

January 14, 2015

A joint meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium.

Present School Committee: Geoff Swett, Melvin Lazarus, Cliff Sylvia, Michael Flaherty, Rhonda Veugen, and Nicole Russo, who arrived at 7:30 p.m., as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Business Manager MacMillan and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

Present Board of Selectmen: Peter Teitelbaum, Steve Holmes, Pat Tropeano (7:02 p.m. – Selectmen opened meeting) and Derek Sullivan. Members Alan Slavin and Judy Whiteside arrived at 7:30 p.m. due to a previous commitment.

Present Finance Committee: None

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sylvia at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING on FY16 Budget**

Chair Sylvia laid the ground rules for conducting the hearing with a presentation by the Superintendent and once a quorum of the other committees they will open their meetings and he would take questions from board members, then open the meeting to the general public.

Mr. Swett announced through the Chair that he opened his email ([gswett@wareham.k12.ma.us](mailto:gswett@wareham.k12.ma.us)) for the public to ask questions to relay to the Chair.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood gave an opening statement and thanked those administrators who contributed to the budget process and thanked the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee. She reviewed the guidelines and direction from the School Committee in preparing the budget listing its priorities, drivers, revenues, and needs.

The total FY16 budget request is \$27,842,986, an increase of \$963,331.

Mr. MacMillan reviewed the budget details including expenditure history, expenditure drivers (employee contractual obligations, additional staff required, and an increase in out of district special education costs) and at the same time savings and reducing costs in other areas.

Dr. Andrea Schwamb reviewed curriculum costs.

Mr. MacMillan reviewed the maintenance projects planned, staffing changes made in FY15 current and staffing trends.

Dr. Shaver-Hood reviewed staffing changes proposed in FY16, out of district tuition, interventions to tackle out of district tuition, and areas in the budget being investigated. She announced that this past Friday Wareham was notified that it had received an Academy of Innovators and Entrepreneurs School Planning Grant to keep our students in Wareham. She then listed the capital priorities at the schools.

(Mr. Slavin, Mrs. Whiteside and Miss Russo arrived at the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

The school budget documents are on our website and we will be happy to provide a hard copy if you come to Superintendent's Office.

Chair Sylvia asked for comments and/or questions from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Teitelbaum – drop in enrollment, in-kind costs

Mrs. Whiteside – level funding vs level service budget

Mr. Slavin – consolidating, streamlining services in town, regionalization of schools systems down the line

**Public comments:**

Heather Hogan – parent read a prepared statement relative to special needs students and behavior, parenting, 504, and IEPs.

Deborah Rose – school council Minot and volunteer at Minot asked if special education was related to No Child Left Behind.

**School Committee comments:**

Mr. Flaherty – Did the town ask for a level funded budget? Chair Slavin answered not from the board directly.

Mrs. Veugen thanked those in the audience who spoke up today and stated that the FAST Assessment is important for schools and also for parents to use at home with their child.

Chair Sylvia thanked all for coming and thanked all staff for their contributions to the Wareham Public Schools and hopefully we will work together to provide the best educational opportunities for our children without dismantling our town finances.

It was announced that the Martin Luther King Breakfast will be this Monday at 9AM and the public is invited.

In two weeks the Committee will meet to vote on the FY16 budget and prior to the vote will have public participation on the agenda when additional budget questions or comments can be made.

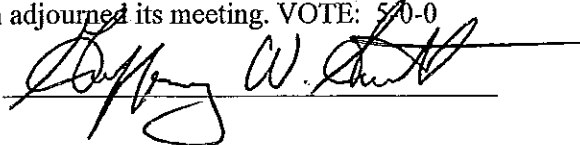
Mr. Lazarus moved to close the budget hearing and adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen adjourned its meeting. VOTE: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted:



**List of documents:**

Wareham Public Schools Public Hearing Budget Presentation FY2016

A TRUE COPY  
ATTEST

  
TOWN CLERK

FEB 26 2015