

December 20, 2018

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 320 at the Multi-Service Center. Members present were Joyce Bacchiocchi, Michael Flaherty, Mary Morgan and student representative Emily Roberge as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Schwamb and recording secretary, Michelle Ruiz. Absent was member Laurie Spear.

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

Chair Bacchiocchi shared news of the resignation of Rebekah Pratt as School Committee member effective December 13, 2018. She read her letter into the record. Notice has been made to the Board of Selectmen and on their January 8th meeting agenda the board will begin the application process and then an appointment made to fill this seat.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

GOOD NEWS

Middle School Student Recognition MCAS – The students who were on a drama field trip at the last meeting, were recognized by Principal Cote for their exceeding scores on their MCAS test.

Commendation of Staff - Principal Chandler acknowledged the Brown family and Decas School family in celebrating Alissa. On December 4th before school started there was a medical emergency. The Decas staff who assisted with this situation came forward to be thanked: Michelle Skolnik, Manny Borges, Nicole Roberge, Anne Ames, Sheila Braley, Helene Owen, Sara Russo, and Skippy Wilcox.

Deanna Semple, President of the WEA and teacher at Decas, stated that each staff member played a vital role in saving Alyssa's life. She introduced the MTA President and Vice President who commented that this is a story of educators acting on their instincts, everyday people doing extraordinary things. They were honored to be at the meeting and acknowledged that these staff members showed both professionalism and caring.

Chair Bacchiocchi thanked all for coming out this evening.

Mrs. Skolnik stated that because of this day the staff reached out to the Wareham Fire Department and they offered to train staff in CPR.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that each staff member will be receiving a certificate to choose a book, which will be purchased with their name in it, to go into the Decas Library.

Chair Bacchiocchi thanked the MTA for its support of our efforts at the state level regarding the foundation budget with the Fund our Future initiative.

Chair Bacchiocchi shared that she had attended the concert at WHS, Ornament Band, which was an amazing fundraising event. She also attended the Finance Committee meeting last evening. The Finance Committee voted favorably on our CPC Application for the track project to go to the next step.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of November 29, 2018, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2018, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 2; nay – 0; abstain - 1 (Mrs. Morgan)

Update on Elementary Building Project

Dr. Shaver-Hood reported that MSBA voted approval of our elementary building project on December 12th. At this week's School Building Committee meeting, it was voted to extend both the Mount Vernon Group and PMA Consultants contracts. MSBA appointed a commissioning agent MSSA to perform 3rd party designs and verify operational systems with visual inspections during the course of construction. The work plan is for meetings in groups to decide color schemes, site project, security, and design; also a theme for the building and how it relates to Wareham. On April 15th there will be a package for abatement and demolition by the end of May, first of June. The MSBA payment is \$261,185 under budget so far. We will be in contact with John Foster who is collecting documents for borrowing funds and will be giving the committee updates on a regular basis.

Fall Athletic Report

Ed Rodrigues and Scott Palladino presented the fall athletic report. There is improvement in volleyball and soccer over the last several years and the field hockey team won the MIAA Achievement Award.

There was discussion on the expenses in girls' vs. boys' sports over the seasons and why boys' sports cost more. The costs are based on the amount of participants, income based waivers, the amount of money brought in, cost of coaches, user fees based on cost of sport, and cost of officials in a particular sport.

Mr. Flaherty gave a shout out to the Girls Soccer team for a GPA of 94.2.

It was noted that 7th graders play on JV teams and this year 8th graders can be on a varsity team since WHS is now Grades 8-12.

Approval of High School Course of Studies 2019-20

Principal Palladino and Assistant Principal Freitas presented next year's course of studies. The Department Heads were also present. With 8th graders now in the high school many changes were made to the course of studies. Some of the major changes are as follows:

- 8th grade promotion requirements
- Pathway to IB Math and Science
- Study and Learning Skills for grade 8 and grade 9 - new remedial courses
- 8th grade Young Entrepreneur - new
- Revamp School To Career two tier - Community Engagement and Career Placement
- 8th Grade Leadership course - elective course
- 8th Grade Health and Physical Education both added
- 8th Grade ELA required
- 8th Grade Fine Arts - elective course and Digital Arts
- Intro to Music and Songwriting - new
- 8th Grade Concert Band and Concert Choir - electives
- 8th Grade French and Spanish – in the future we will be able to offer a level 5 course in senior year
- 8th Grade Math - required course
- Science labs, Chemistry SL and Creative Biology removed - not enough staff
- 8th Grade Science
- 8th Grade Dual Enrollment STEM Survey - new
- New IB class Environmental System & Society and Computer Science Essentials
- Intro Computer Science - elective for Grade 8
- Cyber Security - new
- 8th Grade STEM
- Online learning - included all the courses available with flexible scheduling through Engenuity and The Virtual High School (VHS). Overseen by Ms. Freitas and the librarian.

In response to Mrs. Morgan's questions the minimum number of students required to run a course is in the double digits; the average class size for IB is in the low teens; and how many special needs students are accessing IB, Dual Enrollment, and AP, Principal Palladino will send this information to the superintendent to share with the committee members.

In response to Mr. Flaherty's questions all students in AP classes are required to take the exam and accommodations are made if needed; if enough outreach is being done to attract school choice students for IB, this is only our second year of the program but the principal has received calls from neighboring principals.

Mr. Flaherty gave out the class size reports from last year and this year and questioned the classes with 8 or less kids, mostly in the IB and AP classes.

Mrs. Freitas addressed his concern in that we honor student requests and then come the beginning of school there are conflicts in scheduling. The schedule is driven by student choice. Principal Palladino stated that he tries to be as efficient as possible and certain courses have to run in order for a student to get an IB diploma. There were comments on the integrity of the class by making all students who take an AP course take the AP exam; the deterrent is the level of work involved in an AP course.

Mrs. Morgan commented that the disclaimer language of expectations for IB, AP, and Dual Enrollment may deter students. She asked about the low numbers in special education, which were core academics and some substantially separate classes.

In response to Chair Bacchiocchi's concerns the School To Career courses address students not sure what they want to do and the other course for those who know what they want to do post high school. A person in the school does the placement of students but students can come up with their own placement. The town has been wonderful with opportunities for student internships. The 8th grade leadership course is open to all students and 8th graders can now choose between French or Spanish for a full year. The online courses are also used for night school and home instruction. The Chair stated that the DECA prep course #186 may lead students to believe they must be going on to business to take this course.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the high school program of studies as presented, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Vote on the FY20 School Budget

Ms. Owen recapped the budget process and reported that the committee would be voting on the same numbers from the budget public hearing. We are requesting a \$200,000 increase; no reduction of positions, but we did not add some new requested positions.

Mr. Flaherty thanked Ms. Owen and the budget advisory committee for its hard work and stated that in hindsight the committee should not have come in with a high budget amount but maybe say this was a work in progress and come in with the working number.

Chair Bacchiocchi reported she met with the Finance Committee last evening about the budget and there are no changes.

\$27,440,821 - Net School
\$1,821,425 - Non Net School
\$29,262,246 Total

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve \$27,440,821 for Net School Spending, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Flaherty moved approve \$1,821,425 for Non Net School Spending, seconded by Mrs. Morgan

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve \$29,262,246 as the total FY20 budget, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Financial Report FY19 Budget

Ms. Owen reviewed the financial report comparing last year to this year with no significant differences. We have spent approximately 31% of budget and there is \$6,000,000 in available funds not encumbered. We are watching our spending and the utilities and sped tuition costs. The financial reports will be monthly, she will also give a report on grant and revolving account balances.

Acceptance of Gifts

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

- SD card holder, camera bags, lens cleaning kits from Eli Perrone of EP Oceanographic to the WHS art department
- 18 hardcover and 12 paperback books for older readers from Candlewick Press to the WHS library
- \$150 from Noah Young for the dramatic arts at WHS and Wareham Middle School

Mrs. Morgan moved to accept the gifts as recommended, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Deeming Hobart Mixer Located in Minot Kitchen Obsolete

Dr. Shaver-Hood asked the committee to deem the Hobart Mixer located at the Minot Kitchen as obsolete, none of the other schools nor the culinary department at WHS needs this equipment.

Mr. Flaherty moved that the Hobart Mixer be declared as obsolete, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that the sale of this item will go into a revolving account. At our next meeting, other equipment will be coming to you to be declared obsolete. We have up to date equipment in our other kitchens. When we move into the new elementary school, all equipment will be new. The kitchen equipment at Decas will remain in building when move to the new school.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Report of the SuperintendentApproval of Bills and Payroll Warrants

Payroll week ending December 1, 2018 \$143,823.22

Payroll week ending December 8, 2018 \$866,834.64 & \$113.10

Payroll week ending December 15, 2018 \$146,546.55

Bill Warrant 11/22/18 \$3,211.48

Bill Warrant 12/6/18 \$157,370.17

Bill Warrant 12/13/18 \$395,463.02

Bill Warrant 12/13/18 \$93.51

Bill Warrant 12/11/18 \$255.90

Bill Warrant 12/13/18 \$3,800.69

Bill Warrant 12/20/18 \$523,077.88

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the payroll and bill warrants as presented, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Class Size Information

Dr. Shaver-Hood provided the committee members with class size information.

Minot Elementary Building

Historical items from the building will be stored. We will be shutting down heat, water and pulling utilities lines off; there will be no voting in the upcoming elections at the Minot building.

Report of the School Committee

MASC Conference – Mr. Flaherty reported as voting delegate that there was consensus on the resolutions but amendments were made on the floor. He attended all three days and saw former Wareham educators there.

Chair Bacchiocchi reported she attended the conference and the sessions were very educational.

Recommendations from Policy Review Committee – This item was postponed to next meeting when Mrs. Spear is present.

Early Graduation

Attendance Grades 8-12

Athletic Ticket Prices

Empowered Digital Use (Network Acceptable Use)

Student Activity Account

Any other business

Chair Bacchiocchi publicly thanked Rebekah Pratt for her service and it was unfortunate she had to resign. She appreciated the time Mrs. Pratt served on the board.

Mr. Flaherty echoed the chair's thanks to Mrs. Pratt.

After a 10-day application process, the Board of Selectmen and remaining members of the School Committee will interview candidates and vote as per the town charter and state law. This person will serve until the next election; and if no one applies, the Board of Selectmen can pick someone to serve.

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

VOTE: yea – 3; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____

List of documents:

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

Resignation Letter Member Rebekah Pratt

Minutes of the Meeting November 29, 2018, December 6, 2018

WHS Athletic Department Fall Report 2018 & Fall Financial Report

Changes to Course of Studies SY 19-20

WHS Program of Studies 2019-2020

FY19 WPS Financial Review July 1 – December 1, 2018

Donation Candlewick Press

Class Size Report 2018-2019

Policies: Early Graduation; Attendance Grades 8-12; Athletic Ticket Prices; Empowered Digital Use; Network Acceptable Use; Student Activity Account