

February 24, 2016

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Geoffrey Swett, Melvin Lazarus, Rhonda Veugen, Judy Caporiccio and student member Noah Wambolt as well as Superintendent Dr. Shaver-Hood and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Absent was member Dr. Clifford Sylvia.

Chair Swett called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The meeting was opened with a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by the WHS Chorus.

The Chair then announced that there was no remote participation tonight so no roll call votes were necessary. He announced that the meeting was being taped by WCTV and recorded for audio by Mrs. Ruiz.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

- Mr. Lazarus - Ladies Vikings Basketball Team qualified for state tournament and raised \$4,800 for the Play for Trey and gathered three truckloads of toys for the Dick Meloni Toy Drive. Congratulations to the team and coach.
- Mr. Wambolt - Wareham/Carver Ice Hockey team with a win last night made the state tournament. This Friday at WHS is the Sadie Hawkins Dance and this past Monday there was a Blood Drive at WHS.
- Dr. Shaver-Hood - visited 1st graders Hall of Presidents at Decas School today
- Mrs. Veugen - Sent Dr. Sylvia our best. He is doing well and hopefully will be home soon
- Chair Swett echoed Mrs. Veugen's well wishes to Dr. Sylvia and stated he was privileged to be a judge at WMS Science Fair. He gave compliments to those involved in this spectacular event.
- Short Performance by WHS Music Department - The concert band performed two pieces from its upcoming spring concert on May 26th.

Minutes of the Meeting

Ms. Caporiccio moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2016, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

Approval of School Calendar 2016-2017

Dr. Shaver-Hood presented a DRAFT calendar which was shared with the WEA and administrators and presented to the Committee at its January 27th meeting. This calendar has received the support of the teachers and administrators. School would begin August 24th for inservice and August 29th for students. The last day of school would be a half day on June 12th barring any snow days.

Mr. Lazarus moved to approve the school calendar for 2016-17 as presented, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

Test dates for MCAS have not been set yet so are not included on this calendar.

Mrs. Veugen noted that we looked at town election dates for scheduling in-service days when possible.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

Special Education Update

Due to an illness in Mrs. Shea's family, this item will be postponed to the next meeting agenda.

Curriculum Update

Dr. Schwamb gave a brief update on the new curriculum initiatives at each school:

- Decas - partner with North River Collaborative for Focus on K-2, hands-on rigorous opportunity and K teachers had three full days of training. The use of technology is continuing.
- Minot - blended learning pilot where two teachers team using Chromebooks. Also a grant partnership on-line library Tumblebook with over 1,000 titles for grades K-6.
- Middle - curriculum/technology integration with personalized learning and the second year school-wide writing in all disciplines. Continuing the pursuit of the IB Middle Years Program with a visit to Brockton and staff from Brockton will be here on March 8th to learn about our STEAM program.
- WHS - professional development with integration of technology and IB training in the next few months. A video was shown to explain the International Baccalaureate Program and Ashley Yates, IB Coordinator answered any questions.

Dr. Schwamb reported that Minot Forest has applied to be a school for Google Expedition, a virtual reality with google glasses takes students on trips through the curriculum. Google staff come to the school for free to provide this educational service.

Questions/comments from members

Acceptance of Gifts

- A. \$3,000 check from Wareham Middle School Student Council to the Wareham Middle School to be used as needed - Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift as recommended, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

- B. Kitchen equipment valuing over \$10,000 from Ms. Sherry Lindsey, owner of Lindsey's Restaurant, to the WHS Culinary Classroom - Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift as recommended, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

- C. Nine Youth Exercise Weight Machines from the Gleason Family YMCA to WHS's physical education weight room - Mrs. Veugen moved to accept the gift as recommended, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent's Report

- Recommendation on 8th Grade Possible Move to High School

Dr. Shaver-Hood spoke on what has taken place regarding a possible grade 8 move to the high school. Educators have met and discussed the pros and cons of a move; parent/community meeting held; 7th grade survey taken; student assemblies in Gr. 7 and Gr. 6; survey teachers; portal site available to answer questions. For the past two years we have dual enrollment at WHS but scheduling is a challenge. Currently our 7th and 8th graders participate in a STEAM Program and we plan to open to 9th graders next year. WHS is a designated candidate IB school and with full accreditation offers rigorous opportunities with AP and 5th year courses.

The model will be for all students in the dual enrollment program to attend WHS for next year allowing more scheduling course opportunities. Next year STEAM will be expanded with an arts component offered at WHS. The current 8th grade STEAM continues at WMS and students interested in applying for dual enrollment and for STEAM Arts Program will attend WHS. The application will be available beginning tomorrow.

Dr. Shaver-Hood thanked the Middle School and High School principals and teachers for their willingness to be open and consider all possibilities. They have demonstrated our students come first.

The current 7th grade enrollment is 200 and the current number of students in dual enrollment is 40. The STEAM Arts Program is prepared to accept approximately 40 students. If students meet application requirements, there could be 80 Grade 8 students at WHS next school year.

The application process will be communicated to the students and requires an essay, recommendation from a teacher, discipline record, and attendance record. The STEAM Arts Program includes art, ceramics, band, chorus and an ability to participate in the program. Students are chosen by the high school staff. There is student interest in both programs being offered.

It will be necessary to transfer some 8th grade faculty to the high school.

Chair Swett stated that during his visit to Dr. Sylvia, Dr. Sylvia expressed his support of the academic opportunities for 8th graders that the high school can offer.

Chair Swett also stated that it was counsel's opinion that a moderate change of students from middle to high school is within the superintendent's prerogative so no vote will be taken by the School Committee; however, the School Committee's opinions matter to the superintendent along with parents and students input.

A parent night is scheduled for March 10th with Principal Palladino and applications are due on March 15th.

- Wareham School District Emergency Protocols - Dr. Shaver-Hood asked for one committee member to serve on a committee with other educators to review the District Emergency Protocols. It was last updated in 2013. We will begin the middle of March. Ms. Caporiccio volunteered to serve.

School Committee Reports

- Policy Review recommendations will be at the next meeting.
- House Bill 340, a moratorium on standardized testing, was sent to members by Chair Swett. He asked that if any of the members want to place this topic on the agenda, to let him know.
- March 9th Change in Meeting Time - Due to a scheduled coaches' night, the Chair will not be available at 7:00 p.m. and it was agreed to start the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

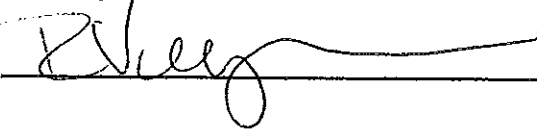
Any other business - None

Mr. Lazarus moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____



List of documents:

Correspondence: Notice of Vacancy, Personnel List, Superintendent's Newsletter
DRAFT School Calendar 2016-17
Update from the Department of Student Services