

March 9, 2016

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Mr. Geoff Swett, Mr. Mel Lazarus, Mrs. Rhonda Veugen and student representative, Noah Wambolt. Ms. Judy Caporiccio participated remotely. Absent was member Dr. Cliff Sylvia and Superintendent Dr. Shaver-Hood.

Chair Swett called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He announced that member Judy Caporiccio would be participating remotely due to geographic distance and she notified the Chair in advance and that all votes will be roll call votes. The meeting was being taped by WCTV and recorded by Mrs. Ruiz.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

- Highlight Programs & Events John W. Decas School

Principal Noonan announced that from Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Harunk's 1st grade classrooms in celebration of the Hall of Presidents, four presidents visited the meeting:

Thomas Woodrow Wilson played by Athena Lawson-Barbone; John Quincy Adams played by Jacob Salomon; Martin Van Buren played by Joseph Wybraniec; and William Howard Taft played by Sophie Norcross.

Assistant Principal JoAnne Gibbs highlighted the Focus K-2 program and introduced Kindergarten teachers, Darlene McQuade, Karen Ault, and Wendy Nault, who explained that the centers had an integrated theme addressing the common core standards. There are four themes per year - community, animals, construction, our earth.

Questions and comments from the Committee members. The Committee thanked the teachers and the parents for bringing the students to the meeting.

- Noah Wambolt announced that DECA students were leaving tomorrow for Boston to the Mass DECA State competition.
- Mr. Swett finished his work in Jr. Achievement with the student in Ms. Giovanni's classroom.
- Dr. Schwamb announced the following events: DECA Home Show March 19, 20 - Dual enrollment program meeting with parents - 21 Middle School students taking STEM and Humanities courses at Mass Maritime this summer - Garden Club distributed certificates to students at Minot Forest - Walk at school at Minot - Jump Rope for Heart March 19 at Minot and March 16 at Decas - Garden Club awards at Decas and Miss Brooks piece won at state level and is being considering at the national level

Minutes of the Meeting

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2016, seconded Mr. Lazarus.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Lazarus - yea; Mrs. Veugen - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Mr. Swett - yea

VOTE: 4-0-0

Amendment to School Calendar 2016-2017

Added a day at the end of June to what was approved two weeks ago making the last scheduled day, June 20, 2017. Mr. Lazarus moved to accept the school calendar for 2016-2017 as amended, seconded Mrs. Veugen.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Lazarus - yea; Mrs. Veugen - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Mr. Swett - yea

VOTE: 4-0-0

Special Education Update

Beverly Shea, Administrator of Special Education updated the Committee. The Coordinated Program Review is finished and she thanked everyone involved and for making the changes at Middle and Minot for compliance. We have developed a partnership with Bridgewater State University for mental health support with interns and we are providing professional development for mental health and applied behavioral analysis.

In answer to the CPR citing Wareham for meeting timelines, a form was developed and training will be conducted. In three years a mid-cycle review will take place to see if Wareham has meet the regulations. The Out of District Coordinator was on board but the position has been phased out and the job duties are under the Administrator of Special Education now.

In answer to Ms. Capriccio's question about out of district cohort groups, Mrs. Shea stated that on a small scale cohorts have been identified and we have plans to bring back a number of students into the fold next year and will continue a review through June.

Mrs. Shea and Mrs. Tobin reviewed the PreSchool curriculum, classrooms, schedule, and a parent survey. The focus now is on programs, one is OWLS, as a launching pad to K2 Focus. The Preschool is developing a rubric, looking at the physical environment of the classroom and discussing restructuring the days being offered.

A preschool comprehensive evaluation was conducted. This evaluation was not a requirement but DESE suggests we formally evaluate our program. Recommendations were made. We are not in compliance with our peer model numbers for the preschool to be an integrated program.

There was discussion on having a full time speech therapist instead of speech assistants in PreS. We are looking at the current budget and will move a current position to Minot for direct service to students and through grant funds contract out for evaluations.

Regarding a preschool handbook, we do have one but the information is covered by the school handbook and given to parents. A handbook for PreSchool will be worked on.

Mrs. Tobin stated that the preschool teachers met and took action to address each of the points in the report.

There was a brief conversation on the parent survey, transportation for peer models, and the Curriculum Guideline provided by Mrs. Shea.

Financial Reports

Mr. MacMillan gave the February financial expenditure report. There is a smaller gap from last year. Areas of concern were pupil transportation out of district costs, guidance, testing, psychological services, and substitutes. There is a \$600,000 issue overall and we will utilize some revolving accounts.

Transfers

Professional development course reimbursement to professional development teacher of \$13,906

Program schools other than public schools to pupil transportation of \$98,000

Mr. Lazarus moved to approve both transfer requests as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Lazarus - yea; Mrs. Veugen - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Mr. Swett - yea

VOTE: 4-0-0

New Policy

Expense Reimbursement - Mr. MacMillan stated that there is no policy now and wants a policy in place for clarity.

Mrs. Veugen recommended the district review our policies to see what we may not have or embedded in another policy.

Chair Swett recommended under Submission of Reimbursement Requests replacing "timely" with "via a submitted signed voucher form within the same fiscal year".

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the Expense Reimbursement policy as amended, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Lazarus - yea; Mrs. Veugen - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Mr. Swett - yea

VOTE: 4-0-0

(Mrs. Veugen left the meeting at 8:57 p.m.)

No Quorum was present in the meeting room. The Chair continued the meeting with no votes taken.

Acceptance of Gifts - Hold

Curriculum Director's Report

Dr. Schwamb stated that the Strategic Plan will be presented at an upcoming School Committee meeting to share the plans and excitement.

School Committee Reports

Recommendations from Policy Review Committee - Hold

Chair Swett stated that at the last meeting he asked members if there was any interest in a non-binding resolution on H340, a moratorium on high stakes testing and PARCC as it relates to the evaluation of teachers, graduation requirement, and assessing the performance of a school/district. He would like to invite Mr. Fitzgerald, WEA President, and the Superintendent to express their thoughts on voting for a nonbinding resolution

Ms. Caporiccio, Mr. Lazarus, and Mr. Wambolt all agreed for a discussion at a future meeting. Dr. Schwamb deferred to the superintendent before giving a more formal opinion.

Any other business - None

Mr. Lazarus moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio

Roll call vote:

Mr. Lazarus - yea; Ms. Caporiccio - yea; Mr. Swett - yea

VOTE: 3-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Good News from Decas

Correspondence: Notice of Vacancy, Personnel List, Superintendent's Newsletter

School Calendar 2016-2017

Update from the Department of Student Services

WPS Monthly Expenditure Report 2016 February

WPS Transfer Requests

Expense Reimbursement Policy
Approval of Gifts
Student Activity Account
Payment Procedures
Emergency Closings
Transportation of Drivers'/Monitors' Children
Cleaning Up Spills of Body Fluids
Animals in the Classroom
Service Animals
Implementation of the Life-Threatening Allergy Treatment

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2016

TOWN OF WAREHAM
TOWN CLERK