A virtual special meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted using zoom technology.

Call meeting to Order/Roll Call
Chair Flaherty called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Chair Flaherty led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was being recorded by WCTV for live broadcast and streaming.

Roll call: Members present were Michael Flaherty, Joyce Bacchiocchi, Apryl Rossi, Mary Morgan, Laurie Spear and student representative Emily Roberge as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Schwamb, and Recording Secretary Michelle Ruiz. Others joined the meeting through zoom.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Pam Schluter, former teacher and grandparent, asked if we have actual data on students taking IB credit from college vs AP data and is IB costing the town a lot of money.

Dr. Schwamb asked Ms. Schluter to please forward the information she referenced and she will look into it. Dr. Schwamb shared that IB is a philosophy for the whole district to create equality and more diversity and is written into our strategic plan.

Nicole Roberge, teacher, expressed concern that Wareham is receiving $500,000 from the CARES Act yet we are cutting people now. She understands the reason we are keeping half the funds for the following year.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the $300,000 for this year will be spent on supplies, technology, etc. If we use it for staff, we then would have to pay for retirement (9%). She is concerned moving into the second year into the new elementary school when we will be paying for two buildings for a short period of time and the need to purchase PPE supplies.

Deanna Semple, teacher and WEA President, stated that Wareham had a large number of RIFs (18) then factor in retirements and transfers and in nearby towns less layoffs.

Brain Fitzgerald, teacher, hoped the members were secure in their knowledge that every line item in the budget put Wareham Public School staff and students as #1 priority.

Mrs. Morgan asked if it was a possibility that within budget line items we have programs at the expense of losing teachers.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi stated that losing one position is too many and we will work to bring these people back as we are able. A lot of time was spent looking at each line item and she agreed education is not a business.

Chair Flaherty stated he was proud of the positive experiences his son has had in the school district.

GOOD NEWS
- Chair Flaherty shared that WHS announced its scholarship recipients on WCTV and that he participated in a car parade for the Girls' Softball team.
Recognition of Service on School Committee – Chair Flaherty announced that Mrs. Spear is completing her term on the School Committee and thanked her for her contributions on the committee. Mrs. Bacchiocchi also thanked Mrs. Spear for her care for the students of Wareham and her contributions. Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that we will have a plaque for Mrs. Spear when the store opens up to place the order.

Minutes of the Meeting
Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2020, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Bacchiocchi – yea; Mrs. Morgan -yea, Mrs. Spear – yea; Ms. Rossi – yea; Mr. Flaherty – yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

Vote to Amend MOA - Pay Spring Coaches
Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that some spring coaches have done work before the season was cancelled such as course certifications, meetings. She asked the Committee to allow her to pay the coaches that put the time in a stipend of $500, acknowledging their time and hard work. The reason spring coaches cannot be paid is the MOA signed with the WEA during the state of emergency stating coaches would not be paid.

After discussion, it was noted that stipends come under the contract and govern the coaches who are not teachers.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to pay the spring coaches up to $500 depending upon the amount of time they spent in their pre-season, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi – yea; Mrs. Morgan – yea; Mrs. Spear – yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi – yea; Mr. Flaherty – yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

Re-Vote on FY’21 Budget
Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the draft budget she sent out reflects the town’s adjustment due to loss of revenue. There are major reductions in personnel, no free cash available, HVAC concerns at WMS and WHS, repairs needed, and invited unions to take a zero in salary not steps for one year but all unions declined, We are still in negotiations with Unit A. The town also met and a majority have taken zero increases. The proposed FY21 budget is:

Net School $27,482,637
Non Net School $ 1,948,100
Total FY21 Budget $29,430,737

She held a zoom meeting with WEA members on Tuesday and answered questions and had some questions from School Committee members.

In response to Ms. Rossi any savings in this year’s budget due to COVID is returned to the town. Dr. Shaver-Hood then reviewed the specific positions cut from the budget and anticipated class sizes for next year.

At the request of Mrs. Morgan Chair Flaherty recognized Deanna Semple to respond to the unions not taking a zero increase.
Mrs. Semple stated that the WEA represents all units A, B, C, and D. Units B, C, and D are not in contract negotiations so we must re-open their contracts and the WEA has not decided to re-open negotiations at this time. Regarding Unit B not all seven members of the unit are on board for a zero increase. Discussions have taken place and she noted that both the bus drivers and custodians unions have said no to this request. She asked who in the town is taking a zero or freeze.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that this information came from the town administrator. In her letter she asked unions to hold on salary so layoffs would be significantly less. We would like to recall staff with any money we have left.

Chair Flaherty stated that principals/administrators have opted for a zero and this was unsolicited. He appreciated the leadership on their part.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi stated that we were able to depend on free cash the last few years to supplement our budget for capital items. The new amount for the schools is lower but based on the reduced revenue the town is receiving, it is equitable.

Chair Flaherty expressed his concern with the Upper Cape budget being increased by 3.7%, cost to Wareham is 0.69%. He does not want to see them cut but wishes we were getting an increase.

There was discussion on choosing the Town Administrator’s budget number or keeping our original budget and what could happen at Town Meeting without a balanced budget.

Dr. Shaver-Hood reviewed the impact document with reductions in staff, academic support, behavior and social emotional support, larger class sizes, loss of excel math, core academics, STEAM classes, support for at risk students, difficulty in interventions, add study halls, and business reduction for graduation requirements. She stated that what has been accomplished speaks to the strength of our staff over the last ten years. The town has worked with us, but we just do not have the revenue. Additional funding will come from:
- $800,000 Circuit Breaker
- $300,000 CARE Act
- $100,000 Stabilization

The total budget to spend will be $30,630,737. Any savings from this year’s budget goes into the town’s free cash.

In response to Mrs. Morgan’s question on summer school programs, Dr. Schwamb stated that we have a plan in place using a hybrid model and a secondary model for kids in the Boost program. Both Title I and 21st Century grants include summer school. There will not be as much in person. We will have smaller groups of kids coming to school and it includes the extended year program as well.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that she could get the average class size for IB Program to Mrs. Morgan once the students are scheduled for next year and that we do have a half-time IB Coordinator.

Mrs. Morgan wanted the line items to be looked at within the bottom line.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the net school spending amount of $27,482,637, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Morgan – nay; Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty – nay
VOTE: 3-2-0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve non-school spending amount of $1,948,100, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.
Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the FY21 total budget of $29,430,737, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - nay; Mrs. Morgan - nay; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mr. Flaherty - nay
VOTE: 2-3-0 (motion did not pass)

Mr. Flaherty proposed using all of the CARE Act funds.

Ms. Rossi moved to use all of the CARE Act funds ($507,000), seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Dr. Shaver-Hood expressed her concern when we are ready to open the new building, not knowing funding from the town and the increased cost for utilities and heating, she wanted to be prudent. If this whole amount is spent on teachers, we also have to pay MTRS and 9% on retirement and with the PPE items required to purchase throughout the year, she was not sure where we will get this money if the situation continues.

Dr. Shaver-Hood described how the money should not directly be used for staff but from some creative transfers. The committee was assured that the money would be used to re-hire staff on a dollar to dollar basis.

Ms. Rossi moved to reconsider the vote on the CARE Act funds, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

Ms. Rossi moved to use all CARE Act funding $507,964 for next year, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to reconsider the FY21 Budget votes, seconded by Mrs. Spear.

Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the net school spending of $27,482,637, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Morgan – nay; Ms. Rossi - yea; Mr. Flaherty – yea
VOTE: 4-1-0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the non-net school spending of $1,948,100, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 5-0-0
Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the total FY21 budget of $29,430,737, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Morgan – nay; Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mrs. Spear – yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 4-1-0

Report of Student Representative
Miss Roberge was present but had no audio available.

Acceptance of Gifts
Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:
- $130.00 worth of gift cards from Slice of Heaven to Beyond School Time for Virtual Bingo program
- $1,200.00 from a retired Minot Forest staff member to the Minot Forest School to meet the needs of its students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- $60.00 from YourCause.com Edison International to Wareham PTA

Ms. Rossi moved to accept the gifts, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

Report of the Superintendent
- Approval of Bill and Payroll Warrants
  Ms. Rossi moved to approve the listed bill and payroll warrants, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.
  Payroll Week Ending May 16, 2020 $105,704.70
  Payroll Week Ending May 23, 2020 $879,656.21
  Payroll Week Ending May 30, 2020 $103,481.81
  Bill Warrant 6/11/20 $32,301.17
  Bill Warrant 6/18/20 $9,774.00 (Minot) & $32,970.59

Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

Report of School Committee
- School Building Committee – Mrs. Bacchiocchi shared that vinyl sheets are available this week and next week for signatures to be attached to a beam on the school at the June 24th beam rising ceremony as developed by the Public Relations Committee.

  Mr. Flaherty read an email from Rhonda Veugen of the School Building Committee and Public Relations Committee inviting one member of the School Committee to participate on June 24th at 3PM. The event will be broadcasted and live streamed by WCTV. Chair Flaherty asked Mrs. Bacchiocchi if she could represent the Committee, and she agreed.

Any other business
Ms. Rossi gave credit to the teachers, Dr. Shaver-Hood and Dr. Schwamb on remote learning as the school year is winding down.

Ms. Rossi moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.
Roll call vote: Ms. Rossi - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mrs. Spear - yea; Mrs. Bacchiocchi - yea; Mr. Flaherty - yea
VOTE: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: ________________________________

List of documents:
Correspondence: Superintendent’s Newsletter, Bill & Payroll Warrants
Minutes of the Meeting May 21, 2020
Draft FY21 Line Item Budget, Major Accounts, Town of Wareham FY21 Revenue & Fixed Expenses