A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 320 at the Multi-Service Center. Members present were Michael Flaherty, Apryl Rossi, Joyce Bacchiocchi, Laurie Spear, and student representative Emily Roberge as well as Assistant Superintendent Andrea Schwamb and recording secretary Michelle Ruiz. Absent was member Mary Morgan, and Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood.

Chair Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that the meeting was being taped for broadcast by WCTV and an audio recording by Mrs. Ruiz. Anyone else wishing to make a recording must let the Chair know. One person in the audience let the Chair know she was recording the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Michelle Dargon Fredericks, resident of Wareham, stated that she had been reaching out to the Transportation Office and to the Superintendent of Schools since July and has not received a response or the response was, they would get back to her tomorrow. As the Superintendent should address the community and reach out, she asked as a public school educator and administrator for someone to reach out and answer her complaints.

Cindy Parola was present. She stated that she was invited by Chair Flaherty to come to the last meeting to speak on the naming of the new elementary school, but she could not make it. In a letter to editor she stated that every elementary school has always had a distinctive name. Only reason two schools Wareham High School, Wareham Intermediate School, was named such because these schools are on municipal land. The inclusiveness mentioned would be losing history. She would like to continue to honor two immigrant families, the Decas and Minot families. What does this say for families being generous donors? Also no one reached out to either of these families. The name being proposed at the last meeting falls short.

GOOD NEWS
Mrs. Bacchiocchi informed the members that Representative Susan Gifford is looking for the members input on the new legislation being proposed by the state. She also shared a story she had read about the Elks donating dictionaries to schools which included sign language and Mrs. Bacchiocchi would love to see sign language included in our schools.

Ms. Rossi announced that tomorrow is the last home football game at 4:00 p.m. and the team has a winning record.

Chair Flaherty attended the parent night at WHS and was impressed with the science department’s honey bees and skeletons. He also had participated in the Lopes Playground refurbishing with Wareham Core.

Report of the Student Representative
Miss Roberge announced that the WHS Viking Theatre Co. was currently performing one-by-one; the Haunted Hallways is scheduled for October 30th; the Key Club had cleanup at the Public Library on Saturday; and WHS Library received a grant.

Ms. Linehan, School Librarian, shared that she was able to get a $15,000 grant from Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for a makerspace to bring a variety of technologies into the entire school like sewing, coding, robotics, and knitting.
Minutes of the Meeting
Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Chair Flaherty asked to make the following amendments - page 2 – under Discussion and Vote on Name of New Elementary School, paragraph 3 – add “Selectmen” Chair Tropeano. Change Building Committee to “they”. In paragraph 5 Add vote to “recommend” to name. After Monday add the date “September 16, 2019”.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi asked to add following in paragraph 3 beginning with On September 11, 2018, the school department made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen, who then voted on the warrant article “after the school committee left”.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to the amendment to the minutes, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019, as amended, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain -1 (Ms. Rossi)

The Life in the Day of a School Nurse
School nurses Marianne Iacobucci, Sue Akins, Sheila Braley, and Danielle Ambrose presented.

- What is our job?
- Nursing Responsibilities
- On An Average Day
- WHS Health Office – Mrs. Iacobucci spoke of her concerns and challenges and recommended a full-time nurse as a floater.
- In response to the Committee members’ questions a sub nurse must have an associate’s degree and be a RN, the Southcoast Health Van offers visits by the 9th grade Health Class part of the curriculum and explains about blood pressure, flu shots, family planning and other services offered in the town. There was no additional staff with the eighth grade at the high school this year and a good ratio for nurse to student is less than 750 kids, one nurse is needed but this ratio depends on the population of the kids you have and what services are needed. Also mentioned was student vaping and having a blood drive.
- Middle School Health Office – Mrs. Akins reviewed her duties and stated she had administrative support. She and Nurse Ambrose share an office.
- Minot School Health Office – Ms. Ambrose mentioned that the transition of students from grade 2 to grade 3 this year has been difficult.
- Ms. Rossi stated we need to let the community know about the need to donate clothing for these younger students.
- John W. Decas School Health Office – Mrs. Braley mentioned her duties with Kindergarten registration and Preschool registration and entering the health records of these new students into the system. She has also seen an increase in health needs over the last 26 years as school nurse.
In summary for 2018-19 there were 2,126 students enrolled with 12,358 visits and resources are always a challenge. The members thanked the nurses for what they do every single day.

Vote on Name of New Elementary School
Principal Chandler spoke on the importance to speak of the name John W. Decas and his legacy. She thanked his parents for what they have given and showed a picture of John W. Decas who died in WWII. She also shared a picture and newspaper article on John W. Decas’ sister, Mrs. Chamberlain, who donated to the school library and technology and who valued education and kept her brother’s name alive. The Decas School at Minot Forest is an extremely long name and felt it will eventually be abbreviated and won’t give the respect it needs for these two families.

Principal Seamans stated that she did reach out to the Minot family and spoke to Jane Tougas, the representative of the Minot family, who could not be here this evening. Originally the project was a Minot Forest School. The Minot family also donated the land as did the Decas family. The Minot Forest property was the most vital. We have truly honored the benefactors’ names over the last 50 - 52 years and would like to continue to honor the names. In the design discussions came a vision of an innovation hub. We could call it the John W. Decas Innovation Hub. A committee can be formed to review suggestions for Minot Forest, Georgia Chamberlain, Ethel E. Hammond and any others. Naming the building the Wareham Elementary School keeps it neutral for all families involved and we support the Wareham Elementary School as the name.

Dr. Schwamb stated that the building committee is made of a myriad of members actively involved and the School Committee chose the recommendation of the Building Committee. This name never meant to hurt anyone or exclude anyone.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi stated that during conversation at the building committee, a worker talked about a divide that existed and the name Decas School at Minot would bring this divide up again. To bring the schools forward, she supports naming the building, Wareham Elementary School.

Ms. Rossi stated that the leg work was started a long time ago when melding the grades and having the Wareham Elementary PTA. It is up to town meeting to vote but going forward she suggested having some sort of honoring day for those families to education kids, staff, and the town for their contributions.

Chair Flaherty stated that according to the policy a recommendation comes from the head administrators, recommended by the Superintendent, and voted by the Committee with a ⅔ vote. A warrant article will require a simple majority vote and he will follow up with state to make sure we are doing this correctly.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to name the new elementary school the Wareham Elementary School, seconded by Mrs. Spear.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay - 1(Ms. Rossi); abstain - 0
Chair Flaherty stated that the motion fails.

Warrant Article – Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the town meeting warrant article as presented, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi noted that this article is a placeholder for the spring town meeting in April 2020. She stated she appreciated the effort the Chair made and will vote for it but is not convinced this article is needed.
Chair Flaherty stated that he is working with the Town Administrator, Town Counsel (opinion), and the Building Committee Chair.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Report on MCAS Results
Dr. Schwamb thanked the reporter from Wareham Week for speaking with her before publishing its article on the MCAS results. One Test-One Day Does Not Measure – Every Student-Every Day, keeping it in perspective. MCAS is used as a formative assessment. The District have made ‘substantial progress toward targets’ and continues to be classified as ‘not requiring assistance or intervention’. We are modeling our thinking and do what is in the best interest of our students by looking at trends, patterns, strengths and challenges, having discussions, and changing and improving our internal assessment systems. We contact DESE and ask a lot of questions and continually collect data and collaborate. We have unbelievable leaders leading talented teachers.

Minot Forest School - Grades 3 & 4 Next Generation 2019 – Principal Joan Seamans, Assistant Principal Robin Murphy, and Department Chairs Sue Taber, Bonnie Lasorsa, Kathrine Frain, and Andrea Erickson
Principal Seamans reviewed the ELA and math sub group scores. The administration looks at individual scores and attendance. Grade 4 ELA & Math (all students) – Principal Seamans stated we are not pleased and are looking into working with our students needing to be challenged. We have been data diving and found the solving word problems was an issue in Math and in ELA we are focusing on writing says, creating portfolios, and teachers are working grade level a and 3 and 4 content. Grade 3 ELA & Math (all students) – Principal Seamans stated that his group has had full interventions every year. Three Years Same Cohort showed improved in all categories from grade 3, to grade 4, then to grade 5. It was also noted that students are not making the regression during the summer based on FAST data September 2018 to September 2019. Principal Seamans reviewed the plans for continuous growth as a result of the MCAS results and other data.

In answer to Ms. Rossi’s question on MCAS Alt, 14 students or about 3.9% took this test; some students took the MCAS in content area with accommodations. Joyce - indicative as predicted? Chronic absenteeism as a criteria when you have no control over. Fortunate for partnership with Middle School.

Department Chair Lasorsa addressed the concerns of Chair Flaherty on math score growth going down in Grade 4 from 2017-2019. These are different groups of students; also a major transition in schools with students and teachers statistically shows a decrease in growth.

Wareham Middle School - Grades 5, 6, & 7 - Next Generation 2019
Dr. Schwamb stated that the middle school is to be celebrated for their accomplishments and not giving up, working collectively, collaboratively, and tirelessly.

Principal Tracie Cote, Assistant Principal Sandi Ponte and Department Chairs Sue Taber, Bonnie Lasorsa, Kathrine Frain, and Andrea Erickson

Principal Cote highlighted the following areas:
- ELA met or exceeded targets 5 out of 8 and exceed in 4 subgroups
- Math met or exceeded targets 6 out of 8 subgroups
- Science exceeded 5 out of 5 subgroups
- Growth ELA - high
- Math - some high and some low
- Absenteeism exceeded 7 out of 8 subgroups

Mrs. Bacchiocchi congratulated the team on the three years same cohort growth.

In answer to Ms. Rossi’s question on MCAS Alt 13 students or 2.5% took this test.

Mrs. Spear was excited to see the culture of the middle school being positive and shown with these results.

Chair Flaherty commented on the phenomenal growth and asked the panel what makes this work?

There are non-negotiables with the principal and her focus is on why we are at school, the process, and the children being our priority. We focus on academics, leadership sets the tone, and being proactive instead of reactive.

Principal Cote reviewed the Plans for Continuous Growth as a result of the MCAS scores and other data - programmatic emphasis and curriculum and assessment practices.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to go beyond 10:00 p.m., if necessary, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Wareham High School - Grade 8, 9, & 10 - Explanation of Next-Generation Scores, Advanced Coursework & Graduation Rate

Dr. Schwamb stated that this was the first year we participated in the next generation test. The 8th grade scores are now added to the high school scores and a grade 8-12 school doesn’t fit into DESE’s analysis.

Assistant Principal Kim Cavicchi along with Department Chairs, Michelle Medina, Andrea Cannon, Brett Ruter, and Mike Murray (Principal Palladino had a prior family commitment)

Assistant Principal Cavicchi compared the legacy test versus the next-generation test. Meeting expectations are now at a higher standard. She reviewed the Grade 10 ELA new scores for passing/failing and the MCAS Achievement Levels definitions.

Mr. Murray - Gr. 8 ELA - the test has more analysis with two comparison pieces. We are modifying our classroom styles and teachers have student learning goals to target student growth in these areas.
Ms. Medina - Grade 8 Math - given the transition of the students, we are pleased with the subgroups.
Mr. Ruter - Grade 8 Science – This is a year of transition for our students and teachers. It will take a few years for a baseline and clarity from DESE.
Ms. Cavicchi stated that thee years same cohort from grade 6 to grade 7 to grade 8, students gained ground in not meeting and partially meeting categories.
Mr. Murray – ELA – working with individual student to meet DESE targets
Ms. Medina – Math – we are using data as a baseline and DESE released the test so we can dive into the questions and diving through data to make more gains next year - 6 students will be re-testing.
Mr. Ruter – Science - a larger group was retained in grade 9 and we have the lowest group of dual enrollment kids. We are looking at applied math skills and iXL in Science.
Ms. Cavicchi - advanced coursework completion - exceed DESE target; 4-year graduation rate significant increase in all subgroups.
Assistant Principal Cavicchi reviewed the WHS Plans for Continuance Growth data breakdown thought process and what is implemented as a result of the MCAS test scores.

In answer to Ms. Rossi’s question on MCAS Alt Gr. 8, 4 students for 3%; Gr. 10, 4 students for 5%.

Chair Flaherty stated that there are no trends to comment on or measure against and as stated, there will be higher expectations next year. He asked if there were any perfect scores and was told only one student.

**Acceptance of Gift** – Hold next meeting

**Vote on Superintendent’s Goals for 2019-20** - Hold next meeting

**Discussion on Evaluation of Superintendent** - Dr. Shaver Hood agreed to go beyond contractual

**October 31st date** – Hold next meeting

Ms. Rossi moved to the next regular meeting Acceptance of Gift, Vote on Superintendent’s Goals for 2019-20, and Discussion on Evaluation of Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Report of the Superintendent**

**Approval of Bill and Payroll Warrants**
Dr. Schwamb recommended approval of the following bill and payroll warrants:
Bill Warrant 8/29/19 $1,410.00
Bill Warrant 9/19/19 $1,026.13
Bill Warrant 9/26/19 $125,553.52
Bill Warrant 10/3/19 $849,471.86
Payroll Warrant 9/28/19 $941,934.14
Bill Warrant 10/10/19 $125,218.79

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved approval of the warrants as listed, seconded by Mrs. Spear.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Report of the School Committee**

**Discussion and Votes on MASC Resolutions**
Ms. Rossi moved to hold the discussion and votes on the MASC Resolutions to the next meeting, seconded by Mrs. Spear.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

**Any other business**
Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to reconsider the minutes of September 19, 2019, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE:  yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi asked to change page 2 2nd paragraph – suggested to name grades 3 & 4 area Minot Forest and the innovation hub John "W. " Decas…'

Ms. Rossi moved approval of the minutes of September 19, 2019, with the change stated above, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

VOTE:  yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

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

VOTE:  yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: ____________________________

List of documents:
Correspondence: Superintendent’s newsletter, Personnel list, Notice of vacancy, Bill & Payroll warrants
Minutes of the Meeting September 19, 2019
Nurses Caring Today for a Healthier Tomorrow
Names & Dedication of Rooms/Buildings policy
Town Meeting Warrant Article
WPS: 2019 Next Generation MCAS
Superintendent’s Goals
End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent
Superintendent Evaluation Form 2018-2019
Report of the Resolution Committee