

March 4, 2015

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Melvin Lazarus, Michael Flaherty, and Rhonda Veugen as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Parent Michelle Fitzgerald commented about the proposed school calendar for next year. She was concerned with students going back to school before Labor Day and cutting the summer shorter by 12 days. It is hard for working parents to plan.

Jessee Clements, parent and President of SpEd PAC, announced an event at the Middle School Library to discuss the upcoming SpEd Program Review and Heather Hogan presenting on the special education process. Ms. Clements also addressed the disabled parking in the district, specifically at WHS where there are a few spaces off the circle entrance but when special events are taking place at the Auditorium or Gym the front door is locked. No spaces are designated near the closest entrance of the gym and auditorium where events are held. Also at Minot Forest School the disabled parking is at the back of the cafeteria but visitors are steered to enter the main entrance. Title II requires access to programs and making structural improvement may be necessary. She is willing to help to make sure Wareham is up to standards.

Dr. Shaver-Hood responded to her question of where our Title I funds are being used \$598,452 partial funding of 11 teachers and paras and clerical, implemented FAST testing, offset interventionist and IL and tutoring services, professional development, and Coordinator of the program and a small percentage for instructional material.

Ms. Clements asked what happened to the Superintendent's Advisory Council and thought discussion of the proposed school calendar would have been a topic for this council.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the Advisory Council is not going on this year and that there are some contractual obligations in developing the school calendar.

Brian Fitzgerald, WEA President, stated there were early discussions in December and 100 educators responded to a survey and 90% wanted this schedule for the calendar. The reasoning was a day of instruction at the end of August was better than at the end of June. In August students are more dynamic and ready to learn.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Shaver-Hood congratulated the winter sports team and the Boys Basketball Team in the playoffs at Durfee this evening. She announced the DECA Home Show on March 21-22 at the High School with free admission. She also congratulated Mr. Houdlette, 4th grade teacher at Minot, for starting a MVP Club to promote positive values. The first fundraiser made \$211 which was donated to Turning Point.

Mr. Swett shared that he went before the Finance Committee this evening and presented and received unanimous support for the tennis court article for town meeting. He, along with Mr. Gardner, received overwhelming interest by students in grade 8 to participate in the tennis and track teams.

Mr. Flaherty shared that he had attended the science fair at the Middle School and it was great.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2015, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Mr. Flaherty amended page 3 to include "Mr. Flaherty agreed." after the 2nd paragraph and to add after the 2-2-0 vote that the motion failed due to a lack of majority.

Mr. Lazarus asked to change the word "encumbered" to "cumbered" in the 2nd paragraph on page 3.

VOTE as amended: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0 .

Discussion of Bus Garage Transfer and Possible Vote

Dr. Shaver-Hood reported that she had been working with the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator and requests the School Committee vote to begin the merger process of the school bus maintenance garage with the municipal maintenance garage. Our 2.5 mechanics would be under the town and the current bus garage will be turned over to the Harbormaster.

Mr. Tatro was present to answer questions. Mr. Tatro wanted to make sure the school buses remain a priority under this merge and felt our current software for vehicle maintenance would be beneficial. If modifications happen to the municipal maintenance garage, i.e., cleaning, adding a garage door, parking to be figured out, this facility would work.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the 2.5 mechanics would report to Mr. Menard and Mr. Tatro would remain in charge of our bus drivers and facility. We will be collaborating with a joint meeting to move forward on the merger.

Mr. Tatro replied to Mr. Flaherty that our last bus inspections took place in December/January and there were no long term major concerns.

Mr. Swett stated that the drivers would be responsible to report problems on a daily basis and make sure required items our in the bus but actual success of the mechanical and electrical systems would be the responsibility of the town.

Mrs. Veugen moved to merge the school bus maintenance garage with the municipal maintenance garage, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

Mr. Swett stated that he does not see money savings in this move and was concerned with labor relations issues being an obstacle in moving forward.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

School Calendars

- a) Proposed School Calendar 2015-2016 - Some committee members expressed concern with the first four weeks not being full weeks of school and with possible child care problems with the Friday off before Labor Day.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the calendar is a joint venture with the Association and also national consultants for in-service days have been planned. This process started back in December and is not a result of this year's snow days.

There was continued discussion on the Friday before Labor Day always being a no work day for staff and the possibility of starting August 31st.

Dr. Schwamb explained that during the process of developing the calendar three different calendars were proposed and the Association voted and the majority vote sits before you. Currently there is no consistency on how in-service days are delivered.

The members discussed being here on behalf of our customers, the parents, and a transition from summer care would be harder for one day. It was suggested that the Superintendent get feedback from parents.

Chair Flaherty tabled the vote to the next meeting.

Mr. Lazarus felt this calendar makes the high school students' transition easier and he was in favor of the schedule.

b) Possible Adjustment to School Calendar 2014-15 – Dr. Shaver-Hood informed the Committee that after consulting with administration and the union, the March 9th early release day is changed back to a full day for instructional hours.

Mrs. Veugen approved changing March 9th to a full school day, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Point of order by Mr. Lazarus: Do we need to vote to table the calendar? Chair Flaherty stated no.

Acceptance of Gift

Mrs. Veugen recommended accepting a \$76 donation from the band parents at the concert to support the music program at the Minot Forest School, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen recommended accepting \$226.81 from Target to Wareham Middle School for the student activity account for clubs and after school programs, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Financial Reports

Mr. MacMillan presented the January and February financial reports. We are still watching our out of district costs and we have spent more on snow removal/plowing, putting pressure on the budget. We are on a tight spending freeze.

In response to committee members our pupil transportation account looks reasonably good due to lower fuel prices and no major maintenance concerns, our substitute accounts are spending more with fewer teachers due to a few long-term absences to fill, and our heating and utility accounts are doing well due to fewer buildings and better contracts.

Mr. MacMillan recommended two transfers:

Mrs. Veugen moved to transfer \$6,000 from School Committee Contracted Service to Legal Services School Committee Other Expenditures, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

Mr. Flaherty asked to have the account # on the recommendations.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen moved to transfer \$16,000 from Testing/Assessment Salary to Teacher Specialists Salary, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The Revolving and Grants report will be presented quarterly.

Also a vote on the FY16 budget will be on a future agenda.

MSBA Application Minot Renovation Vote

Mrs. Seamans and Mr. MacMillan presented the application to the core program repair and renovation of the Minot Forest School. We are applying to be invited into the program and, if accepted, a feasibility study will be done. The renovations would be to windows, boilers, etc. and we will replace the obsolete buildings, i.e., portable classrooms.

The reimbursement rate will be determined from the appropriation process by the state.

Mr. Swett moved that having convened in an open meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Wareham, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 7, 2015, for the Minot Forest Elementary School located at 63 Minot Avenue, Wareham, MA 02571 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

-Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. This Statement of Interest will address renovation of the Minot Forest elementary school building, including replacement of windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems and upgrading the electrical system and the school safety system.

-Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. This Statement of Interest will seek to replace the current modular classrooms at Minot Forest Elementary.

-and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Wareham Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Superintendent's Report

The Massachusetts State Senate will be hosting a series of events known as "Commonwealth Conversations" and the first one will be on March 11th at Bristol Community College.

She reported a defeat this evening but congratulated the Boys' Basketball team for their amazing season.

School Committee Reports

Mr. Swett stated that the policy review committee has completed its process and a final report will be made at our next meeting.

Any other business

Mrs. Veugen referenced the NSBA magazine, which is promoting – Stand Up for Public Schools. She encouraged folks to go to their website to contribute to this initiative.

Executive Session

Mr. Lazarus moved to enter into executive session for contract negotiations/collective bargaining and to come out to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

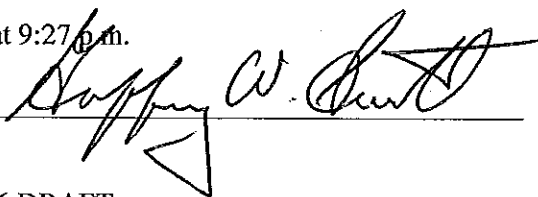
Roll call vote: Mr. Swett – yea; Mrs. Veugen – yea; Mr. Lazarus – yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

(At 8:28 p.m. the meeting was moved to WMS Library.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

**List of documents:**

School Calendar 2015-16 DRAFT

Financial Statements January 2015, February 2015, Transfer Requests

MSBA Statement of Interest – Core Program – Minot Forest School

Commonwealth of Massachusetts “Commonwealth Conversations”

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