

Wareham School Committee
February 2, 2023

There was a meeting of the Wareham School Committee on February 2, 2023.

Attendance: Kevin Brogioli, Geoff Swett, Joyce Bacchiocchi, Apryl Rossi and Dr. D'Andrea, Ms. Kristin Flynn, and Jamie Wiksten, recording secretary.

The Chair stated that the School Committee is pro-education and has observed the paraprofessionals in action. As explained before, the School Committee cannot comment during negotiations. The WEA contacted the School Committee at 12:27 p.m. asking to meet immediately, and agreed to do so without representation.

The Chair added there have been some emails discussing the monies in our food service budget should fund paraprofessionals. The Chair reminded the public that the Food Service Director explained that fund for this department must be used for food service.

Public Participation:

Deanna Semple, WEA President thanked the committee for visiting the schools and witnessed what everyone does in our schools and thanked the school committee for agreeing to meet tonight.

Jennifer Borden, Paraprofessional spoke about her passion to be paraprofessional. She stated the paras deserve an increase in pay.

Michelle Houghton, Special Education Teacher in Wareham since 2009, brought a student with her to the meeting and stated that without the love of the paras, she could not do her job for her students without them. She stated that the paras are in charge of our most vulnerable students.

Tahlia Tringale (a parent of a grade 5 student in the ASD classroom), advocated for the Wareham School System, and has paras with him all day and he could not do each day without them.

Terri Currier, Paraprofessional, acknowledged the School Committee attended a class she is in. She offers personal care assistance to her students, but the personal care assistants are only managed by the paras. Not the nurses and not the teachers.

Mary Nielsen, Paraprofessional, since 2003, is a certified educator, working as a para. Ms. Nielson read a letter to the School Committee and Administrators written by Jen O'Connell, describing the role of the para and their wide range of skills is essential.

Laurie Andrade, Falmouth Education President, spoke in support on Wareham Paraprofessionals, describing the job as a professional job, and do not let the title deceive you.

Leannandra Booth, Paraprofessional, shared she and her husband are both paras. In the short time she has worked in Wareham, she has experienced some hard behaviors from students, and described children who are struggling and does the job because the children are broken.

Good News:

Mrs. Swett acknowledged the success of the Wareham High School Basketball Team.

Student Representative Report:

Indiana Troupe acknowledged that the Basketball Team and is ranked 11th overall in the states. Term II has officially ended, and a third of high school students made high honor roll. The staff is having a spirit week, and each department is assigned a color.

Principal Reports:

WES: Dr. Chandler thanked the School Committee for visiting her school over the past week. Grades 1- 4 have completed their 98th day, and the school is working very carefully with chronic absences. Grade 1 is celebrating 100th Day of School next week. The Band Concert and Hall of Presidents are coming up. The pre-enrollment for Kindergarten Registration kicks off March 8th. Dr. Chandler highlighted Ms. Tipton and Ms. Day recently completed a unit on Rome.

CKLA (CORE KNOWLEDGE LANGUAGE ARTS). Ms. Wolff, Ms. Davis are conducting CKLA throughout the year. Shifting the balance 6 ways to bring the balance of reading.

WMS: Mr. LeFavor gave a report for the Middle School. Upcoming events: High Honors breakfast, Professional Development, and NWEA testing, ST Math Challenges. Mr. Swett asked about the chronic absences and excused absences.

WHS: Scheduling has begun for class selection for the upcoming school year. Curriculum Highlight: Mr. Palladino shared that he was able to bring back ELA Core class, and a new hire is in place (Grant Funded).

AP, IB, Dual Enrollment Night is an informational evening to discuss each program as High School Staff begins scheduling, and will be held next Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Grants Report, Kristin Flynn

Ms. Flynn explained the grants, the purpose of the grants is to find use, and provided information regarding all of the school grants.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi noted the biggest difference is in circuit breaker. Ms. Flynn explained that transportation contributed to the increase in this amount.

Mr. Swett confirmed that the grants cannot supplant and offset your operating budget.

Spring Town Warrant:

Section F of the WMS roof, that leaks the most, and will be a welcome repair. The Superintendent stated that the School Department is asking the school committee to support the project and ask the town to support the article for the Spring Town Warrant.

Ms. Rossi asked what would happen if it did not pass. The Superintendent responded that the roof has failed and it will have a domino effect.

Mr. Trahan, Facilities Supervisor, shared they did test cuts, and found water in every part of the roof, and every part is compromised. Mr. Trahan explained that warranty. Mr. Swett responded that we should look into the warranty and should look at paying to extend it. Mr. Trahan explained that full reimbursement for the roof through MSBA is for a roof that is 30+ years.

Ms. Rossi made a motion that the Town appropriate the remaining amount of SEVEN MILLION FOURHUNDRED NINETY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN (\$7,491,377) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of the remaining roof portions of the Roof replacement project at Wareham Middle School, 4 Viking Dr, Wareham, MA 02571, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the Town has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, seconded by Geoff Swett

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

Student Services:

Melissa Fay, Director of Student Services,
Kathy Beaulieu, Out of District Coordinator

Ms. Fay provided an overview of the department including staffing and enrollment. High Point is now offering services in all of our buildings. A competitive grant was written: FC 311 SEL Competitive Grant, supporting students social emotional learning.

Ms. Rossi asked about the number difference between 504 and IEP's. She observed the number of IEP's drops as children age, and there is an increase in 504's.

Ms. Fay explained that a 504 supports a child within their environment. IEP's are instructional plans for student learning.

The Chair asked why the percentages are higher than the state average. Ms. Fay explained that Wareham is a unique community. By building the programming, we are able to support the students needs.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi asked about the 45 Out of District numbers, and Ms. Beaulieu explained that we have about 6 students that are OOD with anticipated graduations, which will lower the number for OOD next year.

Ms. Beaulieu explained that she discusses bringing a student back into the district at every IEP meeting. Last year we had five students transition back.

Ms. Bacchiocchi asked about staffing of the paras. Mrs. Fay explained that she works hard to have the staff fluent across the schools when shifting staffing is needed based on student need.

Mr. Swett stated he was recently in an ASD classroom with six adults for seven children. He asked if she tracks the cost. Ms. Fay responded the numbers coming into this district is very high. Ms. Fay explained that ELL was handed over to student services, and received support and higher support through MATSOL and create a corrective action plan and is now in perfect shape.

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent asked the School Committee to approve the Bills and Warrants as listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

Superintendent Mid Cycle Review:

Dr. D'Andrea reported the following:

Student Learning Goal: The Superintendent has met with select board members, school committee, community and staff. He put out a climate survey to parents and is putting all of this information in report in April.

Emergency Plan: This report will be conducted in executive session, and looked at what we have in place and how to improve the security and technology options, along with police and fire departments.

Dr. D'Andrea thanked Bonnie Lasorsa and Robin Westberg for the mock up providing training and develop a maintenance plan for the website to go live in March.

Core reasons for family reasons for choosing School Choice Families, and received 112 responses, and those results will be shared.

Professional Practice Goal:

The Superintendent shared that he is in each building at least once a week, visits weekly scheduled classes, and is the highlight of his week.

The Chair reminded the Committee that the Superintendent Evaluation will be on April 27th. Evaluations reports are due April 14th and self-assessment by March 31st.

School Committee Report

Public Comment Policy

Ms. Rossi explained the policy was sent from MASC, and asked the Committee to adopt.

Mr. Swett made a motion adopt the policy, seconded by Ms. Bacchiocchi

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

The Chair noted that he will not be in attendance at the next meeting.

Ms. Bacchiocchi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____

