

August 19, 2015

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Cliff Sylvia, Judy Caporiccio, Rhonda Veugen, and Noah Wambolt, Student Representative, as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent was member Melvin Lazarus.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

- Dr. Sylvia extended his sympathy to colleague Mel Lazarus for the recent loss of his mother.
- Mrs. Veugen report that she has received glowing feedback from parents on the CARE Summer Program.
- Mr. Swett stated that in his interaction with middle and high school students recently, they are excited to go back to school.
- Mrs. Veugen encouraged parent attendance to the Back to School Nights for elementary students on August 26th and 27th hosted by the PTA.

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the minutes of July 22, 2015 as presented, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea -- 3; nay -- 0; abstain - 1 (Mrs. Veugen)

Approval of Middle and Elementary Handbooks for 2015-16

Principal Minkle asked the Committee to focus on the Code of Conduct for approval this evening for the first day of school (pgs 32-52). He will then review the remainder of the handbook with his school council.

Changes: philosophy, font, student discipline, due process rights, consequences

Mrs. Veugen asked about out-of-school "must have parent meeting" vs in-school suspension "best effort to contact parent" and suggested adding language to in-school suspension. Also she suggested language with each offense relative to bus privileges like it is presented in other handbooks. She felt the School/Home Compact set expectations of engagement with the parent/guardian.

Dr. Sylvia suggested clarification of groupings on page 35 and to reference procedures for non-custodial parent and/or dual guardianship.

Chair Swett stated that regular attendance needs an explanation, and age appropriate social development on page 30 is a subjective determination. He also felt both middle and elementary handbooks needed language under student's rights and responsibilities since there are no responsibilities listed.

Dr. Sylvia asked to consider a description of what is "excessive absenteeism" when home instruction kicks in as it is written in the elementary handbook.

Principal Seamans presented the elementary handbook as developed with Principal Noonan. Changes: title; added parent responsibilities; define excused and unexcused absences; parent conferences can be initiated by parent and/or teacher; page 36 visitor's security updated; page 4 bus conduct parent conference required; took out charging meals since free this year.

Mrs. Veugen suggested adding an explanation of the privacy required when disciplining students when something happens; using the bus misconduct format in school discipline section; and adding the communication piece found in the middle school handbook.

Dr. Sylvia stated that the introduction set the stage for a nurturing environment and suggested adding the school calendar.

Chair Swett mentioned adding the responsibilities under the rights and responsibilities section.

Dr. Sylvia moved acceptance of the elementary student, staff and parent handbook as presented with minor changes as discussed, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the middle school code of conduct as presented with the minor changes discussed, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Request for Pilot Clubs for 2015-16

Principal Palladino and Affonso Navarro, science teacher, requested a pilot club be created in astronomy. Mr. Navarro was able to purchase telescopes last year from a Cape Cod Five grant.

Chair Swett indicated that he was willing to donate a telescope and was informed that the club would include WHS students and dual enrollment 8th grade students.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the pilot program for the astronomy club at WHS, seconded by Mrs. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Principal Minkle recommended the following clubs for students at Wareham Middle School – Debate, Science, Scrabble.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the Debate Club as a pilot club, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the Science Club with the science fair as a pilot club, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the Scrabble Club as a pilot club, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

In response to Mrs. Veugen's question on the SIP survey results, Principal Minkle reported that this year during 6th period there will be electives for the students three days a week.

Discussion and Vote on Food Services Fees

Mr. MacMillan and Mr. Shaheen informed the committee that based on an audit, Wareham did not meet the eligibility for district free meals. Wareham High School students will have to pay for breakfast and lunch this school year unless they meet the family guideline for free or reduced meals.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that financially the district could not afford keeping the High School in the grant program.

The recommended meal charges are: Lunch \$2.70; Reduced \$0.40 and Breakfast \$1.50; Reduced \$0.30 and Adult meals are \$3.75.

This information will be communicated to parents and for the first month the high school students will receive free meals until the application forms are processed.

(Dr. Sylvia left the meeting room 8:28-8:30)

Mrs. Veugen asked for an update on this program at the next quarterly report. The applications for free/reduced meals will now be the basis for athletic and activity fees for high school students.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the prices for high school student meals and for other schools when extra meals are purchased and for adult meals as recommended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

MSBA Vote for Decas School Roof Repair and Boiler Replacement

Mr. MacMillan presented a draft article for the October Town Meeting relative to conducting a feasibility study for the repair of the Decas School Roof and Boiler Replacement at an approximate cost of \$60,000. Wareham has been invited to participate in the state accelerated repair program for a reimbursement of approximately 70%. This is the first step in the project. The full cost of the project will be determined by the feasibility study but estimated at \$500,000 with a timeframe to begin in the spring.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the warrant article for the October Town Meeting relating to the Decas School Roof and Boiler Replacement project, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Designate Member(s) to Sign Warrants

The committee discussed having one designated signature on the payroll warrant and one alternate. There will be no change to the three signatures required for the payable warrant.

Dr. Sylvia moved that for this fiscal year 2016, Mr. Swett be the required designated signature and Mr. Lazarus be the alternate signature, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Vote on WEA Unit B Contract

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that the changes to the Unit B contract were discussed at the last meeting and include:

- Step 10 added to the Adjustment Schedule
- All Assistant Principals will work 211 days
- 3 year contract retroactive to July 1, 2015
- Require 30 school days' notice when terminating their services

Mrs. Caporiccio moved to approve the WEA Unit B Contract as voted unanimously by the Unit B membership, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent's Report

The start of school is August 31st, new staffing orientation August 24 & 25, and all staff meetings August 26 & 27. The bus routes are on the district website and a call will be made to families. A back-to-school night sponsored by the PTA will be August 26th at Decas and August 27th at Minot Forest.

School Committee Reports

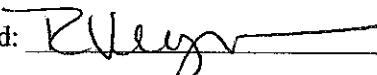
As per the policy the Superintendent provided the Chair with the Succession of Authority for the 2015-16 school year and Dr. Schwamb will be in charge in the absence of the Superintendent.

Any other business – none

Dr. Sylvia moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Correspondence: Notice of Vacancy, Personnel List, Superintendent's Newsletter
Office of Governor – Award of Perkins Grant
Wareham Middle School Handbook 2015-2016 & Code of Conduct
Elementary Handbook 2015-2016
WHS Astronomy Pilot Club Request
Club/Activities Middle School Pilot Requests
Community Eligibility Provisions Approval Letter
Town Meeting Warrant Article
WEA Changes to Unit B Contract

