

January 7, 2015

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, 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 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**

None

#### **GOOD NEWS**

- Looking back at the 2014 calendar year video
- Kim Scott's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class wrote books that were given to sick children at Tobey Hospital and to residents at the Tremont Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center.
- Mr. Swett reported that the WHS graduates he is in contact with through the tennis program who are now in their freshman year at college are doing great.

Chair Sylvia asked for a moment of silence in memory of staff member Pam Franklin's dad, Manny Sylvia, former Town Accountant for Wareham.

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

Mr. Swett moved approval of the minutes of December 17, 2014, seconded by Mr. Flaherty

Mrs. Veugen stated that it was suggested under the background check policy a presentation be made on procedures used by the district and asked for this to be an agenda item.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen moved approval of the minutes of December 18, 2014, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

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

#### **BST/Global Ed Sweden Sister School's Project & EF Tours Trip**

Mrs. Manning brought a taste of Sweden to share with the Committee members. Mrs. Wynn read a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt in Swedish. She stated that Beyond School Time has partnered with the Global Education Team in establishing a sister school in Sweden. This month teachers will be contacted to see if there is interest to email, send letters, and/or skype with the students from the sister school in exploring culture and global issues. The project will culminate in a global summit in Sweden.

Mrs. Fondulis stated that the trip will be open to BST families, students, staff, and town leadership in the Wareham community. The EF Tours Scandinavia itinerary was shared including an audience in Finland with the Board of Education and a visit to Norway during April Vacation 2016.

Also presented was the approach to safety, what travelers are responsible for, and everything you get in the trip. There is a payment option for the total student cost of \$3920.00 plus gratuity with fundraising to help defray this cost.

One opportunity for students to defray the cost is the junior counselor program for the CARE program explained by student Ernie Tavares.

Questions and comments from the School Committee included a minimum of 6 people for the trip to be held with 25 as the goal.

Options for those on the trip not involved with the sister school project. The Café series will have a focus on global issues and our Swedish language class which is open to adults and children.

Some members expressed that this trip will be experienced by a tiny minority of our students and it is an elite opportunity and it was suggested negotiating with EF Tours on the cost. The cost was \$4,600 and went down to \$3,900.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the trip to Sweden in April 2016, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

#### **Acceptance of Gift**

Superintendent Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the donation of \$20,000 from the Maurice and Anne Makepeace Family Foundation to the Wareham Public Schools.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

#### **Social Networking Policy Update**

Mr. Swett reported that the policy review committee had a lengthy discussion and made edits but they did not come before the School Committee at the last meeting. This error is now corrected. The edits are in the opening paragraph and item g in bold print. The Teachers' Union is on board with the amendments.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the amended policy on Social Networking, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

#### **Weighing of Goals for Superintendent's Evaluation**

Mr. Swett reported that the former evaluation was 60% goals and 40% responsibilities.

Last year's evaluation was 100% general responsibilities. Recently the Committee voted to weight the goals at 60% - 16-16-16-12. There was discussion specifically devoted to student achievement in line with the state. Mr. Swett recommended the evaluation be 40% goals; 20% student learning; and 40% general responsibilities with the weight of the goals at 10 2/3 – 10 2/3 – 10 2/3 – 8.

Mrs. Veugen moved to change the Superintendent's Evaluation Form to Goals and Objectives 40%; Impact on Student Learning 20%; and General Responsibilities 40%, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mr. Flaherty)

#### **FY16 Budget Presentation**

Superintendent Shaver-Hood thanked the building principals for attending this evening and Mr. MacMillan for his presentation. She reviewed the guidelines for our budget decisions, priorities, budget scenarios (level service budget; minimum school improvement; significant school improvement) and the current budget request of \$27,842,986 as a level service budget.

Mr. Swett asked how the budget priorities have been met with a level service budget.

Mr. MacMillan reviewed the expenditure history, budget expenditure drivers (employee contractual obligations, additional staff required, and increase in out of district special education costs).

Dr. Sylvia asked for specificity about the special education tuition and sped costs increase.

Mr. MacMillan explained the budget request by function and level service budget projects included priorities.

Mrs. Veugen wanted to know if Minot Forest had projects in this budget and if so, to include these on the presentation.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood listed the key priorities unfunded in this budget and stated that the administration will continue to look for grants and/or collaboration with the town.

The Committee expressed concern with not funding a Technology Integration Specialist but purchasing technology i.e., 300 chrome books.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that this is the final budget number but it is an on-going process. The Committee wanted to make sure the budget reflects the committee's priorities.

Budget Support is from additional revenues with grants, school choice and circuit breaker and also looking for ways to offset costs to the district. Key factors influencing the budget decisions were student enrollment, staffing numbers, curriculum and technology needs, utility costs, and building and facility needs.

Mr. MacMillan reviewed student enrollment trends, historical & projected enrollment, and cohort analysis as well as staffing positions of all employees, changes since FY14, instructional staffing numbers FTE reported to DESE; and grants and revolving funds chart.

There was a brief discussion on the same number of special education students 2008-2015 but a dramatic cost increase.

Mr. Lazarus stated that the 6.7 WHS Administration includes the Deans, which are under Unit A, not administrators.

Mr. Swett asked if the West & Coop programs were being looked at since when proposed they would wash financially but practically are they a luxury now not reaching our goal for number of students in the program.

It was noted on the school choice trends in enrollment and tuition increases that Wareham students had more choices in 2012 and did the failed override in town contribute to this increase.

Mr. MacMillan explained that the circuit breaker reimbursement rate is set by DESE each year and reflects how much we spent in the prior year. He concluded the presentation with information on Facilities – School Building Closures, Transportation, and Capital priorities to go to the town capital planning committee and town administrator.

Mr. Swett asked if the transportation plan was enough so we do not have to cut transportation services and is it only a one year plan?

Mr. Flaherty reminded administration that the stair skids at WHS to be replaced with help of the town per Mr. Sullivan.

The Committee asked the Administration to send them the amended version of the FY16 Budget Presentation.

Chair Sylvia thanked everyone for their participation in the budget process and being here this evening.

Mr. Flaherty asked if moving the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the high school was going to be discussed at the budget meeting.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that moving the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the high school is not an advantage to the district at this time. It is not cost effective or the best possible option for our students.

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

Dr. Shaver-Hood asked for volunteers willing to serve on the strategic planning committee to please contact her as she will begin the process this week.

January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM is the public hearing on the FY16 Budget and she would like to meet prior to the budget hearing with the budget advisory committee.

#### **School Committee Report**

Mr. Swett announced that the next policy review committee meeting is January 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Any other business**

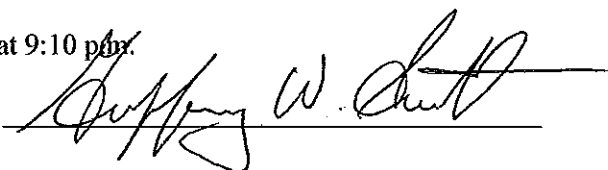
Dr. Sylvia recognized Mr. Flaherty's service to the committee and stated that we need people to step forward to run for a seat. Mr. Swett is running again.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



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

BST/Global Education Sister Schools Global Summit

EF Tours Scandinavia

Donation Maurice and Anne Makepeace Family Foundation

Social Networking for Staff Policy

Superintendent's Evaluation Form 2014 – 2105

FY16 Budget Presentation

Memo from Dr. Shaver-Hood to Mr. Sullivan, Town Administrator Subject: Preliminary FY2016 Budget Proposal

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

A TRUE COPY  
ATTEST

  
TOWN CLERK

FEB 26 2015