

School Committee Meeting

March 25, 2021

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on March 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, April Rossi and Mary Morgan. Also present, Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, Assistant Superintendent, and Jamie Wiksten, Recording Secretary.

Arrived Late (due to technical difficulties): Michael Flaherty

Public Participation:

No public participation.

Good News:

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced that senior Grace Brogioli won the Scholar/Athlete Essay Award. She was named one of two students to represent Massachusetts in a pool of candidates for the NIAAA “Scholar/Athlete of the Year Award.”

Chair Bacchiocchi shared the Onset Bay Center will be offering free programs over April vacation and she was happy to report that School Committee members will be allowed to enter the schools in the near future.

Student Representative, Emily Roberge:

Ms. Roberge shared that Soccer, Volleyball, Football, Field Hockey and Track have begun. Wareham High School is hosting Spirit Week. Both in-person and remote students are participating.

(Mr. Flaherty joined the meeting late due to technical difficulties)

Minutes of March 11, 2021:

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

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

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 1

VOTE: 4-0-1

Student Attending Report:

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared the Student Attending report based on the January 1, 2021 report.

She presented the statistics of the past three years. Homeschool numbers are higher this year due to Covid. Currently, homeschool students are slowly returning to in-person learning.

There are 64 students who school choice into the Wareham district.

Chair Bacchiocchi shared that Wareham gained School Choice students this year, and the way in which Wareham is delivering remote learning had great appeal.

Student Advisory Committee:

Mr. Palladino introduced the Student Advisory Committee. Unfortunately with Covid, meetings for this group are limited. Mr. Palladino reported the group is very helpful in sharing student voice.

Grace Brogioli spoke about the change in the Wednesday schedule, as the length of the day was modified to a half-day schedule, and rotates on a bi-weekly schedule, with advisory and extra help in the afternoon.

Maya Brown shared with the committee the WHS students enjoy the outdoor fenced in area built last year. Mr. Palladino shared that the space has been well used during the pandemic.

Autumn Francis shared that the new school schedule is less confusing and is working much better for the students.

Dr. Schwamb asked Mr. Palladino if this group of students will be looking at the new Strategic Plan, and is hopeful the Student Advisory Committee will offer feedback.

Mr. Flaherty asked how the students feel about the longer scheduled hours. Grace Brogioli responded that she prefers the longer days, and is looking forward to the combination of cohorts.

Report of the Business Manager:

The Monthly Financial Report was presented to the Committee.

Mr. Flaherty shared that he'd like to see updated documents on the Business Office website page.

The Chair asked if there were concerns regarding budgeting legal fees for negotiations. Ms. Suckow shared that she is watching this closely, and will do a transfer when needed.

Budget Transfers:

Ms. Suckow announced that the transfers consist of the reallocation of salaries to match salary lines correctly with DESE numbers.

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

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

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Authorization of Student Activities:

Ms. Suckow recommended the School Committee authorize the following Principals and Designees to control the Student Activity Checking Accounts.

Ms. Rossi asked why Ms. Suckow is the designee for the two elementary schools.

Ms. Suckow responded that she was asked to be named the designee.

The Chair asked for information regarding the Student Activities process.

Ms. Suckow responded that student pays fees for activities. The designees are able to write a check but cannot distribute until it goes through the warrant process.

The Chair asked if there are any changes to the proposed designees. Ms. Suckow responded that Heidi Foley and herself are the proposed changes to the designees.

Mr. Brogioli made a motion to appoint the following Principals and Designees to control the student activities accounts, seconded by Mr. Flaherty:

Wareham High School – Scott Palladino, Principal and Heidi Foley (Designee)

Wareham Middle School – Tracie Cote, Principal and Sandi Ponte (Designee)

Minot Forest Elementary School – Joan Seamans, Principal and Christine Suckow (Designee)

Decas Elementary School – Bethany Chandler, Principal and Christine Suckow (Designee)

PASS Evening School – Jane Fondulis, Principal and Joseph Marcus (Designee)

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

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Report of the Superintendent:

Dr. Shaver-Hood asked that the Committee approve the bill warrant and payroll warrant as listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter.

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

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

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

FY22 Transportation/Athletic Fees:

Dr. Shaver-Hood asked the committee to waive the FY22 Transportation Fees. While the school district anticipates in-person learning next school year, another year of waiving the fees would be proactive if Covid impacts another school year.

The Superintendent also asked the committee to waive athletic fees for one more year.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to waive both fees, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion. Ms. Rossi asked where the funds will come from to support transportation and athletics without fees.

Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that over the next two years, there would be a number of grants to support both transportation and athletics.

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

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

MOA Unit A/B increase:

The Superintendent reminded the committee that Unit B took a voluntary freeze for 2020-2021, and Unit A negotiated to receive a 1% raise on their 16th week of pay. The district is now in a far better situation, and after discussions with WEA, she would like to institute a step and lane change, including 1% retroactive pay from the start of the year.

Mr. Flaherty missed the executive session on March 11, 2021, and mentioned he may need to abstain from the vote, due to his absence.

(Mr. Brogioli recused himself from the vote)

Mr. Rossi made a motion to approve the MOA, increasing Unit A and Unit B salaries by 1%, with steps and lane changes, seconded by Mary Morgan.

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

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 1

VOTE: 4-0-1

Reopening of Elementary Schools:

The Superintendent shared the elementary schools are returning full time on April 5, 2021.

The 3 ft. rule will be enforced in the classrooms, 6 ft. in hallways, 3 ft. in classrooms, no visitors, and students and staff are asked to stay home if they are not feeling well.

The Superintendent submitted two waivers: one to delay the elementary start date and the second to allow Grade 5 to begin April 26th along with the Middle school, The first waiver was denied, and the second has been approved by DESE.

The Superintendent shared that she will be bringing a vote to the next meeting, requesting a Personal Day Buy Back vote at the April 8th meeting. Buy Back of personal days will be offered for the 2020-2021 school year. Many staff member have remaining personal day balances and are often used at the end of the school year. Selling back days or held as vouchers for classroom supplies will be presented to the committee at the next meeting. This buy back could be a win for both teachers and students.

Ms. Rossi asked if there would be any exceptions with transportation variances with the reopening of the school building.

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that the district cannot support variances at this time.

Mr. Flaherty asked about the Biology Teacher posting for the 2021-2022 school year, and asked about the Grade 4 teacher request that was made during the Budget Workshop. The Superintendent explained that currently the enrollment is 24 students per grade 4 classrooms. If that number increases, then the district will post for a new position and will be watching this class size number closely.

Report of the School Committee:

Meeting Calendar:

The Chair shared that adjustments have been made to the calendar including a Strategic Plan presentation on Tuesday, November 9, 2021.

Mr. Flaherty wished that meetings would return to Wednesdays. The Chair reminded Mr. Flaherty the meetings moved to Thursdays due to the availability of the meeting room at the Multiservice Center.

Mr. Brogioli made a motion to approve the School Committee Meeting Calendar, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

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

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

The Chair shared that she is anxious to return to in-person meetings. She has made an effort at the town level, and will share updates when this can happen.

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

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

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____



Agenda

Superintendent's Newsletter

Minutes from 3/11/2021

Student Attending Report

Monthly Financial Report

Budget Transfers

School Committee Meeting Dates

Personnel list

Vacancy list