

February 1, 2017

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Mel Lazarus, Geoff Swett, Cliff Sylvia, Mary Morgan and Judy Caporiccio (participating remotely) as well as Superintendent Dr. Shaver-Hood and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

Chair Lazarus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting is being broadcast live by WCTV and being recorded by recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Chair Lazarus also announced that member Judy Caporiccio will be participating remotely this evening due to location and all votes will be roll call votes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

Recognition of Middle School Teacher - Principal Steedman presented Wendy Brogioli a certificate for saving a student's life by giving the student the Heimlich maneuver.

Recognition of Decas School Staff

Principal Noonan, Assistant Principal Chandler, Assistant Principal Gibbs, and Assistant Principal Russo acknowledged the staff as follows:

Teachers being creative under the physical changes in the building providing students challenging lessons; four 1st grade teachers in the gym with a quad; staff working together in an atmosphere where classes are exciting and engaging; two Grade 1 teachers are sharing a classroom space; using all spaces available and carts; service providers as well.

Custodians are cleaning and regrouping; secretaries are providing notices; lunchroom crew with breakfast in the cafeteria now; nurse; teachers in grade 2 when classroom is open using this space by specialists and grade 1; and administration team. We are facing a move back with teamwork; central office administration thanked for its support and assistance.

Principal Noonan introduced the staff who were present.

The Committee acknowledged the professionalism of the staff and appreciated their efforts and also acknowledged Mrs. Brogioli's efforts as well.

Mr. Swett commented on the disingenuous remarks at the last meeting made under good news congratulating our Superintendent for being a finalist to another district. He was thankful she was not chosen and stated she has done more for this school system. He did not take this disingenuous statement as respectful and stated that this committee needs to set an example to our students and staff.

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Swett - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Dr. Sylvia - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mr. Lazarus - yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

Presentation on Middle School Humanities Program

Principal Steedman spoke about the Humanities Academy in Grade 7. This academy is new and started 5 months ago. He showed some highlights in a video. The academy is tied into the district's strategic plan. He named the members of the academy team who planned this summer developing thematic units of study.

In September/October the theme was identity. There were team building activities and a field trip to Gillette Stadium 5 Wits Experience.

In November/December the theme was community and culture. Mein He, a graduate of WHS, was a guest speaker. There was also interdisciplinary opportunities in the arts.

Dr. Steedman, in answer to Mrs. Morgan's questions, stated that there are 100 students in grade 7 and next year they can explore STEAM or other humanities classes. All 7th grade students are either in STEAM or the Humanities Academy and students apply and are assigned. A presentation is done for both to students and parents beforehand. The academy does have targeted work addressing assessment testing with writing and reading and the special education teacher was an active part of the development for meeting the needs of the special education students.

Mr. Swett asked Dr. Steedman to let the teachers know he is appreciative of their hard work.

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the donation of \$400 from Shaw's Supermarket to Wareham Middle School, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Swett - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Dr. Sylvia - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mr. Lazarus - yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the donation of \$400 from Shaw's Supermarket to Wareham High School to be used for MCAS refreshments, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Swett - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Dr. Sylvia - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mr. Lazarus - yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

Superintendent's Report**Approval of Bills and Payment Warrants**

Dr. Shaver-Hood presented the following payroll warrants for approval: Payroll 1/7/17 \$138,344.55; Payroll 1/21/17 \$138,547.86; Payroll 1/28/17 \$848,030.05

Mr. Swett moved to approve the payroll warrants as stated by the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Swett - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Dr. Sylvia - abstain; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mr. Lazarus - yea

VOTE: 4-0-1

Dr. Shaver-Hood presented the following bill warrants for approval: 1/19/17 \$637,078.85; 2/2/17 \$331,750.99; 2/9/17 \$449,682.74

Mr. Swett moved to approve the bill warrants as stated by the Superintendent, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Swett - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Dr. Sylvia - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mr. Lazarus - yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

Report on Water Testing in Schools

Mr. MacMillan shared the recent water testing lead and copper results from the state. Wareham volunteered to take part in this state program by Mass DEP. When lead is present, it comes through pipes and fixtures usually. Some results were higher than the guidance MASS DEP action levels. Samples were taken first thing in the morning from each location, then flushed for 30 seconds and another sample taken. We received 852 results in total.

Action being taken at 16 sites with elevated levels of copper and lead in both tests - these sites disconnected; only in one sample, flushed every morning; stickers being put up it shouldn't be used for drinking water like in sinks. 80 sites are approved for drinking and we are putting up signs there as well.

Longer-term action from 16 bubblers that were disconnected must be replaced at \$3,000-\$4,000 each. If lead is in the pipes, further testing needs to be done to determine what is causing the contamination. We are also undertaking periodic testing of all drinking water sites to ensure safety.

This is a statewide problem with 490 schools throughout state. We have provided water at all the schools.

Mr. Swett suggested having a test done at each school location from the road entering the building.

Decas School Parking Lot

Dr. Shaver-Hood thanked Municipal Maintenance Director Dave Menard and his crew for helping us with the Decas parking lot water problem by digging trenches and a new leach field.

School Committee Reports - None

Any other business

1. Ms. Caporiccio stated she was appalled at the behavior at the school committee meetings, in the press and social media. She would call this action as harassment, bullying, and character assassination. She recognized our superintendent as the best in the state and to lose her would be a sad day in Wareham.

2. Dr. Sylvia addressed the budget document received tonight. We need to go forward and be careful to temper our words with specific recommendations and let our administrators handle this. He would like a discussion in March on a way to streamline the process. The level of budgetary procedure should be consistent between educating Wareham Public Schools and Upper Cape Regional School. Consistently Upper Cape Regional gets a higher % increase each year then Wareham Public Schools. He would like to discuss developing a policy to be in tune with whatever the increase or decrease is

granted to Upper Cape Regional and asked the Chair to consider putting this item on the agenda in March.

Mr. Swett stated that this formula doesn't work because there are four other towns involved with Upper Cape Regional. The Town Charter and state law requires the Town Administrator to use the budget number voted by the School Committee presented to Town Meeting but in this document he does not have the number this committee voted. The Finance Committee gets to make the first amendment to the budget number at Town Meeting. The Superintendent is trying to reduce that number and still meet the goals and strategic plan. We also know our teachers are being underpaid and to keep them and get outstanding educators we have to pay them competitively.

Dr. Sylvia moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

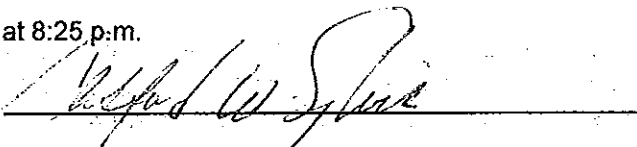
Roll call vote:

Mr. Swett - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Dr. Sylvia - yea; Mrs. Morgan - yea; Mr. Lazarus - yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Correspondence: Newsletter, Personnel List, Vacancy Notice

RECEIVED

MAR 02 2017

TOWN OF WAREHAM
TOWN CLERK