

June 17, 2015

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Melvin Lazarus, Cliff Sylvia, Judy Caporiccio, Rhonda Veugen, and Noah Wambolt, student representative, as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Swett introduced Noah Wambolt as the new student representative from the High School.

GOOD NEWS

Superintendent Shaver-Hood announced the following good news: two fabulous graduations, honor night, 8th grade step up next week, field days

Mrs. Veugen attended the 3rd grade field day where the student showed sportsmanship and competition.

Ms. Caporiccio was impressed over the last 2 months with our school system from the Superintendent's goals, SIP goals, curriculum, and benchmarks. Wareham is a great school system and the parents and students should be Wareham proud.

Mr. Lazarus congratulated Kathy Moore with us over 30 years of service who will be retiring as outgoing principal of the Cooperative School.

Mr. Swett stated that after interacting with many more middle school students and faculty this past year in different settings, he is impressed with the quality of students and faculty that leads them.

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the minutes of June 3, 2015 as presented, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mrs. Veugen)

Approval of District Handbook & WHS Student Code of Conduct for 2015-16

District Handbook: Dr. Shaver-Hood gave members a two page document listing the changes to the handbook after the review by Mr. Lazarus, Dr. Schwamb and the Superintendent. The listing gave a descriptor and checked which was applicable to the district, high school, middle school, and elementary. The second page included the language adjustments made to the handbook.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the District Handbook for 2015-16 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

WHS Student Code of Conduct: Principal Palladino highlighted the changes to the handbook as follows:

Page 11 – contractual language change under Homework and Makeup

Page 17 – took away skateboard under Articles Prohibited in School and at School Functions to stay current with the times

Pages 17-18 – added ALS program expectations

Page 18 – under Loitering added language to be with a teacher or exit building

Page 18 – under Cafeteria added #8 leaving the cafeteria

Page 20 – under Electronic Media and Communication Devices added language relative to use of phones

Page 22 – Lavatory Policy – an ID scanned and no backpacks allowed in lavatory

Page 32 – Group B: electronic cigarettes or vapor producing apparatus

Page 34 – In-School Suspension added designee

Questions were received from committee members.

Mrs. Veugen asked to change Page 17 – Discipline – adjust the language under Articles Prohibited in School and at School Functions of electronic devices, unless student has permission to use for educational purposes.

Dr. Sylvia suggested starting the review of the handbook process earlier with a standing committee which includes students.

Chair Swett stated that on page 4 the last two sentences under Food and Drink are redundant. An adjustment will be made.

Ms. Caporiccio stated that a school needs a strong handbook with all the legalities for running a school.

Mr. Lazarus moved to approve the Student Code of Conduct 2015-16 for Wareham High School as amended, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

School Improvement Plans for 2015-16

Supt. Shaver-Hood presented an overview of the School Improvement Plans with the Common Pillars: Literacy, Mathematics, Technology, Safe and Secure Schools

Decas/Minot – Principals Seamans and Noonan

Literacy –

- Reach for Reading with technology
- FAST Assessment
- Response to Intervention, Tier 2 and Tier 3
- Accelerated learning opportunities
- Writing

Questions/comments

Mathematics –

- Piloting Envision and Eureka math programs
- FAST Assessment
- Response to Intervention, Tier 2 and Tier 3
- Accelerated learning opportunities
- Incentive programs for math fact fluency

Questions/comments

Technology –

- Update wireless and bandwidth in schools
- Interactive Smart boards (K-2)
- Additional interactive boards planned (Gr.3-4)
- Technology projects (gr.3-4)
- Technology devices in classrooms
- Professional development

Questions/comments

Safe and Secure Schools

- Establish Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Team
- Transitional support room
- Keyless entry
- MSBA application
- Upgrade communication systems

Questions/comments

Achievements Prek- 4

Overall – reconfiguration provided multiple opportunities for grade level collaboration and consistency of curriculum; one school community Prek-4; focus for 2015/16 on accelerated learning

Supporting Evidence/Data

Overall comments:

Mr. Lazarus expressed concern with the comments on page 13 specific to funding by the town on educating our children since we are doing an outstanding job.

Dr. Sylvia suggested indicating the level of achievement of the goals of the preceding year (fully met, partially met, etc). The narrative was very comprehensive but asked for more specificity on the timeline.

Mrs. Veugen asked if the FAST assessment data taken this spring could be given to parents to work with their child over the summer.

Wareham Middle School – Principal Minkle & Assistant Principal Ponte

Overview – better at assessing students and how to approach instruction; approach interventions with students in meaningful ways; consistency with instruction across the grades and subject area; emphasis on school culture

Mathematics –

- Intervention blocks
- Input from teachers
- Use of data how to approach instruction
- Survey staff, students, parents – electives for next year

Literacy –

- Professional development METAL writing process
- School newspaper
- Model Curriculum units
- Progress monitoring

Questions/comments

Technology –

- STEAM Academy expansion
- Increase Chrome book carts
- Upgrade for digital lab – monitors in assistant principals offices

Achievements; Evidence/Data

Questions/comments

Mrs. Veugen asked to see more detail measuring the goals.

Dr. Sylvia asked that the targets/timelines have attainable results, to include the survey data in the Plan, and be more detailed on the summary of goals.

Wareham High School – Principal Palladino & Assistant Principal Freitas
Mathematics & Literacy - Increasing Teacher Capacity with common assessments, training
Technology - need more Chrome book carts for PARC testing in less days; utilize teachers for peer training; and redistribute technology resources for teacher work stations
Achievements – Level I status; dual enrollment; roof; NEASC
Evidence/Data

Overall comments

Principal Palladino responded to Dr. Sylvia relative to the dual enrollment students in that 37 out of 42 students are going to WHS for grade 9.

Dr. Sylvia asked for a bit more narrative; need consistency on all SIPs; focus more on target/timeline; collaborative evaluations

Mrs. Veugen was concerned with how much the survey data plays into the Plan.

Mr. Swett mentioned the alignment with PARC on ACCUPLACER assessment for college.

East Community School – Mrs. Panarese & Principal Moore
Mathematics – Literacy - Technology
Rolling student roster; reviewed MCAS Results; building an aligned curriculum and project/problem-based learning
Achievements:
Both programs were moved to East Community School and the start of the year was rocky facing discipline problems so the schools were blended together during the year and the school culture improved immensely. There was a grant for project based learning.
Partnership with CCCC for students and staff PD in trauma training
Graduated 34 students this year
Individual learning plans for students
Evidence/Data

Questions/Comments

Dr. Sylvia stated that he would love to see the summary narrative with goals met (page 4) in each plan across the district.

Dr. Shaver-Hood concluded with community involvement events for our schools throughout the year and thanked administrators and council members. She stated that the administration will re-look at the plans with the comments and suggestions made this evening and meet this summer. She will come back to the committee in the fall with the strategic plan action steps meeting the action plans of the schools.

Acceptance of Gift

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended accepting the \$98 donation from families who attended the Band/Chorus performance to the Minot Forest School revolving account.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Approval of Obsolete Vehicles List

Mr. MacMillan stated the vehicles on the list are obsolete and were used for parts. He requested a vote by the School Committee and then the list will go to the Selectmen for an auction.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the list of vehicles as presented as obsolete, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Proceeds from the auction of these vehicles will be negotiated to fund the move and maintenance department changes with the town.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Financial Reports and Transfer Request(s)

MacMillan – reviewed transfer requests as follows:

- Cancelled heating to maintenance previously voted
- Heating to Maintenance of Grounds \$10,000
- Utility to Maintenance Grounds \$15,000
- Testing and Assessment to Legal Services \$5,000
- Athletic Services to Pupil Transportation \$30,000
- Testing and Assessment to Attendance \$9,000
- Instructional Other to Attendance \$15,000
- Psychological Services to Substitutes \$30,000
- Student Insurance to Substitutes \$10,000

Ms. Caporiccio moved to approve the transfers as documented in the form by the Business Manager, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Food Service Program Update – Mr. MacMillan reported that the % reimbursement this year was reviewed and set with state at 77%. It is unlikely the entire district will qualify for the grant program with the High School next year having meal pricing.

Point of Order –

Dr. Sylvia moved to go beyond 10:00 p.m. to finish the business, seconded by Mrs. Veugen for discussion.

Mrs. Veugen asked to give our student representative the option to leave after 10:00 p.m.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. MacMillan stated that in reviewing the Financial Report for May, he believes there are sufficient funds to finish out the year with the help of circuit breaker money.

Bus Transportation Policy Update

Superintendent Shaver-Hood read the policy with the adjustments.

Special education students living less than 1 mile with transportation on their I.E.P. will be provided transportation.

Chair Swett asked to add “d” to the word “combine”.

When walkways become impassable, the bus stops provided will be at First Citizens parking lot for Minot; corner of Island Brook Road and Main Street for Decas; and at Shaw's Supermarket parking lot for Middle/High students.

Dr. Sylvia felt this was the wrong direction for the amount of money to be saved and would be voting no.

Mrs. Veugen stated that a positive of this financial cut is the YMCA is discussing having a walking club to school and coordinating parents to walk kids to school.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the change to the Bus Transportation Policy as amended, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

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

Superintendent's Report - none

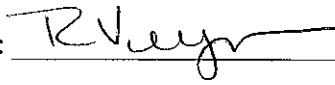
School Committee Report - none

Any other business - none

Mrs. Veugen moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy Listing
District Handbook 2015-16 & two page adjustments
Student Code of Conduct 2015-16 WHS
SIP Wareham High School 2015-16
SIP Wareham Alternative Pathway School for Success 2015-16
SIP Wareham Middle School 2015-16
SIP Minot Forest School/John W. Decas School 2015-16
Transportation Department – Obsolete Vehicles
Financial Report: Transfer Requests
WPS Monthly Expenditure Report 2015 May
Donation Funds to Minot Forest Revolving Account
Bus Transportation Policy Adjustment

