January 9, 2020

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 320 at the Multi-Service Center. Members present were Michael Flaherty, Joyce Bacchiocchi, Apryl Rossi, Laurie Spear and student representative Emily Roberge as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Schwamb and Recording Secretary Michelle Ruiz. Absent was member Mary Morgan.

Chair Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that the meeting was being taped for broadcast by WCTV and an audio recording by Mrs. Ruiz. If anyone in the audience is recording let the Chair know. No additional recordings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Chair Flaherty announced that the Committee previously voted to allow public participation during the agenda items and informed the audience members to raise their hand if they wished to comment on an agenda item after the committee has deliberated.

GOOD NEWS
Dr. Schwamb announced that Wareham Public Schools, with a vote from the Union, has joined the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA), to create a fair and effective accountability system for performance based assessment. Three staff members will become vetters and attend trainings.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi wished the students good luck as they compete in the DECA districts today. She also recognized teachers who go above and beyond for their students.

Report of the Student Representative
Miss Roberge announced that there were many students attending the DECA competition, this Saturday is the Hockey team’s Blackout Cancer Night, and Saturday is also the AP Calculus class at the High School.

Minutes of the Meeting
Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the minutes of December 19, 2019, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Student Advisory Committee
Member Grace Brogioli reported that each class grades 8-12 has a student advisory rep now; surveys to be sent to students for input to improve school climate; and a message board is up in Cafeteria to display announcements.

Fall Athletic Report
Ed Rodrigues, AD, reported that there was good participation in the fall with 141 students, 28 8th graders and the average GPA was 88.2. The field hockey team won two state tournament games, and the
volleyball team was awarded the Team Sportsmanship Award for the Conference. He invited the coaches and students to share the highlights of their season.

- **Cheerleaders** – students Mia & Sophia stated the cheerleaders did a lot of fundraising and community service work helping the younger cheer squads in town. They competed in one competition and their fundraising money will be used for school mats and team gear.

- **Football** - Coach Fran Cass stated that the team had four wins this year and we are reinstituting an underclassmen program with freshman. He has great rapport with the youth football teams in town. Also present was student Dylan Turner and it was noted the success of the JV team.

- **Soccer** – Coaches Megan Kashner & Evan Wilga reported on the full effort of participation for the season, the high GPA, and the competitiveness. Senior Abigale Berriault was recognized as a SCC All Star. Both coaches have spoken with youth coaches or work in the program as a coach/ref. Coach Wilga announced that the stats of the teams were passed in this year and Wareham has been granted a two-year waiver to play ten out of conference games next year to be more competitive as a small school.

- **Field Hockey** – Coach Marissa Smith and student Captain Grace Brogioli reported that there was just a varsity team due to the low numbers. No 7th graders tried out even though we had a waiver. For community service the team held youth clinics four Saturdays during the season. The team made tournament this year and two boys played on the team this year as a co-ed sport with some adversity.

Chair Flaherty recognized the trainer as an unsung hero and Volleyball SCC All Star who was a foreign exchange student.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi stated that last fall vs this fall we had 21 more athletes and spent less dollars.

Principal Palladino noted we had less football games, home games cost more. He also thanked Ed as Part-time AD and Ms. Barboza and the coaches for a great job representing Wareham.

Mr. Rodrigues expressed his appreciation for the new bleachers and noted the need for two new scoreboards - basketball court and football field - and maybe could partner with Gatemen for Spillane Field scoreboard.

**WHS Course of Studies 2020-21**

Principal Palladino, Assistant Principals Cavicchi & Cannon, Director of Guidance Janicki and Mr. Murray Department Chair were present.

Principal Palladino reviewed the changes to the course of studies, which included a new French IB course, removed Tech Design Lab, added DECA Prep level 2 and level 3, opened up electives to students in grades 8-10, added a new course Financial Literacy for Teens, made Personal Finance in Grades 11-12 a required course, tweaked the language in some courses in preparation for MYP, added CORE English grade 8 and added grade 12, title change of course Vietnam, The 1960s and American Culture, some new Math courses and course description changes, added CORE Math 8, removed Physics due to staffing, added new courses Cybersecurity II - Electric Automotive Systems Lab - Introduction to Game Design - Games Design II and listed all vocational opportunities, a new IB class Global Politics, and added skills and Seniors only on line courses.
The Course of Studies is a student driven process and we may not offer all the courses based on student interest. In answer to the committee members’ questions:

Personal Finance is newly required, not a new class and will not be required for the Class of 2021 and SAT prep is still a required course. There is flexibility if a student is not taking the SATs. The Physics course was eliminated and should not place a disadvantage to a student as it is a fourth year science and other science courses are available. No credit is given to 8th graders but courses and curriculum are the same. As these students get older we will have to enhance levels of these classes. The 8th grade SS course addresses new state standards and the Vietnam class will reflect the times. Pre-calculus previously touched on skills, this course will now have some calculus.

Dr. Schwamb has been involved in the course of studies during department meetings and Middle Year Program and she noted that vocational courses are built into this Course of Studies.

Ms. Rossi moved to approve the WHS Course of Studies for 2020-2021 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**NEASC Accreditation Update**
Principal Palladino, Assistant Principals Cavicchi & Cannon, Jessica Linehan and Mike Murray were present. Principal Palladino stated that Wareham High School never lost or has come close to losing its accreditation. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) assesses schools based on standards and makes recommendations for ongoing improvement.

Five accreditation standards:
- Learning Culture
- Student Learning
- Professional Practice
- Learning Support
- Learning Resources

We are now in the self-reflection process and a report will be compiled and shared with the visiting team in the fall 2020. The visiting team will validate the self-reflection and provide its own recommendations to develop a school growth plan for their visit in 2022. The key components are:
Steering Committee – 3 members
Reflection Committee – 6 members
NEASC Survey - students, staff, parents
Self-Reflection
Vision of the Graduate

In preparation two co-chairs and the principal have been trained by NEASC and three staff have attended collaborative conferences. Five staff and two central administrators attended decennial visits, all at no cost to the district.
The process began on December 10, 2019 with a focus at Monday meetings on Self-Reflection with the report to be shared with staff in March. The School Committee can support us with attendance, of no more than two members, one day for one hour to meet with NEASC Collaborative Conference Visiting Team in the fall 2020. Also funding will be an issue when the report is done and Principal Palladino asked for the committee’s continued fight for appropriate funding. He felt we are in a much better position this year than our last accreditation for curriculum, building, technology, opportunities for our students and instruction and thanked Dr. Shaver-Hood and Dr. Schwamb for their support.

Chair Flaherty noted that the last report focused on the building but this helped the town to fix things.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi noted that we have a website now to keep people up to date with correct information about the NEASC accreditation process.

**AP/IB Testing Fees Policy**
Chair Flaherty asked Principals Palladino if we need to force kids to take the AP exam.

Principal Palladino explained that senior transcripts go out in the fall and students could have an advantage and not taking the class seriously. Nine out of ten schools in the Southcoast Conference require an exam be taken. One school in the conference gives Honors credit for AP class if a student does not take the test. Also the MIE grant requires every school administer the test in order to receive this grant.

Assistant Principal Cavicchi stated that by requiring students to take the exam, there is a level of focus and accountability.

Dr. Schwamb also noted that other schools had criteria to take the class where Wareham allows any student to take the class.

Chair Flaherty was concerned with the possibility of cutting 15 positions while having low class numbers in AP classes.

Ms. Rossi suggested that advisory teachers help lead the dual enrollment students into AP classes.

A presentation by the guidance department is conducted and also an invitation to all 10th and 11th grade students to attend an information night on January 20th will be sent out.

At the request of Chair Flaherty, Principal Palladino shared that college students returned to the High School to answer questions from seniors. His favorite question to ask returning students is, “What course at WHS helped prepare you most for success in college?”

No changes were made to this policy as voted on December 19, 2019.
Report of the Superintendent

- **Approval of Bill and Payroll Warrants**
  Ms. Rossi moved to approve the following warrants, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi:
  Payroll Week Ending December 21, 2019 $921,561.18
  Payroll Week Ending December 28, 2019 $102,261.55
  Payroll Week Ending January 4, 2020 $896,893.68
  Bill Warrant 12/19/19 $2,160.00 & $3,852.11
  Bill Warrant 12/26/19 $301,218.66 & $3,988.19
  Bill Warrant 1/2/20 $3,852.28
  Bill Warrant 1/9/20 $188,534.48 & $443,052.00

  VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- **Grant Reports**
  *Federal, State & Private Grant Reports* - The 140IEQ grant is paying for teachers and the 21st Century Grants allow opportunities for students before school/after school/summer. There is also a new grant for student mental health/counseling.

- **Annual Approval of Student Activity Accounts**
  The report showed the current balances of the student activity accounts. The Decas School account is being spent down. We are asking for a Committee vote on the maximum balances at any time in the checking account.

  Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to vote the maximum balances for school activity accounts as indicated - Decas $5,000 Minot $5,000, Middle $30,000, WHS $50,000, Coop PASS $10,000, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

  VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- **Transfer of Funds FY20**
  Dr. Shaver-Hood presented three sets of transfer requests. The requests in blue will be made by the Superintendent to the Town Accountant. The requests in yellow are the transfers needed to be approved by the School Committee. The requests in orange are journal entries to be made by the Town Accountant.

  Chair Flaherty stated that he would like the transfer requests to be done in the former format by Mr. MacMillan as he likes Mr. MacMillan’s format better.

  Once these transfers are voted on by the Committee, the Town Accountant will make the changes and be reflected on the monthly financial report.

  Ms. Rossi moved to accept the transfer of funds highlighted in yellow by the Superintendent for transfer by the Town Accountant, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.
VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Report of the School Committee
Mrs. Bacchiocchi stated that she had asked the Project Manager to give her some highlights to share but the Wareham Week reporter wrote a great article about the elementary building project. The project is under budget and on time. The next School Building Committee meeting is February 10th and is open to the public.

Ms. Rossi announced that Town Meeting is coming up in the spring and several positions are up for re-election or election and papers should be pulled this month. There are two seats up for School Committee.

Any other business
Ms. Roberge asked about the student numbers for AP Government class as she is in that class and there are nine students, not four. Principal Palladino confirmed that there are nine students in that class.

Ms. Rossi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _______________________________

List of documents:
Correspondence: Superintendent’s Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy, Bill & Payroll Warrants
Minutes of the Meeting December 19, 2019
WHS Athletic Department Fall Report 2019
WHS Program of Studies 2020-2021 & Changes to the Course of Studies 20-21
NEASC an Overview
AP/IB Testing Fees Policy
FY20 Federal Grants
WPS Student Activity Accounts
Transfers FY20 Budget