

School Committee Meeting

April 8, 2021

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on April 8, 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 Michael Flaherty. Also present, Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, Assistant Superintendent, and Jamie Wiksten, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Mary Morgan

Good News:

Mr. Brogioli congratulated the Boys' Soccer Team for two wins, which has not occurred in almost a decade.

Dr. Schwamb announced a few graduating seniors have been accepted to Ivy League schools for the fourth year in a row; including Smith, Harvard, Holyoke and Brown.

Chair Bacchiocchi thanked Dr. Shaver-Hood for setting up the school visits for the School Committee members. Next week the School Committee will be visiting the Decas Elementary School.

The Chair also congratulated the DECA students along with Indiana Troupe for their achievements and recognized Cecilia Bottino and the G20 Virtual Summit that she recently took part.

Minutes of the Meeting March 25, 2021:

Mr. Flaherty asked for a note to be added that he arrived late (due to technical difficulties).

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve the minutes with the recommended change, seconded by Apryl Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

District Handbook:

Dr. Shaver-Hood presented the handbook to the committee with updates made to all of the amended policies during the 2020-2021 school year, and changes to School Committee Members, staff names, and 2021-2022 School Calendar.

The Chair asked what the process is for reviewing the District Handbook. The Superintendent explained that the policies and laws are reviewed and updated.

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

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Wareham High School Handbook:

Mr. Palladino explained that traditionally changes are noted throughout the year, and very few changes were flagged for the upcoming year. At the high school level, there is a handbook committee, chaired by the Deans and includes a google doc for teachers to add suggestions. The student advisory committee also reviews the handbook and offers suggestions.

Mr. Palladino would like to remove mid-term exams, keeping final exams. He also share that the library is ever changing, and the deans did a great job making changes to the dress code information.

Mr. Flaherty thanked Mr. Palladino and his team for their hard work. He asked if there was any push back with the changes made to mid terms. Mr. Palladino responded that mid terms create a lot of unnecessary stress for students and disrupt the process. Mr. Brogioli asked about the library hours. Mr. Palladino anticipates the library will stay open later in the day, once the buildings re-open.

The Chair asked about the high school dress code, and stated that it is different from the district handbook. Mr. Palladino responded that the High School dress code is different at the high school level, and likes to be consistent and fair with this age group.

Ms. Cinelli and Ms. Dineen were present at the meeting. Ms. Cinelli feels the previous dress code was gender and culturally biased, and tried to make the updated dress code as neutral as possible.

The Chair stated that in the district policy tank tops and undergarments are addressed differently.

Ms. Dineen explained that the dress code is in place to ensure attire is not disruptive to the learning environment. In this day and age, the team did not want girls to feel like their shoulders were a body part that would cause distraction, and felt eliminating tank tops from proper dress code was targeting women.

Mr. Palladino said that if the High School staff felt students were taking advantage of the updates to the policy, there would be adjustments made next year.

The Chair shared concerned that enforcement can be difficult.

The Chair asked if the no school announcement was included in the handbook, and Mr. Palladino confirmed that the information is included.

Mr. Flaherty noted that the Handbook has come a long way.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve the High School yearbook, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Wareham Middle School Handbook:

Ms. Cote shared with the committee there were minor edits, which included appropriate footwear, updates to the list of clubs, and rules for tampering of night lock devices.

Ms. Rossi questioned the tampering of night lock devices, and asked if it was a concern or merely precautionary.

Ms. Cote responded that it has not been a concern yet, but sees it as a temptation.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve the Middle School handbook, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Wareham Elementary Handbook:

Ms. Seamans shared that she and Ms. Chandler collaborated together along with their teams. Minor adjustments were made, including preparations for information regarding the new elementary school.

Ms. Rossi noted that there was a page numbering concern with Page 42.

The Chair asked how the handbook is distributed. Ms. Seamans responded that it is shared electronically with hard copies for those who do not have access to the electronic copy.

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

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Report of the Superintendent:

The Superintendent recommended the following donations and gifts:

\$24,000 dollars of PPE materials donated by Ocean State Job Lot and specialized equipment from Jennifer Govoni.

Mr. Flaherty motioned to accept the gifts and donations, seconded by Apryl Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

The Superintendent asked the School Committee to accept the bill warrants and payroll warrants as listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter.

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

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Personal Day Buy Back for Unit A, B, C, D:

The Superintendent shared with the Committee that an MOA had been written offering staff members in Unit A, B, C and D the opportunity to buy back personal days.

Unit A \$175.00 per day

Unit B \$175.00 per day

Unit C \$90.00 per day

Unit D \$90.00 per day

A second option would be to return a day for a voucher in the listed amount, to be used for classroom supplies. This is a one-time offer; the WEA has agreed to sign the MOA and Dr. Shaver-Hood asked the Committee to put it to a vote.

Mr. Brogioli asked how much Permanent Intermittent Subs makes per day. It was shared by Ms. Cote the PI Subs make \$118 per day. Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that the amount listed above is an average cost, making the offer an equitable amount within all units.

Mr. Brogioli made a motion to approve the MOA for Personal Day Buy Back, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Update: return to in-person - Elementary School:

The Superintendent shared the elementary schools returned 5 days a week, in-person, on Monday, April 5, 2021. The remote option remains intact for families who wish for their child to remain at home.

Minot: 172 Third Grade Students (132 in-person and 40 remote)

137 Fourth Grade Students (98 in-person and 39 remote)

Ms. Seamans shared that students are happy to be in school with both cohorts, and loved seeing their teachers in person.

Decas: 463 Total Students:

In-person: (Preschool – 59, K-141, Grade 1 -143, Grade 2 – 119)

Remote: (Preschool – 5, K-24, Grade 1-41, Grade 2- 26)

Ms. Chandler shared that students are happy to be back together, and three remote teachers are back in the classrooms as well.

Mr. Flaherty asked for an update on lunch and transportation since the return. Ms. Seamans shared there is a very strict routine. Ms. Chandler shared that the cafeteria/gymnasium is a quieter setting than in past years.

Mr. Flaherty asked if the teachers are happy to return, and Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that she can't speak for them, but can imagine they are very happy to be with their students.

Ms. Rossi asked about the tent at Decas. Ms. Chandler responded that the tent is used for as multipurpose outdoor classroom/meeting space.

Ms. Rossi applauded all of the hard work.

Return to School – April 26, 2021

Dr. Shaver-Hood asked the committee to vote for the high school to return full time on April 26, 2021. DESE has not announced a date for the high school, and Wareham has safety measures in place for the secondary schools to return safely on April 26, 2021.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve the High School full-time return date on April 26, 2021, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Updates from the Superintendent:

Dr. Shaver-Hood thanked Michelle Fitzgerald who secures vaccine appointments for the staff. Her help and willingness to work with the Wareham School District made a positive impact.

Currently, Wareham is in a unique situation without financial concerns due to the many ESSR grants. The Superintendent is looking at what the district can provide beyond the essentials with these funds. Job postings have been created for staffing. The Superintendent is looking for a STEAM teacher, an Assistant Principal for the preschool, network specialist, special education paras, Special Ed teachers at the high school, a possible Grade 4 teacher, Director of Facilities due to many upcoming projects, and a need for a HVAC technician.

Mr. Flaherty responded that it is great to add new positions, and asked if there any concerns with final cost for the new building prior to hiring new staff.

Dr. Shaver-Hood explained that preschool furniture and supplies are not covered in the MSBA funding. Because of the recent position Wareham is now in, the district can make technology purchases with district funds.

Mr. Flaherty winced at the Director of Facilities. Dr. Shaver-Hood explained the position is needed due to the many projects, including preventive maintenance. The Business Manager and Transportation Director do not have time for the new demands of this role.

Mr. Flaherty asked if the full time HVAC could be shared with the town. Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that she has made that offer.

Ms. Rossi asked if the weight room could be renamed, as it is still referred to as the Girls/Boys Club, and can be confusing when there is a Boys/Girls Club in town housed in another building.

Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that it is a good idea, and would explore the idea for clarification between the two buildings.

The Chair asked if the old Boys/Girls Club building is a school or town building. Dr. Shaver-Hood responded it is a town building.

Dr. Shaver-Hood also mentioned that the fields and grounds trailers/storage are in desperate need for updating.

Mr. Flaherty asked if the Gatemen are committed using the Spillane Field this summer. Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that Wareham is putting up a new score board, and the gatemen are paying a significant portion of the cost. She also noted that there would be upgrades to the softball and gym scoreboard.

Ms. Rossi asked what the former coop building is currently used for, and the Superintendent responded the building is used only for storage at this time.

Mr. Flaherty asked if the town meeting date is set. The Superintendent shared the last date mentioned was May 8, 2021.

The Chair asked about the administrative job for preschool. The Superintendent responded that currently there is a Lead/Department Head. Wareham is due for an accreditation and once the elementary schools are moved into the new building, the numbers will increase at the preschool level. There is the same amount of preschool classrooms in the new building, but there are 11 Kindergarten classrooms, and currently there are only 10 Kindergarten teachers.

Dr Shaver-Hood shared that Wareham will have a busy summer between CARE and the many summer programs offered.

CARE K-2 and BOOST K-3 will be held at Decas Elementary.

CARE, Accelerated Academy, and ESY will be offered through Special Education.

Accelerated Academy and SAIL, and 5th Quarter will be offered at the High School.

Report of the School Committee:

New Elementary School Building Update: The Chair asked for the Superintendent to give an update. The Superintendent shared that there are pictures online for public viewing. Administration has walked the building and assigned rooms for teachers. Ms. Seamans shared that staff members are excited to see the classroom placement. Ms. Chandler shared the excitement of the staff.

Mr. Flaherty asked about the middle school space once Minot evacuates the space. The Superintendent shared there is a wait list of people who want that space for programs such as Beyond School Time, PASS School, and office spaces. Mr. Flaherty asked if it would make sense to move central office to the back of the middle school. The Superintendent responded that it is important to have the middle school settled back into their building before any changes are made.

Dr. Schwamb shared that it is quite amazing that the new building is under budget and ahead of schedule, and could be a model school for the state.

Dr. Schwamb gave kudos to the leader, Dr. Shaver-Hood, who made sure the project was steered in the right direction from the beginning.

The Chair shared that MASC Day on the Hill is virtual this year and will be held on Friday, April 16, 2021.

Any Other Business:

Mr. Flaherty asked about senior activities. Mr. Palladino shared that the current focus is on prom, and senior events will be held on Spillane Field in May and early June.

The Chair shared that she heard back from the Town Administration and the School Committee is still unable to meet in person at the Multi Service Center.

The Chair thanked Dr. Schwamb for the early draft of the Strategic Plan, keeping the School Committee up to date with all of the information that she provided. Dr. Schwamb responded that the final draft would be included in the June 17, 2021 meeting for a vote.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Michael Flaherty - yea
yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____



List of Documents:

Agenda
Superintendent's Newsletter
Draft of Minutes: March 25, 2021
Proposed Changes for the WPS Handbook p.10-11
Working draft: District Handbook
Proposed Changes for the WHS Handbook pg. 100-101
Working draft: WHS Handbook
Proposed Changes to the WMS Handbook pg. 1-10
Working draft: WMS Handbook
Proposed Changes to the Elementary Handbook p. 79-80
Working draft: Elementary School Handbook
Annual Strategic & School Improvement Plan 2026 (DRAFT)
Personnel List
Vacancy List