

March 18, 2015

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Mr. Melvin Lazarus, Mrs. Rhonda Veugen, Mr. William Flaherty, Mr. Geoff Swett, Dr. Clifford Sylvia, and Miss Nicole Russo, student representative, as well as Superintendent Dr. Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sylvia at 7:05 p.m. He publicly thanked Mr. Flaherty for taking over as Chair the last few weeks as he had surgery.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Michelle Fitzgerald, parent, shared she felt the proposed school calendar as revised should be better for parents and thanked the committee for listening to the parents. She also thanked Mr. Flaherty for his service as this being his last meeting.

The following students in Wareham High School DECA shared their experiences in the DECA program and how DECA has helped them and thanked their advisors, Ms. Sylvia, Mrs. Maurice, and Mr. Cali, Principal Palladino and the School Committee for supporting DECA:

Corey Harunkiewicz, Paige Fehskens, Katlyn Lockyer, Rebekka Blanchette, Lexie Calvin, Mckenzie Coughlin, Katelynn Halpren, Allison Bacchiocchi, Nathaniel Moore, Peter Gagnon, Andrew Thompson, Griffin Butler, Jesse Ruiz, Garrett Fillion, Derek Guerrier, Joe Nash

The Committee members and public were invited to attend the DECA Home Show this weekend from 10-4 Free Admission.

Cindy Sylvia and Monice Maurice, DECA Advisors, thanked the Committee for its support and reported that 21 students from Wareham are going to Nationals – 4 1<sup>st</sup> place winners – 1 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 4 4<sup>th</sup> place winners. Wareham earned six national leadership spots and 3 leadership spots through Mass DECA. Wareham went from 125 members to over 190 members and earned 3 more leadership spots. Nationals will cost just under \$30,000 to send 21 kids and there will be activities to earn money.

#### **GOOD NEWS**

Presentation – Dr. Sylvia presented Mr. Michael Flaherty a plaque with appreciation for his term on the School Committee. Due to family commitments, he will not be running for another term.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he enjoyed his time on the Committee and will miss it.

Dr. Sylvia recognized the girls and boys basketball teams which went far in the tournament and congratulated ORR in winning the state championship.

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced the Elementary PTA International Night tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at the Decas School.

Also the Global Education Club will be chaperoning visitors from Cape Verde on April 3-13 and our visitors will be here at the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with a potluck prior to the meeting.

The DECA Home Show is this weekend and congratulations were extended to the 21 students attending Nationals.

**Minutes of the Meeting**

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2015, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

**Winter Athletic Report**

Ed Rodriguez, AD and Principal Palladino presented the winter athletic report. Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the basketball teams' success and winter track records broken. He informed the committee that referees have commented on how well our students handled themselves all year.

Briefly discussed was the \$1,400 from Carver coop for ice hockey, over 300 students over the three seasons will play sports, the low GPA for boys basketball, 8<sup>th</sup> grade participation in only some sports, a feeder system, community service, and only one athlete ineligible because of GPA.

**School Calendars**

Vote on Proposed Calendar 2015-2016 – Dr. Shaver-Hood explained that the proposed school calendar presented at the last meeting was drafted in central office and shared with the teachers' union and voted on. It reflected a sound educational practice. After the last meeting Dr. Schwamb worked with Mr. Fitzgerald for an alternative proposal which will have staff begin August 26<sup>th</sup> & August 27<sup>th</sup> for in-service and students begin on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. The last day of school with five snow days is June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended the alternative proposed school calendar.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that both proposals were discussed by the association and it is willing to accept either calendar.

Mr. Swett moved to approve calendar #2 with school beginning for students on August 31, 2015, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

**Recommended Change and Vote on Calendar 2014-15**

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that currently the last day of school is June 30<sup>th</sup>. We cannot extend school hours and must have 180 school days. She conducted a survey of staff and parents/guardians with the following options: April 3<sup>rd</sup> ½ day, April 21 school day, April 21, 22, and 23 school days.

She reviewed the results and recommended April 3<sup>rd</sup> as a half day make-up day; all unions are in agreement working on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This would make our last day of school June 29<sup>th</sup> as a half day.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Shaver-Hood for the 2014-15 school calendar, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

(Dr. Sylvia left meeting room 8:05 p.m. – re-entered at 8:08 p.m.)

**Request for Student Trips**

KSA Tournament Disney World Volleyball Team – Ed Rodriguez and Ben Kaeterle, Volleyball Head Coach, requested that the volleyball team attend the KSA Tournament to build chemistry for the team, build a program, and build athletics. The trip is September 2-6<sup>th</sup> and costs \$1,100 per player. The coaches are chaperones along with Mr. Rodriguez for 8-10 players. Fundraising will be conducted.

It was noted that the team would leave after school on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and only miss one day of school since there is no school on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the WHS volleyball trip to the KSA Tournament in Disney World, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

#### Art Department New York City

Ms. Dion and Mr. Tricker were present to request an Art Department trip to New York City for 45 students. One school day will be missed on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Flaherty moved approval of the Art Department Trip to New York City as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The Committee was invited to the Annual Art Fair on May 1<sup>st</sup> 6-8:30 p.m.

#### **Overview of Special Education Reviews**

Dr. Marks, Administrator of Special Education, updated the Committee on the process of the Coordinated Program Reviews. The scope is for program quality assurance in the areas of Special Education; English Learner Education (ELE); Civil Rights; Career/Vocational Technical Education and also a review of McKinney-Vento and Title I will be completed.

This review happens every 6 years with a mid-cycle review in the third year. The district reviewed 26 records to meet the criteria in the self-assessment phase spring 2014. She spoke about the Desk Review Phase and Onsite Verification Phase of the review.

The onsite visit is May 18-22<sup>nd</sup> and at the end of the visit an informal exit meeting is held. Forty-five days later a draft report is submitted and the district has 10 days to review for accuracy. The contents of the final report will have ratings and findings for the district.

#### **Vote on FY16 School Budget**

Dr. Shaver-Hood thanked the administrators for their hard work in preparing the FY16 budget.

She recommended adopting the FY16 budget at \$27,427,412 an increase of \$547,757 over the FY15 budget, reducing the original increase by approximately \$300,000.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated the internal cuts would come from moving \$80,000 out of technology to capital and some staff cuts.

Dr. Sylvia shared his opinion that education is his number one priority. Although he was not in favor of this budget reduction, it is a goodwill effort to manage the deficit to the town.

Mr. Lazarus shared he was not in favor of changing the original budget number and we cannot keep providing the best education with decreasing funds. He would support this number reluctantly in the spirit of working out budget issues with the town.

Mr. Swett shared the problem is not how we fund education in this town but how we fund education in this state. We need to look at how we provide education in Wareham and do better, more cost effective, and rely on our outstanding leadership team.

Mrs. Veugen commended the Superintendent, administration and budget subcommittee for their work to get to the budget number presented this evening. The town has a gap between needs and revenue coming into town. She would like a thoughtful fair look across the board for all town departments which was done last year. We need to share the cuts across the board again and encourage thoughtful discussion to continue.

Mrs. Veugen moved approval of the net budget for 2016 at \$25,984,550, seconded by Mr. Swett.

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

Mrs. Veugen moved approval of the non-net budget for 2016 at \$1,442,862, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Veugen moved approve of the total FY16 budget at \$27,427,412, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

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

Summer School Information – This year there will be a charge only for summer credit recovery courses to pay for transportation, registration, and the course if a student failed the course originally.

Strategic Plan – On April 6<sup>th</sup> the district will begin developing a new strategic plan. The strategic planning session will:

- a) Identify existing strengths
- b) Explore current trends
- c) Uncover improvement opportunities
- d) Map the way forward

Any School Committee members interested in serving on this committee let the Superintendent know through email or a phone call. Those individuals who have already volunteered will be contacted.

#### **School Committee Reports**

Recommendations Policy Review – Mr. Swett recommended the following policy changes:

Background Checks – Insert effective date by July 2016; otherwise the policy remains the same

Mrs. Veugen asked about the CORI procedure update and Dr. Shaver-Hood stated the administration is working on it and we will have an executive session to present due to security.

Mrs. Veugen moved approval of the Background Checks policy as amended, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Administration of Medications - School Nurse Sue Akins came to meeting to explain the changes to both health policies.

Additional language added exception for self-administration; nurses take responsibility for in-service training with epinephrine but deletes ensuring competency.

Mr. Lazarus moved approval of the Administration of Medications policy as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

*Emergency Health Procedures - Clinical Guidelines for School Nurses* updated reference date to 2013 and added language to guideline exception: Pediculosis (head lice) included as part of the policy.

Mr. Lazarus moved approval of the Emergency Health Procedures policy as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mr. Swett stated that he chaired a good, committed committee who participated in healthy discussions and thanked the members of the policy review committee for serving.

**Any other business**

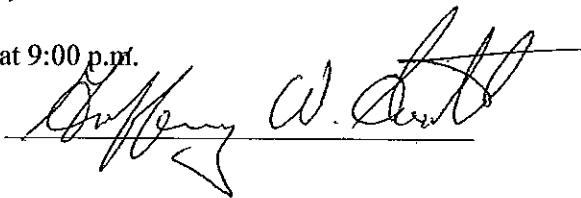
Dr. Sylvia stated that this was his last meeting as Chair and appreciated the members. It was an honor serving as Chair.

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

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



**List of documents:**

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy Listing  
WHS Athletic Department Winter Report 2015

Wareham Volleyball to Florida KSA Tournament Proposal

WHS Art Department Trip

Coordinated Program Reviews Spring 2015

School Calendar 2015-2016 #1 and #2

School Calendar 2014-2015

Policies: Background Checks – Administration of Medications – Emergency Health Procedures