

October 4, 2018

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 320 at the Multi-Service Center. Members present were Joyce Bacchiocchi, Mary Morgan, Michael Flaherty, Rebekah Pratt, Laurie Spear and student representative Emily Roberge as well as Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent, Andrea Schwamb, Assistant Superintendent and Michelle Ruiz, recording secretary.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

GOOD NEWS

- Principal Palladino recognized WHS student Nicholas Dix as a National Merit Scholar. Nicholas is very involved at the high school and is a great role model. He did dual enrollment and recently was recognized on his AP scores.
Dr. Shaver-Hood presented Nicholas with the National School Development Council Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning.
- Emily announced that Homecoming is October 13th at WHS & the Key Club will be participating in the Cranberry Festival this weekend.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mrs. Spear moved to approve the minutes of September 20, 2018, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 0; abstain – 1 (Mr. Flaherty)

Mr. Flaherty thanked Mrs. Fay for her presentation at that meeting as he saw the video of the meeting.

Update on Elementary Building Project Costs

- Vote on Borrowing for New School – Chair Bacchiocchi introduced guests Patrick Tropeano, Board of Selectmen; Bernie Pigeon, Finance Committee; and John Foster, Town Treasurer, to explain the final cost of the project and the borrowing options available. The building committee considered three choices of level debt at 20-25-30 years.

Mr. Foster explained the term of the loan. Level debt for 20 years will be 0.82 per thousand so at \$258,000 for the average home in Wareham, the taxpayer cost will be \$211.56. The increase will be 2 ½ % plus 0.82 per thousand each year for the town. The debt exclusion ends over 20 years and does not add to levy limit with 74.9% reimbursement from the state. To authorize this school, the total amount of \$90 million will never be borrowed because the state will be reimbursing the town as the project goes along.

Mr. Pigeon stated that it would be 2 to 2 1/2 years out before we borrow and interest amounts may go up. This is a variable.

Once the money is borrowed, the amount will be fixed. The total tax levy is prop 2 ½ plus any increases in assessment values.

Mr. Tropeano stated that according to state law, the borrowed funds can only be used to pay off the school. This project is important in the community and people need to know all the facts and can get the answers to their questions by calling.

Mr. Pigeon stated that the article is for authorization to borrow \$90 million. Voting to build the school will be decided at the election.

The following is in response to questions from the members:

The debt payment is for debt exclusion above the tax level in the Town Administrator's budget identified by a separate line item.

If we sell Decas School later can this money be put towards the debt? This is a question for counsel but Mr. Foster believed the money must go back into real estate.

Chair Bacchiocchi stated that the School Building Committee's recommendation for borrowing is 20 years of level debt. This is only the recommendation to town meeting and it will be up to the voters. There is a savings of \$14 million in interest with 20 years.

There was a brief discussion on showing the savings to the town with a 10- and a 15-year term but the Committee wanted not only to save the town money but consider the taxpayer cost.

Mrs. Pratt moved to recommend the 20 years level debt as the option, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Public Forums are Saturday, October 13th 10AM Wareham Free Library and tours at Minot Forest and Monday, October 15th 6PM Middle School and tours at Minot Forest. Opening Decas School for a tour is to be determined.

Report on the Alternative Programs

Scott Palladino reported on the Cooperative School within the High School for grades 9-12 students. Currently there are 9 students and one sped teacher. These students also take classes in the high school. The courses offered are English and math and students take all required science and history classes and a core academic class. Students with scores below passing in MCAS are placed in English or Math core classes. The high school has 61 electives they can choose from and all students must take a physical education class. All students have access to counselors, staff, nurse, and administration and also participate in sports and clubs. He shared some of the teacher's notes including 100% of the original freshmen will be graduates this year.

In answer to questions from committee members, the total capacity for the program is 12 students and the current 8 students are mostly juniors and seniors. The goal is to move the students into the mainstream. Since the program has been moved to the high school we have had 24 students with some graduating. They could accept 8th graders this year but there is only one teacher. Perhaps down the road we may need more resources and support. Students are referred through the guidance office and there has not been a lot of discipline problems.

Before a student graduates, he/she must pass MCAS and the graduation requirements of the Wareham Cooperative Alternative School, different than that of Wareham High School. We use the Naviance program to track the success of students. It was suggested that this information be shared at a future meeting.

There will be a joint School Improvement Plan for the Cooperative Alternative School.

Principal Fondulis shared the alternative pathway to student success (PASS) night school diploma program:

- Program description and graduation requirements and schedule
- Fall 2018 - 53 students enrolled, 38% are school choice
- New home is here at 48 Marion Road
- Provide dinner for students at 4PM if they choose
- College & Career Readiness - partner with New Bedford Workforce and Bristol Community to pilot two certification courses this year

In answer to questions from committee members, support is offered for sped students and a 320 Mass Grad application is being written. Students must be 16 to 21 years old to be in the accelerated program and there are 5 teachers. If day school students are struggling, we do everything possible to keep them as a day school student before we transfer them to night school. School Choice students attending are looking for a high school diploma. The district receives funding for school choice and also tuition payments for students only needing one class.

Members reported on the sense of pride at graduation and how parents love the PASS program. It's a phenomenal program for a diploma.

Principal Cote and Teacher Nicole Stahmer of the Middle School shared the program being offered this year for students in Grades 4-7. They showed a video made by the four current 7th graders in the program. These students are in the program part-time. It is a holistic approach that instills achievement in behavior and academics. Students are identified with data collected as needing an alternative approach. If we have 4th graders we will be flexible in the scheduling. The success over the past month has been measured by not having in school referrals, students academically passing courses, and students wanting to come to school.

Red Ribbon Week Report

Deanna Semple, Physical Education Teacher at Decas School, stated that Red Ribbon brings hope to provide young people with healthy options. It is a national campaign uniting people in the community to

make a visible awareness of drugs. She started three years ago showing what is happening in the community and has reached out to over 60 organizations. She was looking for School Committee support of the program on October 23rd from 5-7 p.m. at Decas School by letting people know. Fliers will be sent out and advertising through local cable and newspapers. Donations of water and snacks are accepted.

Dr. Shaver-Hood was very appreciative of Mrs. Semple's work on this event for our community.

Status of MCAS

Dr. Schwamb stated that this evening's report is to review the information prior to MCAS/SIP presentations on October 25th. Any questions members have before the presentation on the 25th are welcomed. Dr. Schwamb distributed the booklets. She reviewed the following:

- 2018 MCAS Results
- One Test-One Day does not measure Every Student-Every Day - keeping it in perspective
- New indicators - use information for formative purposes to help our kids be successful
- The Challenge - date data being released - overall results better across all schools - media compared district with state
- Insights #1 The School Information #2 The State's Information #3 Results - gave examples of the tables with exceeded target or no change. Dr. Schwamb has contacted the accountability office and commissioner on the number discrepancies in the School points vs the State points.
- Accountability Data - Wareham is Designated "Not Requiring Assistance or Intervention" in 2018 - reviewed charts of achievement in targets - Met or Exceeded Minot - Middle Improved- Declined-No Change-Met-Exceeded overall progress 38% "Partially Meeting Targets"; HS Exceeded all in English and Exceeded Improved Met in Math with 85% Meeting Target
- Wareham Public Schools was among the 68% of schools that received a target percentage of 50 or higher indicating that the Schools are Improving and was among the other 74% of schools designated, Not Requiring Assistance or Intervention.
- Accountability History 2008 - 2018

There was discussion on district vs state score comparisons and the variables involved when comparing other districts. Dr. Schwamb shared the programs we have implemented in making these strives.

Dr. Shaver-Hood thanked our staff and recognized their efforts.

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- 50 handmade hats and mittens filled with school supplies for Decas students from The Knit Wits of West Wareham
- 100+ backpacks with school supplies and new headphones for Decas students from Wayne Morrison and his foundation Rock 4 Music
- 1 trombone from Hartmut Andrade to Wareham Middle School
- 1 keyboard, 1 guitar and drums from Burt Mullin to Wareham Middle School

Mrs. Spear moved acceptance of the gifts as recommended, seconded by Mrs. Pratt.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Report of the Superintendent

- Town Meeting October 22nd - National Honor Society offering Free Child Care
- BST awarded a \$27,500 Quality Enhancement Grant
- Ken Buckland - green energy schools grant - preliminary report indicates Wareham is receiving upgrades and energy efficient products
- School Bus Safety week October 15-19 with bus evacuation drills
- Volunteers in schools wanted - stop by and complete and pass a CORI
- Early Childhood screening dates October 26, January 25 and March 8 at Decas School
- 2 community forums - October 13 and October 15
- No school tomorrow and Monday for students
- October 19th MCAS results to parents
- Nature's Classroom - help support a 7th grader for \$10
- Approval of Bills and Payroll Warrants
Payroll Warrants 9/22/18 \$149,118.59 and 9/29/18 \$864,012.69
Bill Warrants 10/4/18 \$3,211.48, \$76,570.78 and 10/11/18 \$26,146.51, \$3,211.48, \$32,730.24

Mrs. Spear moved approve the bill and payroll warrants, seconded by Mrs. Pratt.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Report of the School Committee

- The Policy Review Committee has a full board and will meet on October 22nd at 5 p.m.
- MASC Voting Delegate and Alternate for Annual Meeting - Friday November 9th 3:15 p.m. Mrs. Pratt will be the voting delegate, and Mr. Flaherty, the alternate.
- MASC Resolutions - general consensus of the Committee was as follows:
 - #1 Rejecting the Arming of Educators - pass on voting
 - #2 Small and Rural Districts - yes
 - #3 Elimination of the Federal Department of Education - MASC is opposed - pass on voting
 - #4 Regional School Transportation - pass on voting
 - #5 Reporting and Accountability Standards - yes
 - #6 Reproductive Health Education - MASC supports - yes
 - #7 Gender Identity Inclusive Athletic Participation Policy - file legislation to protect students - yes
 - #8 Sports Wagering - yes
 - #9 Access to Information for Parents and Students Who Are Clients of Special Education - yes
 - Proposal to Amend the MASC By-Laws - changing a date - yes

Any other business

Chair Bacchicocchi expressed her appreciation for the cooperation with town boards and the School Building Committee.

Mr. Flaherty moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____

List of documents:

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

Minutes of the Meeting September 20, 2018

Debt Schedule Options based on Town Obligation of \$40 Million

Wareham Cooperative @ WHS PowerPoint

PASS Program brochure & PowerPoint

2018 MCAS Results

MASC Voting Delegate and Resolutions