

April 25, 2018

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Joyce Bacchiocchi, Laurie Spear, Michael Flaherty, Mary Morgan, Rebekah Pratt and student representative Jamie Read as well as Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood, and recording secretary Michelle Ruiz.

Chair Bacchiocchi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She announced that the meeting was being taped for live broadcast by WCTV and an audio recording by Mrs. Ruiz. She then led everyone in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Fitzgerald, Teacher and President WEA, remarked upon the upcoming vote on the district calendar for next year. The Union polled educators whose preference was to start before Labor Day. A day in August is more academically valued than a day in June. He suggested perhaps having a policy whereby Wareham starts before Labor Day so planning can be made in advance.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced the following:

- May 12th 9-3 DECA Ford Test Drive at WHS - \$10 is given by Ford to DECA for each test drive
- April 26th tomorrow WHS top 5 luncheon and JROTC Honors Ceremony

Chair Bacchiocchi thanked the Decas PTA for allowing her to participate in their book fair.

School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols 2017-18

Chair Bacchiocchi presented an outline of what is expected of the school committee. She had distributed this document to each member and the Superintendent previously and was looking for feedback from the members.

Mrs. Morgan complimented the Chair for bringing this document forward and recommended adding under Communicate language to ensure that all committee members are equally informed of all items the same time. Chair Bacchiocchi asked Mrs. Morgan to send her the language in writing to add to the document.

Chair Bacchiocchi said this document is not a policy but can be part of an operating manual in the future. She was seeking a vote as a group.

Mr. Flaherty thought it was a great idea but was common sense and some state law. He did not wish to sign the document as it makes a lot of assumptions.

Mrs. Pratt thought it was a great idea, especially for new members. It is a great set of guidelines to communicate and how we represent ourselves and our schools.

Mrs. Morgan stated that as a compromise maybe we don't sign off on the document but accept it as guidelines.

Mrs. Pratt moved to approve the Operating Protocols for 2017-2018, seconded by Mrs. Spear.

VOTE: yea – 4; nay – 1 (Mr. Flaherty); abstain – 0

Minutes of the Meeting

Mrs. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of April 11, 2018, seconded by Mrs. Pratt.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

Update on Minot Building Project

Mr. MacMillan & Mrs. Seamans updated the committee on the Minot Building Project as follows:

- currently there are three proposals to review on the site and educational plan;
- there is more room for fields around the school with a 3-story building;
- the architect had a table at town meeting with information to raise awareness;
- we are offering tours of Minot except on MCAS dates by calling or emailing the principal;
- the next meeting of the Building Committee is Monday at 5:30 p.m. at MSC and is open to the public.

School Attending Children Report as of January 1, 2018

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that we have 2,136 students in our local school and a total of 2,847 students in Wareham which includes charter, vocational, out district, homeschooled, etc.

Detailed pages and historical information was also included with this report.

In answer to Mr. Flaherty's questions TECCA is a virtual school, which enrolls some Wareham students.

Mid-Year Student Attendance

Dr. Shaver-Hood presented the mid-year report and a report on attendance from September 2017 – February 2018.

Vote on School Calendar for 2018-19 School Year

Dr. Shaver-Hood reported that staff had been surveyed. New staff orientation will be August 21 & 22 then August 27 & 28 first staff days and August 29 school opens. This calendar gives us more space at the end of June. MCAS dates are on the calendar as well.

Regarding holding school on election days, Dr. Shaver-Hood said it is difficult to release on those days, some of our professional in-service days are scheduled with other districts.

Mrs. Spear commented that starting school after Labor Day was the parent preferences she heard.

Mr. Flaherty and Mrs. Morgan agreed with Mr. Fitzgerald to stay firm with starting either before or after Labor Day.

Mr. Flaherty moved approval of the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented, seconded by Mrs. Pratt.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Result of Town Meeting Budget Discussion and Possible Vote

Mr. MacMillan and Dr. Schwamb reviewed the FY18/19 grade configurations to be voted on at the next meeting.

Option 1 - grade 3 to Decas; grade 4 to Middle; PreS to Middle; grade 8 to HS

Enrollments 640 WHS; Upper Elementary 826; Lower Elementary 783

Option 2 - grade 3 & 4 to Middle; PreS to Decas; grade 8 to HS

Enrollments 640 HS; 938 Upper Elementary; 671 Lower Elementary

There was a discussion on the capacity of our schools and a concern if we are trying to retain our students and get students back as well as the possible new 40B project. Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the option is a temporary measure and we cannot maintain our buildings with an influx of students. She also offered tours through the Decas School as well as Minot Forest.

Dr. Shaver-Hood reassured the Committee that once the committee determines the grade configuration, there will be support systems in place and space available for the specialists to service students.

The administration was asked about the pros and cons of both options.

Option 2 - PreS with K, 1, 2 - furniture and fixtures are the right size, a student would be in one building for 4 years, keep continuity and allows more collaboration between PreS and K.

Option 2 - grades 3, 4 to Middle – can create Minot family again and students will be in a better building, MCAS grades in same school; grades 3 & 4 on elementary time

Option 1 – grade 3 to Decas and grade 4 and PreS to Middle - number of disruptions, will need to purchase a large amount of portables, splitting schedules, and purchasing playground equipment for two areas

The additional money from the town is for 2.5 teachers (1 retirement in December) and all staff up to minimum wage. Closing Minot cafeteria does not affect the budget but will require fewer cafeteria staff in the district and less equipment maintenance costs. Any savings will be for equipment replacement and investment on the quality of food.

Report of the Business Manager

Monthly Expenditure - Financial report for March - more money this year than last but have paid one fewer payroll so we are actually 1% behind.

Transfer Requests:

Tuition to Non-Public Schools Collaboratives to Student Transportation Services Out of District - \$200,000

School Leadership Middle to Academic Directors/Dept Heads Middle \$115,693

Teacher, Classroom Minot to Academic Directors/Dept Heads Minot \$127,518

School Leadership Middle to Teacher, Classroom Middle \$7,309

Teacher, Classroom Minot to Substitutes Minot \$33,364

Mrs. Spear moved to approve the transfers as requested, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay - 0; abstain - 0

(Miss Read left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.)

Report of the Director of Student Services

Mrs. Fay shared good news: unified track at WHS in second year; Andrea Barrett teaching the power of music and art in ASD program at Middle; received grant literacy kits at Minot

Important Dates - SEPAC is sponsoring a parent rights seminar at WMS on May 29th and on June 12th a Q & A with Melissa Fay.

What we have been up to....

- 7 paras in TLC completed the national registered behavior technician training and passed their competencies
- Pilgrim Area Collaborative ABA training for six paras done in April
- Therapeutic Learning Centers - working with staff to create a template for the district on implementing our new programming for our centers to support students

Forward Thinking...

- Continue collaboration; build understanding around social/emotional struggles and trauma; build positive and productive relationships with the families of our students

The committee members had questions on the special education budget and parent support.

Acceptance of a Gift

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of an AeroGarden Kit from Donna and Xavier Lambert to the Wareham Middle School Science Department.

Mr. Flaherty moved acceptance of the gift as recommended, seconded by Mrs. Pratt.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay - 0; abstain - 0

Discussion on Public Comment Policy - M. Flaherty

Mr. Flaherty asked his colleagues for their thoughts on engaging parents more and allowing them to participate and ask questions at the meetings to gain some valuable input before decisions are made.

Chair Bacchiocchi stated she has done research on this topic and no other school committee she can find conducts their meetings this way. We have public comment and we hold public forums.

Mrs. Spear stated that there is frustration in crowds, which is a negative, and she does not see the positive in a controlled way.

Mrs. Morgan felt the ideas was worth trying and people will be more motivated and have more of a voice. We can place guidelines for extreme negativity and in the interest of time.

Chair Bacchiocchi stated to make a change in a policy, the policy will have to go before the Policy Review Committee that is not scheduled to meet again until September.

Mrs. Pratt was not opposed to allow input on important agenda items but we need to be productive and positive. She suggested this topic be added to a future meeting, not the next meeting but the meeting after, to allow members to do their research and think about it further.

Chair Bacchiocchi agreed this topic will be explored further for a future meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Approval of Bills and Payroll Warrants

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended approval of the warrants as stated in her newsletter:

Payroll Week ending April 14, 2018 \$853,051.75

Bill Warrant 4/26/18 \$195,032.98 changed to \$194,595.48

Bill Warrant 4/26/18 \$3,034.79

- plus the following warrants:

Bill Warrant 5/3/18 \$2,808.79

Bill Warrant 5/3/18 \$568,207.99

Payroll Week ending April 21, 2018 \$96,476.93

Mrs. Spear moved to approve the bill and payroll warrants as recommended, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

School Committee Reports

Committee Assignments 2018-19

Chair Bacchiocchi announced the following committee assignments:

- Policy Review Committee: Spear (Chair) and Pratt
- Superintendent's Advisory Committee Budget: Flaherty and Bacchiocchi
- Superintendent's Advisory Committee Curriculum and Technology: Morgan and Spear
- Superintendent's Advisory Committee for Public Relations: Spear and Bacchiocchi
- Building Committee: Bacchiocchi and Pratt
- Wellness Committee: Spear

- Cape Cod Collaborative: Flaherty
- Town Audit Committee: Bacchiocchi
- Onset Women's Club Scholarship: Bacchiocchi and Pratt
- Negotiations Secretaries: Pratt/Flaherty
- Negotiations Cafeteria Employees: Spear/Bacchiocchi
- Negotiations Bus Drivers: Pratt/Morgan
- Negotiations Custodians/Laborers: Spear/Morgan
- Negotiations Unit A Teachers, Unit B Administrators, Unit C Paraprofessionals: Morgan/Flaherty

Any other business

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced the Committee will be meeting this Friday, April 27th at 5:15 p.m. at the Wareham Middle School Auditorium to reaffirm its vote to close Minot Forest School and to vote on a grade level configuration. She urged parents to come out for public comment and urged the committee to make this vote on Friday night.

Mr. Flaherty stated that he checked with the Attorney General's Office and since it was not on Monday's agenda to have this vote we have to take the vote again.

Mrs. Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Pratt.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain – 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____

List of documents:

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

Wareham School Committee/Superintendent Operating Protocols 2017-2018

Minutes of the Meeting April 11, 2018

School Attending Children as of January 1, 2018

Student Attendance 2017-2018

School Calendar 2018-2019

WPS Monthly Expenditure Report March

WPS Transfer Requests 04/24/2018

Student Services Update

Public Comment at School Committee Meetings Policy

Wareham School Committee 2018-2019 Committee Assignments

RECEIVED

MAY 24 2018

TOWN OF WAREHAM
TOWN CLERK