March 12, 2020

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 320 of the Multi-Service Center. Members present were Michael Flaherty, Joyce Bacchiocchi, Laurie Spear, Mary Morgan, Apryl Rossi and student representative Emily Roberge as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Schwamb and Recording Secretary Michelle Ruiz.

Chair Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the meeting is being recorded for broadcast by WCTV and an audio recording by Mrs. Ruiz. He asked if there was anyone taping the meeting to let him know as Chair.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Dave Brogioli, teacher and parent voiced his concern about the postponement of the France trip from April to October. Originally, it was unknown as to the time and place for the postponed trip giving two options to travelers. He understands the postponement was due to the coronavirus. The October 8-19 dates will have students missing four days of school but be excused absences. Options were given again to travelers. He filed a complaint against Lingo Tours with AG’s Office. Mr. Brogioli’s questions had to do with trip insurance, what is not being reimbursed, how did they arrive at the numbers, and who fought for us. He hoped that a mass email could be sent indicating how many spots are open to recruit others before the deadline. Rumor has it that seniors were refunded. He indicated his frustration with the process and this Sunday is the deadline for cancellation by parents. He asked if the deadline can be extended.

Chair Flaherty invited Maureen Manning and Matthew Stanton from Global Ed to come forward to help answer questions.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the school department did not file a complaint with the AG’s office.

Dr. Manning stated that some companies are holding to the letter of the law and travelers are getting less than 50% back and being charged fees. We are working with Lingo Tours who have paid airlines, hotels, and restaurants already. Lingo Tours is going above and beyond giving back 66%-75% of the tour.

In answer to why a meeting was not held, Mr. Stanton stated that the administration was pressed for time to make decisions for the betterment of Wareham students.

Parent Paul Murphy asked for a meeting with the rep from Lingo Tours and the school for a refund of all the money. Also he asked to extend the deadline for the trip in October and perhaps schedule the trip in February or April.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the trip must be taken in 2020 due to airline tickets. The seniors were compensated because they cannot take the trip in October since they will no longer be students.

Dr. Manning stated the emails and phone numbers used were what went into the system provided by the travelers themselves and she had less than 24 hours’ notice. Insurance is mandatory and is left for the traveler to choose. There was a follow up call to parents after the letter went out. She will check to see if the deadline can be extended.
Ms. Rossi suggested either the Superintendent or someone from Global Education contact the AG or governor’s office to see if they can help and set up a meeting with parents before the Sunday deadline. She also suggested that the name on the form include the parent name and telephone number for future trips.

Chair Flaherty stated since the School Committee had to approve the trip why was the Committee not in the loop when cancelling it. Hopefully, lessons have been learned.

**GOOD NEWS**
- **Snippet of Wareham Middle School Play** - Arial and her Mersisters performed a snippet of the upcoming play “The Little Mermaid Jr.”, March 27, 2020. Mrs. Wiksten, Drama Club Advisor, invited the members to the 9:00 a.m. dress rehearsal on the 27th because the play is sold out.
- Ms. Rossi shared that tonight and tomorrow night the play “Almost Maine”, this year’s festival submission, is at Wareham High School. She thanked Mr. Brogioli as retiring coach of the Girls’ Basketball team.
- Mrs. Bacchiocchi reported from the Building Committee on a January 1, 2021 opening and Wareham saved millions on the project with bids and borrowing rates on bonds is now less than half when voted to approve the project at Town Meeting. Dr. Schwamb also stated that there are opportunities for our students in architect and design of the school.
- Chair Flaherty attended the Drama Festival with energy and support by all students.

**Report of the Student Representative**
Miss Roberge shared that Mr. Wareham 2020 is March 19th; “Almost Maine” play is tonight and tomorrow; and Tuesday is the Career Fair held at WHS. Spring sports are postponed to March 30th and Decas International Night and Credit for Life are cancelled.

**Minutes of the Meeting**
Ms. Rossi moved to approve the minutes of February 27, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Student Advisory Committee**
Student Advisory members Jasmine Black and Grace Brogioli shared their work on lowering class dues starting with the Junior Class from $180 to $120. Class dues includes costs of caps and gowns, yearbooks, school spirit week, class trip and prom. Ways being looked at include the school paying for the caps and gowns, taking out advertisements in the yearbook to lower the cost per student, and have individual students pay for class trip and prom if attending.

**Data Presentation - John W. Decas School**
Dr. Schwamb shared our use of formative assessments, internal and external sources, indicating how much students have learned and looking at growth. The new alternative is NWEA, which measures standards vs. skills. The issue facing us is the time needed is greater and a collective decision must be made by the start of 2021-22.

Principal Chandler and Assistant Principal Russo presented the academic growth of students from fall to winter and the NWEA assessment. This test adapts with students. NWEA Kindergarten - Listening Comprehension, Picture Vocabulary, Phonological Awareness, Word Recognition
NWEA First Grade - Listening Comprehension foundational in fall and graduated to oral in winter, Phonological Awareness, Work Recognition, Oral Reading Instructional Level

Principal Chandler played voice reading samples, which is excellent technology and wonderful for our teachers.

Chair Flaherty asked if this technology could also be helpful for higher grades in special education.

Dr. Schwamb will check. The cost was $5,000 for the NWEA system software and we purchased 100 chrome books and headsets using Title I funding.

Principal Chandler then presented IReady for first grade mathematics, a three-tier assessment as a pilot this year in place of FAST.

Second Grade FAST aReading and aMath Scores were shared as well as discipline and safety staff survey results this year compared to last year. There has only been one in school and one out-school suspension this year. She also presented the number of special education students and distributed data sheets to members.

Discussion on a Field Agreement with Wareham Tigers Association
Chair Flaherty stated that the Tigers had met with the Committee a few months ago and no decision was made on their request to reduce field use fees. He was looking for some consensus from the Committee. We were following policy as the Superintendent does have discretion.

Jarod Chadwick, President of Wareham Tigers was present and asked to keep the fees down since 90% of the players are in Wareham. Soccer was charged $500 per year and they maintain the fields. The Tigers are willing to help maintain the fields and pay something.

Ms. Rossi reviewed the concerns from the previous meeting with charges and the repairs on some of the fields including renting portable toilets.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi asked that the Committee see the bill first and then have the Tigers put in a proposal and we can negotiate a fee.

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended a Tiger representative schedule a meeting to work out a tentative proposal. This proposal will be reported back to the School Committee.

Draft Report on Student Opportunity Act Plan
Dr. Schwamb was looking for School Committee input, questions, and feedback from their constituents in order to fulfill our obligation under SOA within the next two weeks prior to the vote. A vote will need to take place at the next meeting in order for the Plan to be uploaded by April 1st for the funding of $71,959.

In answer to Ms. Rossi’s question about any contingency being built into this plan to repurpose this funding, Dr. Scwamb stated if the funding is treated like a grant, there may be if more funding is given.

Chair Flaherty asked members to vet proposals through Dr. Schwamb.

School Attending Children Report
Dr. Shaver-Hood reported that currently in grades K-12 there are 1,963 students, which does not include Preschool and Grade 13, Choice, and Non-resident Foster and Homeless. The number of students coming in as school choice is 69.

The committee had questions about how many of the incoming choice students are in the PASS program; the difference between home school and virtual school; and clarification on non-resident foster care and homeless.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi stated that there is a shift in school choice funding. The number of students is going down from last year as well as our enrollment going down. Incoming choice students is higher this year.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated if a student leaves, an administrator makes a personal contact asking why. We were not getting enough response from the paper surveys. If you would like us to prepare something on why students are coming into the district we can do that.

Ms. Rossi would like this information in order to validate what we are doing in the district. She is still interested in finding out why people are leaving under school choice.

Mrs. Morgan thought it was important to look at private schools as well and home schooled students.

Chair Flaherty read the list of towns and the number of students from each coming into Wareham schools.

Dr. Schwamb stated that she knew of some Marion students coming to our high school for IB.

**Vote on School Choice District for 2020-2021**
Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended that Wareham Public Schools be a school choice district K-12 based on class size.

Ms. Rossi moved the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Vote to Restrict Enrollment in Commonwealth Virtual Schools for 2020-2021**
Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended the Committee vote to restrict enrollment of its students in a Commonwealth Virtual School if the total enrollment of students enrolled in the CMVS from Wareham exceeds 1% of our district total enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. Currently there are 17 students and 1% of our threshold would be 20 students. If the Committee chooses not to vote for this restriction, than more students may enroll in virtual schools next year. These students are school choice students with an average cost of $8,000+.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved the recommendation of the Superintendent to restrict enrollment in commonwealth virtual schools for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Acceptance of Gifts**
Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:
- A Clearview magnifier reader to enable students with impaired vision to complete their classwork given by Arlene Barrett of Wareham
- A banjo, a keyboard, a lap harp and music to the Wareham Middle School music program from David Mason of Onset
- $51 from the students at WMS, proceeds from their recent Hat Day, to the STAGE Backpack Program
- $1,000 from PharmaCann, Inc. to the After School CARE Program
- $1,000 from Cape Cod 5 to WHS for spring 2020 Credit for Life Program

Ms. Rossi moved to accept the gifts as recommended, seconded by Mrs. Morgan

Ms. Rossi asked with credit for life being cancelled, would those funds be for next year.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated if we can reschedule the program, we will; otherwise, we will hold these funds.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Report of the Superintendent
- Approval of Bill and Payroll Warrants
  Payroll Week Ending February 29, 2020 $939,411.54
  Payroll Week ending March 7, 2020 $146,204.59
  Bill Warrant 3/5/20 $1,384.63
  Bill Warrants 3/12/20 $386,581.75 & $194,992.69

Ms. Rossi moved to approve the bill and payroll warrants as listed and read by the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- Revolving and Grant Reports
  Superintendent Shaver-Hood asked if the members had any questions. The highlighted column is the Balance in the revolving account. She had no concerns in grants or revolving accounts.

Dr. Shaver-Hood reported as of Monday field trips going out of Wareham are cancelled. She is watching what the state is doing and we have enacted cleaning more than normal. There is an icon on our district website, which she will continue to update. Principal Palladino is in conversation with the company regarding the 8th grade field trip to Washington DC to move it out. We are watching everything and have plans in place if schools must close; i.e., have feeding stations and working with faculty for online learning, which we hope we never have to use.

Report of the School Committee
- Recommendations from Policy Review Subcommittee
  Graduation Requirements – Mrs. Morgan reported that the Policy Review Committee reviewed the policy again and voted to delete “(an exception may be made by vote of the School Committee” to “Anyone wanting to be included in class rank who transfers into the high school can appeal to the Principal/Faculty Council.”
  Also delete “(cumulative, four year) scale upon completion of the final marking period of the senior year” and add, “scale at the completion of the third marking period.”
Ms. Rossi moved approval of the Graduation Requirements policy as amended, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to amend the sentence, *For inclusion in class rank, a student must have spent a minimum of four high school semesters “in grades 9-12 at Wareham High School”*, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to amend the second sentence to read “*Any student who transfers to Wareham High School and who does not meet this requirement may appeal to the Principal/Faculty Council.*”, seconded by Mrs. Spear.

Ms. Rossi agreed to change “anyone” to “any student” but stated the principal at the Policy Review meeting recommended this sentence.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 1(Ms. Rossi); abstain - 0

**Any other business**

Mrs. Bacchiocchi asked if the Committee could revisit approval of trips for next April vacation based on the recent discussion earlier this evening relative to insurance and contact issues.

Ms. Rossi asked to add the trip to Canada as well which the Committee approved.

Ms. Rossi moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: ________________________________

**List of documents:**

Correspondence: Superintendent’s Newsletter, Notice of Vacancy, Personnel List, Bill & Payroll Warrants

Winter Data 2020 John W. Decas School

WPS Student Opportunity Act DRAFT

School Attending Children Report January 1, 2020

DESE Commonwealth Virtual Schools Q & A

Donations

Revolving and Grant Reports

Graduation Requirements Policy