

School Committee Meeting
February 25, 2021

A remote meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. using zoom technology. The meeting was recorded by WCTV and streamed live.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Present: Joyce Bacchiocchi, Kevin Brogioli, Apryl Rossi, and Mary Morgan. Also present, Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, Assistant Superintendent, and Jamie Wiksten, Recording Secretary.

Michael Flaherty arrived late.

Public Participation:

Deanna Semple, President of WEA, spoke on behalf of the teachers regarding extended days. Teachers feel they will be thrust into a new change, and valuable time will be lost to remote students. The real concern is the gap of inequity would increase between hybrid and fully remote students. At the elementary level, over 30 students are assigned to hybrid classes. Remote classes are too large to take on students. Bringing students into schools for 70 extra minutes is not going to make significant change.

(Mr. Flaherty joined the meeting)

Ms. Semple shared that teachers have worked diligently to develop lesson plans for hybrid and remote learning and the schedule in place is working well in the schools, and asked the School Committee to consider those before voting and making changes.

Brian Fitzgerald, Grade 5 teacher, shared that he spoke publicly in August and the crisis is not over but we are so close. Mr. Fitzgerald shared that Teachers have sacrificed so much in the past 350 days, just to decide at the end, that we cannot hang on any longer, but it is what you do at the end that matters. He shared that he hoped that the Committee remembers this when making the tough decision.

Bridget Kearns, parent, shared that she was speaking to encourage the School Committee to return the schools to full day. The data shows low transmission occurs in the classrooms. Children are not the spreaders. Adults should take residual risk and it is time to take a leap of faith and return to the classroom. To "stay the course" is not the correct stage of action and asked the Committee for a vote to return to full day.

Sam Smith, High School Teacher, thanked Mrs. Kearns for her comments, but worries that layered changes creates too many modifications, and continued changes would bring fear and anxiety to our students and teachers would need to revamp lesson plans, with the loss of time for remote students.

Wendy Nault, Elementary School Teacher, shared that the biggest concern at early elementary school is the length of time they will go without seeing other students and the new schedule will be detrimental.

The Chair mentioned that Administration has tried to have conversations with the Union for the past month, and the conversation did not happen. She also shared that public participation is the time for public to speak, and questions will not be allowed later in the meeting.

GOOD NEWS:

Mr. Brogioli recognized Dr. Schwamb and the hard work taking place regarding the Steering Committee and Strategic School Plan.

Mr. Flaherty attended the Cape Cod Collaborative remote breakfast. Breakout sessions were conducted and it was well done.

Mr. Flaherty also mentioned that he turned in the Article for the naming of the elementary school - Wareham Elementary School.

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that the school district is preparing for Kindergarten Registration and printed materials will be available online soon.

Deanna Sample asked for another opportunity to speak regarding the Chair's final remarks during Public Participation. She clarified that the WEA just finished negotiations, which took a lot of time, and her remark made it sound as if Unit A is not working with School Committee and Administration.

The Chair explained that was not her intent. The Superintendent had reached out to meet with WEA and confirmed the attempt had been made.

Student Representative Report, Emily Roberge

Ms. Roberge shared that seniors recently submitted their BIO forms. Fall Sports begin on March 8 and Wareham Viking Theater is planning a production for May 2020, written by students. Astronomy zoom nights are open for all High School students.

Minutes of the Meeting February 11, 2021

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli –yea, Michael Flaherty – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Overview of School Day, Scott Palladino

- Students arrive at 7:35 a.m. (To the sounds of DJ Mike Murray)
- 7:40 AM school begins with a synchronous approach, utilizing google classroom, zoom, and google meet
- Hall Passing is one way in the hallways, and last 3 minutes long.
- 11:09 AM students grab lunch, return home
- 12:15 PM remote classes until 2:10 PM
- 2:10 -2:50 PM extra help for students
- Wednesday schedule has been adjusted, providing extra time to receive extra help. -Added time will possibly begin on March 8
- Students are online 25 hours (2 hours of asynchronous learning).

Ms. Rossi confirmed the change in the Wednesday schedule has been wonderful and praised the schools and educators.

Fall Sports, Scott Palladino, Ed Rodrigues

Mr. Palladino shared that winter season went off with very few hitches, with only one game canceled due to a student from the opposing team with Covid. Parents would be able to attend senior night, and games were filmed by WCTV with over 1000 views of these games. The grade average for athletes was an 85% average for Winter sports students.

March 8, 2021, changing the time of the school day will be helpful to students, as practice will begin shortly after the end of the school day.

The Fall II sports are as follows: Soccer, Indoor Track/Cross Country, Football, Field Hockey, and Volleyball.

Mr. Palladino thanked Ed Rodrigues for his administrative and supervisory role during Covid, and shared he will do the same for Fall II sports.

Mr. Brogioli thanked Mr. Rodrigues, and asked for clarification on Cross Country/Track.

Mr. Flaherty inquired about spring sports, and Mr. Palladino responded that the season will begin May 10.

Ms. Rossi asked what the plan is for in-person attendance of sports.

Mr. Palladino met with principals of Southcoast conference, control was given back to the schools with outside sports, and there will be more flexibility.

Mr. Rodrigues explained the gated fields will make it easier to control spectators, and can control how many people are in attendance. First games are March 23rd.

Obsolete Furniture

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that there are two pages of furniture deemed obsolete.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to declare the furniture obsolete, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Monthly Budget Report, Christine Suckow

Ms. Suckow shared the January Monthly Report. There were no questions from the Committee.

FY22 Budget Update

Ms. Suckow shared that there is a 4.8% increase, and there will be a re-vote at the next meeting.

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that after looking at the budget, she can safely say there will be no layoffs for personnel, and will be looking to add staff and will use the monies wisely.

Dr. Schwamb explained that low-income numbers have increased, and translates to additional funds for the school. For the last few years, the number has been much lower.

The Chair recognized that the town is showing their support with the schools, and thanked the Town Administration for that.

Report of the Superintendent:

The Superintendent asked the Committee to accept the following Gift: Phipps & Bird Six-Paddle Stirrer to the WHS Science Department for the purpose of Chemistry Lab, donated by the Wareham Water Department.

Ms. Flaherty made a motion to accept the gift, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

5-0-0

Bills and Payrolls:

The Superintendent asked the Committee to approve the bills and payroll warrants as listed in the Superintendent's report.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the bill and payroll warrants, seconded by Mr. Brogioli

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Article for Town Meeting:

Dr. Shaver-Hood asked the Committee to approve the purchase of a van for the Food Service Department. The funds for this van have been awarded by a grant in the amount of \$45,000. If the Committee approves the article, the Superintendent will have this authorized by capital and ready to move forward with the Town.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve the Town Meeting Article for the purchase of a van, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

CMVS:

The Superintendent recommended that the Committee vote to restrict enrollment of students in a Commonwealth Virtual School if the total enrollment of students enrolled in a virtual School exceed 1 percent.

Ms. Rossi asked for clarification.

Dr. Shaver-Hood explained that Greenfield and TECCA Academy are two virtual schools that students can choose to attend.

If Wareham does not restrict the enrollment, a greater number of students may leave our district to attend one of these options.

Dr. Schwamb shared that Wareham is exploring virtual schools and will keep the committee informed if there is a plan to move forward. Dr. Schwamb explained the application is quite difficult.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to restrict enrollment to 1%, seconded by Mr. Brogioli

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2020-2021 Updated School Schedule:

The Superintendent shared that the School District is ready to expand in-person learning.

Current Schedule:

Decas: 9:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Minot: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

WMS: 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

WHS: 7:35 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Proposed Schedule:

8:40 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

8:30 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.

7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

7:35 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

In a recent survey:

58% of families wanted the change

73% felt the cafeteria plan is acceptable

The Superintendent explained that if the vote is approved, the schools will begin notifying parents. There are students who need remediation and WPS recently posted several postings, and these teachers would work with students who are falling behind. Social workers will be hired to work with students during the school day or after school. It is grant funded, and will continue throughout the summer.

Cohorts will remain the same. If a remote student wants to return, existing hybrid numbers will be considered. At the elementary level, it will be at the principal's discretion. Secondary level will allow returns at the start of term 4.

Mr. Palladino shared that he surveyed the students, and the majority of students want to return and do not like the online learning, want more time in the buildings with friends and with teachers. Mr. Palladino truly believes this is what is best for our students, and is ready to go.

The Chair asked the principals what are the anticipated changes at each school.

Mr. Palladino shared lunches will be difficult, establishing protocol and coordinating mask breaks.

Mr. Palladino confirmed that if the proposed schedule is approved, the High School has a general meeting on Monday to solidify the schedule and get the information out to parents.

Ms. Seamans shared that the lunches will be different, and March 8th will be treated like the first day of school all over again. The age group requires step-by-step instruction. The teachers have

collaborated, and unified arts will return to the classroom, which has been conducted remotely all year. Minot will need to plan additional mask breaks, and inform the families immediately.

Ms. Cote shared that she agrees with Mr. Palladino and Ms. Seamans and it is not always easy to adapt to change. What is best for our children is to return, and safety will be the number one priority.

Ms. Chandler shared that face-to-face is so important, and Decas has a great teaching staff. She will plan a family zoom with parents to share the information.

Ms. Rossi asked where the furniture that was stored in the cafeteria would be moved.

The Superintendent responded that the furniture would be moved to spaces without any cost or rentals.

We already have Permanent Intermittent Substitutes in the buildings for coverage and have posted for Cafeteria Monitors in all but one school, and intend to add additional support.

Ms. Morgan shared her frustration that there is an urgency to bring students back, but no urgency from the state to vaccinate teachers.

Mr. Flaherty asked if Ms. Rossi received a survey as a parent and she responded that she did, and shared it on social media.

Mr. Flaherty reminded the Committee that the teachers are already in the buildings daily.

Mr. Palladino shared that many other schools have been operating with increased hours for months.

Mr. Brogioli supported Ms. Morgan's responses. He has heard many comments regarding "change" throughout the meeting, but what is best for kids always trumps change. Change is hard, but it is necessary.

Dr. Shaver-Hood added that Wareham wants to do a better job servicing our students during. If Wareham waits until April 5 to make this change, 147 hours of lost time on learning would occur and is not worth the delay of return.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve extended in-person learning beginning March 8, 2021, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Ms. Rossi is pleased there is a plan to revert back, as a safety net, if things revert backwards, and feels this plan shows thoughtfulness of keeping teachers and students safe.

Report of the School Committee:

Mr. Flaherty presented the policies reviewed by the Policy Review Committee on February 9, 2021:

Sex Education File IGAA:

Mr. Brogioli made a motion to approve as is, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

School District Wellness Program File: IGAB

Mr. Brogioli made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Home Schooling File IGBB

Ms. Rossi made a motion to replace the policy with the MASC Policy, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Career Education File: IHA

Mr. Flaherty announced the Policy Review Committee tabled this policy. Dr. Schwamb will look into the policy for applicable use.

Residency File JED

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

School Committee Meeting Schedule (Discussion):

The committee discussed the meeting schedule for next year and made a suggestion to change the November 4, 2021 date, as the date falls during the MASC convention. The Superintendent responded that revisions to the calendar would be made and shared with the committee at an upcoming meeting for a vote.

Code of Ethics:

The Chair introduced the Code of Ethics and asked for feedback.

Mr. Flaherty felt that most of the language is a given. It was asked for more time to review. The Chair granted more time for review with an anticipated vote.

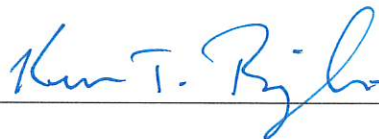
Ms. Rossi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli -yea, Michael Flaherty - yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea and Chair Bacchiocchi – yea.

VOTE: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____



List of Documents:

Superintendent's Newsletter

February 11, 2021 Minutes

Obsolete Furniture

January Monthly Financial Report

Town Meeting Warrant Article

CMVS Enrollment Restrictions

Mass State Code of Ethics

Policies

School Committee Meeting Schedule

Personnel List

Notice of Vacancy