3 - 8.

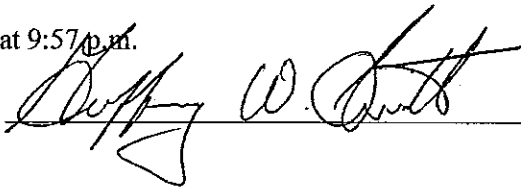
Chair will place this item on the agenda for the next meeting in order for the members to review the recent data submitted.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



A TRUE COPY
ATTEST


TOWN CLERK

List of documents:

STEAM Academy Working Cranberry Bog Outdoor Classroom

Report of the Eligibility Committee

WHS Athletic Department Fall Report 2014

WSC Presentation by Director of Curriculum & Instruction 12/12/2014

SMART Goals 2014-2015 School Year

Policies: Social Networking for Staff; Background Checks; Superintendent's Evaluation; Districting Areas; Approval of Handbooks; Succession of Authority; Purchasing; Payment Procedures; Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds

Superintendent's Evaluation Form 2014-2015

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy Listing

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