

February 28, 2019

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Service Center, Room 320. Members present were Joyce Bacchiocchi, Michael Flaherty, Mary Morgan, and Geoff Swett as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood and recording secretary, Michelle Ruiz.

Absent were Assistant Superintendent Dr. Andrea Schwamb, member Laurie Spear, and student representative, Emily Roberge

Chair Bacchiocchi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and then announced that the meeting was being videotaped by WCTV for broadcast and an audio recording by Mrs. Ruiz.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

GOOD NEWS

Mrs. Fay announced that the Office of Student Services, Department of Mental Health, Gosnold, May Institute and High Point are sponsoring a Mental Health Awareness Night open to the community on March 28th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Wareham Middle School Library. The purpose of the event is to make families aware of the resources available.

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that the Boys Basketball playoff game is tomorrow evening against ORR. She congratulated the winter sports teams on a great season.

Chair Bacchiocchi mentioned an article in the Massachusetts Maritime magazine about the partnership between Mass Maritime, Wareham, and Bourne - Big Brother, Big Sister. She also shared that recent Wareham graduates just graduated from the police academy.

Mr. Flaherty commended the ice hockey team for a great season and their team spirit.

Report of the Student Representative - None

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2019, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

FY20 Budget Update

Ms. Owen, Business Manager, stated that after meeting as a budget subcommittee and reorganizing the priorities of the School Committee an additional eight 0.5 paraprofessionals have been added to the FY20 budget based on the formative assessment report by Dr. Schwamb at the last meeting. To accommodate these positions the following proposed positions are cut: 0.5 Athletic Director, 1.0 guidance counselor, 1.0 Dean, and 0.5 ODD. The

town contribution is an additional \$168,491 for a total of \$368,491. There is still a shortfall of \$71,000.

In answer to members' questions the AD position will remain part-time; the student: guidance ratio meets the 250:1 guideline with having three counselors at WHS; and we also have social emotional support for all our students with social workers, psychologists, behaviorists.

Acceptance of Gift

Mr. Swett moved the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept \$40 from the Gibbs family toward the STAGE Backpack Program, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Adjustment to the 2018-19 School Calendar for Wareham Middle School and Minot Forest School

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced that the school year for students at Wareham Middle School and Minot Forest School will be extended by 3 days at the end of the school year from June 13 to June 18 at this time.

Approval of School Calendar for 2019-2020 School Year

The 2019-2020 calendar reflects a half day on the first day for students. The Central Office, Administrators, and the Association all reviewed the proposed school calendar.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the 2019-2020 school calendar as presented, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Equipment List to be Declared Obsolete

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended declaring the two lists of equipment and furniture, one from the Multi-Service Center/Middle School and one from the Minot Forest Inventory, as obsolete.

Chair Bacchiocchi stated that Dr. Shaver-Hood has reached out to many organizations in town to donate the equipment/furniture.

Mr. Flaherty moved to declare the recommended lists of equipment and furniture obsolete, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated she anticipates the bid preparation in the next 2-3 weeks.

Report of the Superintendent

Approval of Bills and Payroll Warrants

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended approval of the warrants as listed:

Payroll Week Ending February 9, 2019 \$146,502.92

Payroll Week Ending January 16, 2019 \$847,512.65

Payroll Week Ending January 23, 2019 \$105,139.48

Bill Warrants 2/21/19 \$1,580,679.35 & \$1,946.68

Bill Warrant 3/7/19 \$79,634.58

Mr. Swett moved to approve the warrants, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Announcements

- DESE came out with the Dropout Report today. WHS 2.9 rate, 13 students and Coop 17.5 rate, 11 students; 2 years ago 66.7%, 30 students for the Coop.
- Open House at WHS for Grade 8 students - open to all grade 8 students in town
- March 6 Meet the Coaches Night at WHS
- March 8 Early Childhood Screening
- A School Choice Report will be on a future agenda. The administrators are making an effort to reach out and find out why students are leaving Wareham.
Mr. Swett commented that school choice is a financial drain on the town but the good news is the growth rate is much less in the Town Administrator's report for FY19. Mr. Flaherty stated that with the loss of the first override, was the loss of students. Now the attitude has changed in the town with the support of the new elementary school.
- WHS Advisory Council strongly feels the need to bring back the late bus. The Superintendent would like to support their efforts and have the late bus one day a week starting March 14th for WHS and WMS students.
- Mr. Swett asked if the Business Manager knew if, in the Town Administrator's budget presentation for Upper Cape, the budget increase was in operating or capital. Ms. Owen will check into this request.

Report of the School Committee

MASC Legislative Breakfast

Mr. Swett stated that he came away from the meeting hopeful. A demographer spoke on what has been happening from 2010-2017.

- Size of districts and local representation
- Birth rates across country lowest on record
- Cape & Islands including Wareham shrinking 1% a year of families/kids
- Chart age structure Cape & Islands compared to entire state of Massachusetts - Wareham a bit better than rest of Cape
- 2010-2017 trends - overall 18-23% average but Wareham only 15% - means a lot of schools closing
- Chart compares # of children to total residents for 2010 to 2017 - Wareham 20% to 18.9%; State 22% to 19%; Cape 17.5% to 15%
- Struggling finding jobs and dwelling on Cape

- Households 54% of dwellings on Cape; Wareham 72% - the number of residents is down
- Massachusetts 500 children per 1,000 dwellings standard; Wareham 330; Cape 213

The legislators are discussing the foundation budget formula with no money. There are four problems with the formula: special education no inflation rate - health insurance cost of employees - ELL - low income/children at risk. It appears the legislators are trying to fix special education and health insurance problems. There is a working group established to help the Cape & Islands get its portion of the increase. The foundation formula is mathematical but is also political. After the calculation, it determines what a town and state pays unless the number is less than 17.5%. If we lose a kid to charter schools, we get 100% of that loss in terms of reimbursement from the state and every year after 20%. The governor proposed changes in the formula to 100%-60%-40% first three years than receive nothing.

Re-Schedule June 6, 2019 Meeting Date

Chair Bacchiocchi stated that June 6 is senior award night and asked if the Committee wanted to re-schedule or cancel the meeting. After discussion, it was agreed to have a shortened agenda and start the meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the WHS Library.

Any other business

Chair Bacchiocchi announced that the Building Committee continues to meet with working groups and we will have an update with representatives of PMA and the architects at our next meeting.

Mrs. Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Swett.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____

List of documents:

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy, Bill and Payroll Warrants

Minutes of the Meeting February 7, 2019

School Calendar 2019-2020

Obsolete Furniture – Multi-Service Center 2/21/19

Minot Inventory

Cape & Islands – Trends & Implications and Wareham Charts