

May 20, 2015

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mel Lazarus, Cliff Sylvia, Judy Caporiccio, Rhonda Veugen, Geoff Swett 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 Swett at 7:11 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

#### **GOOD NEWS**

- Ms. Caporiccio attended and enjoyed the WHS Play
- Mrs. Veugen attended the WHS Volleyball Spaghetti fundraiser and there was great participation
- Superintendent Shaver-Hood attended the DECA Auction had a fun time
- Miss Russo announced that there was 1 ½ days left of school for seniors
- Chair Swett was present for the Boys/Girls track competition and was impressed with the sportsmanship of the teams and congratulated Coach Gardner and Coach Sousa

Middle School Science Fair Presentations – Principal Minkle stated that the Middle School had a successful science fair. Student Brooke Chandler was not able to attend this evening's meeting but had qualified for the regional science fair with her project "Bursting The Bubble Gum. An Experiment on What It Takes to Build The Biggest Bubble". Student Avery Gillman was not able to attend this evening but attended the regional science fair and qualified for the State Science Fair with his project "The Future is Now" hovercraft. Students James Fitzgerald and Alexandre Lambert were present and attended the regional science fair and will compete at the state science fair and have been nominated to compete at the international science fair in the fall with their project "Crossing Steams: The Power of H2O".

Students James and Alexandre explained their project and gave a demonstration on their system to recycle/save water as a resource.

Superintendent Dr. Shaver-Hood presented the students with certificate award.

DECA National Participants -- Advisor Mrs. Maurice stated that on April 24 students went to the International Conference – 15 students competed; 9 attended the leadership academy. Miss Paige Fehskens ranked in the top 20 in the world; Cory Harunkiewicz was honored and presented with a check (approximately \$220,000 scholarship) by Army ROTC for his accomplishments in the community, civil awareness, and academics.

Each student shared a memorable moment and/or how DECA has influenced their lives.

The scores from the competition will help the advisors evaluate our program on the core standards.

Dr. Sylvia stated that these students represent top leadership in Wareham.

#### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Dr. Sylvia moved approval of the minutes of May 6, 2015, seconded by Mr. Lazarus

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Approval of District Handbook for 2015-2016 School Year**

Dr. Schwamb stated that there were no changes to the document as far as procedures. The table of contents was fixed and policies have been updated.

In response as to whether building level administrators were involved or consulted, Dr. Schwamb stated that the principals will have addendums for their individual school to the district handbook.

In response to the bussing policy on page 48, Dr. Shaver stated that this is our current policy and at the next meeting we will have to change the policy and place the amended policy in this document. Also pages 50-51 meal charging may be changed once final numbers from the state are received to maintain free breakfast/lunch at all schools.

Mrs. Veugen stated that the graduation requirements need to be updated.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that she will bring forward the school handbooks and then bring the final District Handbook to the Committee for approval.

Dr. Sylvia questioned the following:

Page 12 – emancipated students and if 18 years old does a student need to request for records?

Page 14 – do we have a photo blanket policy and if there is a form for parents to sign, this is not mentioned in the policy.

Page 61 – no mention of early graduation and dual enrollment. Should it be mentioned?

Page 98 – updates to be made on staffing/committee members. Should we list department heads with telephone extensions?

Mrs. Veugen suggested that because of changes in the district handbook perhaps we look at the handbook through the policy review committee before coming back.

It was discussed whether the school handbooks come before the school committee with required documents and school driven documents and do away with the district handbook perhaps.

Chair Swett stated that the Committee needs a recommendation from school management to make a change and then the process to make this change.

Chair Swett questioned page 17 Student Conduct under groups of infractions. He found no apparent logic to the groupings and suggested either removing them and place into school handbooks or make it clearer in the district handbook

**Senior Class Trip**

Principal Palladino, Advisor Ms. Kunze, and Senior Mia Sarkisian were present. In the fall the Senior Class had requested a trip to Hershey Park but there was not enough interest due to cost.

They are requesting a trip to Six Flags on June 2 to leave after graduation practice and taking a school bus for a cost of \$25 per student for the bus/park offset with fundraiser monies.

Mr. Lazarus moved to approve the Senior Class Trip to Six Flags in Agawam, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

**Acceptance of Gifts**

Dr. Shaver Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- \$2,000 to WHS from New England Sanitary Supply Association to transport students to the Special Olympics. Principal Palladino stated that a parent wrote a letter for a competition and won. Dr. Sylvia asked if the vendor we utilize belong to that association. Chair Swett saw no conflict of interest.

Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Lazarus

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

- School supplies from WalMart valued at approximately \$500 to the district. Mrs.

Veugen moved to accept the gift, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

- \$400 ribbon to WHS DECA from Lafrance Hospitality. The Home Show booth cost of \$350 was waived and at the opening ceremony for the hotel DECA was presented with the ribbon of money. The actual donation was \$50.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Lazarus

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

#### **Athletic/Extracurricular Eligibility Requirements**

Principal Palladino and Ed Rodriguez, Athletic Director, presented the input received from the School Committee at a previous meeting to the eligibility committee and are recommending an addendum to the High School Handbook on page 14 Participation 3. a. to read “A student must pass 7 major subjects each quarter to be eligible. (A major subject is one that carried at least 2.5 credits per semester or 5.0 credits per year.) At the conclusion of the school year in order to be eligible for fall sports, a student must pass at least 7 major subjects for either the year or the second semester totaling at least 35 credits. A student who passes 6 courses for fall and winter season may apply for a one time (in their students high school career) appeal to the principal. This must be done in writing and include the mitigating circumstances that cause the student athlete to be ineligible. The principals decision will be final.”

There was discussion on current regulations and raising the bar with an appeal process for once in their high school career.

Dr. Sylvia stated that a student should sign a contract with strong implications and it be checked regularly. These new requirements far surpass other schools and the MIAA requirements. It may give folks another reason for leaving Wareham

Principal Palladino asked to change the language to “winter and spring” instead of “fall and winter”.

There was a brief discussion on varsity sport participants having a waiver for physical education classes.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the Athletic/Extracurricular Eligibility Requirements as amended, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

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

Reminder dates

Tomorrow evening Kindergarten Ice Cream Social at Decas

No school Monday – Memorial Day

Next Wednesday – Makepeace Grant Awards

June 1 Athletic Banquet

June 3 Coop Graduation WHS

June 4 Senior Awards Night

June 4 WMS Expo

June 5 WHS Graduation

May 30-31 Community Clean Up

Summer School Registration – July 8, 9, 10 at WHS

Summer CARE and Day Care at Multiservice Center

She also gave the Committee members a copy of a communication survey being sent out for its review.

Dr. Sylvia requested that School Committee members be waived from wearing gowns at the graduation ceremony.

#### **School Committee Reports**

Chair Swett received a request for a School Committee rep to serve on the Master Planning Committee for the town. Mrs. Rhonda Veugen agreed to serve and was appointed by the Chair.

#### **Any other business**

Mrs. Veugen stated that an email was sent from MASC for a survey to complete on how MASC is doing. There are a lot of open ended questions and she suggested the members fill out and submit the survey.

Chair Swett stated that the Division VII Meeting is Friday at Cape Cod Collaborative. The topics are teacher evaluations and future development of educators in Massachusetts and professional development.

Dr. Sylvia moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Rhonda Veugen

ATRUE COPY  
ATTEST

May Ann Schriber  
TOWN CLERK

#### **List of documents:**

Wareham Middle School Science Fair 2014-2015

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

DRAFT District Handbook 2015-2016

Gifts

Athletic/Extracurricular Eligibility Proposal

JUN 22 2015