



WAREHAM HIGH SCHOOL

7 VIKING DRIVE
WAREHAM, MA 02571



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School Council Meeting October 3, 2022 - 7 a.m.

Invitees: Scott Palladino; Joyce Bacchiocchi; Jill Johnson; Anne Berriault; Lester Smith; Christopher Gardner; Anne Cote; Billie-Jo Bean; Samantha Bumpus; Asher Hamilton; Megan Kashner; Jamie Wiksten; Rebecca Roy

In Attendance: Scott Palladino; Samantha Bumpus; Joyce Bacchiocchi; Megan Kashner; Christopher Gardner; Rebecca Roy; Jill Johnson

Agenda Item 1 - Update on the start of the school year

Excited about the start of the school year. WHS is fully staffed (2 weeks prior to the beginning of the year), allowing us to focus on students vs. filling positions or covering classes.

We have five Haitian immigrant students joining the WHS student body. Mr. Palladino does not think this addition will be difficult to absorb. WHS currently has a low ELL student count and excellent teachers, including Joe Marcus, and a teacher from Haiti.

Question/Comments:

Christopher Gardner - The year has started pretty well. Students seem engaged and positive.

Megan Kashner - Students are happy to be back - the summer is long for her students and students feel connected.

Samantha Bumpus - People are more connected, not on their phones and seem to be paying attention.

"HOME OF THE VIKING SHIPS": Scholarship, Citizenship, Craftsmanship, Leadership and Sportsmanship

Agenda Item 2 - Update on new hires for the 2023 - 2024 school year

In years past, we had lots of applicants for open positions.

This year, we are asking for emergency certifications and have very low applicant numbers. The applicants we are getting, require a lot of work. The majority of applicants have no classroom experience, but can get certified if they have a Bachelor's Degree.

This is not a unique problem to Wareham - all schools are dealing with this issue.

New positions hired this year are:

Aiden Ridings - Special Ed

Jean Placide - French

Victoria Richardson - 8th Grade Guidance

Brandy Luccier - Business

Allyson Bell - Team Chair/SPED

Jenna Cannon - Transfer from WMS Special Ed

Meghan Medeiros - Special Ed

Cassandra Couto - Special Ed - 1 year Maternity Leave Coverage

Michael Andrews - Math

Cody Nickerson - Special Ed

Dennis Nóbrega - Chemistry

Last year we had 3 Para positions open last year, all are now filled.

Question/Comments:

Megan Kashner - As a mentor that supports small group teachers, we invest so much of our experience and time and find that after a few years the teachers leave the district vs. stay.

Agenda Item 3 - Re-emphasis of the cell phone policy

We have had lots of feedback that cell phones have been an issue at school. After the pandemic, we focused on social and emotional issues. Now it's time to shift focus onto the use of cellphones at WHS. We have initiated the following:

1. Shut down the "free" wifi in the building
 2. "Free" wifi is turned on at 2:15 for after school activities
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Agenda Item 4 - Cell phone grant through DESE

DESE has a grant that allows us to form a committee to investigate alternatives for cell phone storage and inquire with other schools to see what they are doing, and what is successful for their teacher/student population.

Question/Comments:

Joyce Bacchiocchi - Will the committee form to make recommendations to the policy?

Answer: Mr. Palladino - Yes.

Megan Kashner - What about the concerns of parents wanting to contact their students?

Answer: Mr. Palladino - Students have access during passing and lunch

Agenda Item 5 - New Schedule for the 2023 - 2024 school year

See attached schedule

We have moved the lunch schedule to a bit later in the day.

It is going very well. More students are eating breakfast and lunch and we have noticed a decrease in discipline issues.

Questions/Comments:

Samantha Bumpus - Likes the change, makes the day feel shorter - she currently has 3rd lunch.

Christopher Gardner - Feels like the day goes by faster.

Megan Kashner - Breaks ups the day nicely - works well for her classes and their energy levels.

Agenda Item 6 - Boiler Project

The boiler project at WHS was originally scheduled to be completed August 28, 2023, but due to chain supply issues that have caused a delay. We expect additional testing at the end of the week.

The project is almost complete, the company and project manager have been great to work with.

The next project is the fire alarm system which needs to be updated. It is a significant project to occur over the summer and it is expected to go out to bid soon.

We are also expecting the Auditorium lighting to be replaced and expect bids to begin soon on that as well.

Comments/Questions:

None

Agenda Item 7 - Budget

Budget process is underway. We were informed that the Town of Wareham will not allow us to use Amazon for purchases.

Without the ability to use Amazon, WHS will need to increase its budget to cover overages caused by using more expensive vendors. Most (90%) of purchases are made in July so we are fully ready to begin the school year.

Agenda Item 8 - Credit for Life

Seniors will participate in Credit for Life on September 29, 2023.

The program is set up like a "fair" in the gym, with various stations setup for students to visit. Students pick a job/position and they go through all "expenses", housing, car and payments to show them how they will need to budget and work to financially prepare for the future.

The presentation is digital and the bank underwrites all expenses.

It's a fantastic program and always very well received.

Agenda Item 9 - Plans for staff inservice on October 6, 2023

First in-service of the year. Allows staff to be involved with all cape cod teachers PD day.

There are 13 opportunities for our teachers to participate throughout the district.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Gardner is participating in a program that has been developed in house.

Ms. Kashner is participating in 3 sessions for social and emotional training.

Joyce Bacchiocchi - are the training in person or via Zoom?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - both - some are in person and others via zoom.

Agenda Item 10 - All Cape College Day, October 18, 2023 - 3:30 - 5:30, Barnstable HS

On October 18, 2023 Wareham High School students will participate in "All Cape College Day". Wareham High School provides a bus, providing a ride to and from the event. Wareham High School is allowed to participate as part of the Cape and Island School Counselors Association. It is held at Barnstable High School and it allows for students to have an opportunity to meet with college admission reps from a variety of different colleges and universities.

Agenda Item 11 - Spirit week and Homecoming, October 21, 2023

WHS students will be participating in Spirit Week October 16 - 20, 2023.

We will have the following events:

Daily dress as days:

Monday, October 16, 2023 - Zoom Conference

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 - Surfers vs. Bikers

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 - Rhyme without Reason

Thursday, October 19, 2023 - Barbie and Ken

Friday, October 20, 2023 - Class Colors

There will be a Pep Rally on Friday, October 20, 2023 at 1:00 pm

Homecoming Dance - Saturday, October 21, 2023 - 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Agenda Item 12 - Haunted Hallways, October 26, 2023 - 5:00 - 7:00 pm

WHS will host a Haunted Hallways trick or treat event for all on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

It is a very popular event that the Student Council holds for children of all ages (up to 6th grade).

Next Meeting November 7, 2023

"Respectfully submitted by Stacy Lattin"