June 6, 2018

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Joyce Bacchiocchi, Laurie Spear, Mary Morgan, Michael Flaherty, 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 broadcast by WCTV and an audio recording by Mrs. Ruiz. We joined her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

GOOD NEWS

- Mr. Flaherty shared that he had attended the Ice Cream Social at Decas School for incoming Kindergarten as well as the Top 10 Awards at WHS.
- Dr. Shaver-Hood announced the award of the Coordinated Family Engagement grant of $100,000 for FY19. Tomorrow evening is Senior Honors and Friday evening is Graduation.
- Mrs. Bacchiocchi recognized WCTV Interns, Jason Ellis and Alana Nicoletti, for the MOVE awards, Jamie Read for her award, and the Teacher of the Month Award at Decas. She also congratulated spring sport athletes and the Girls Tennis team for making the tournament.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mrs. Spear moved to approve the minutes of May 23, 2018, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Update on the Minot Forest Building Project

This project will now be called the Wareham Elementary School Project.

Mr. MacMillan reported that a team went to MSBA and met with the Facilities Assessment Subcommittee who reviewed our design and project scope making sure it lines up with the original project. The subcommittee was pleased with the work the designer has done on the Minot site. We will be getting them more information. The next meeting of the School Building Committee is on Monday next week at 5:30 pm in the MSC Room 228. The public is welcome.

Report of the Business Manager

a) Monthly Financial Report – A budget freeze has been in place for a while. The issues are out of district tuition and transportation services. We have drawn on school choice to offset transportation.

b) Revolving Funds & Private Grant Accounts – The summary indicated the ending balances, the revenue sources, and the planned expenditures. Mr. MacMillan will report on the federal and state grants at the next meeting.

The committee questioned closing out the GED account and the ending balance of Circuit Breaker and its impact for next year.

c) Transfer of Funds

$19,221 HS Tech Para to District Tech Maintenance
$75,548 Decas Teacher Salary to Decas SpEd Therapist
$12,000 Decas & Minot classroom supplies to School Committee Legal
$20,000 Custodial Salaries Minot & Middle to Building Maintenance Minot & Middle

Mr. MacMillan noted that there is an increase in the School Committee Legal account in next year's budget.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the transfers as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Pratt.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Vote to Access the Special Education Stabilization Fund

Mr. MacMillan presented a request to access the special education stabilization fund. He reviewed the projected deficit in special education tuition. The funding sources are LEA, Circuit Breaker, and the IDEA Grant. In order to meet the deficit he proposed a $100,000 transfer from the Stabilization Fund and a transfer within the LEA budget of $83,049. Mr. MacMillan also presented the Historic Tuition Costs from 2013-2019 projected.

Mrs. Fay reviewed the reasons for the increases in costs:

- Disciplinary placements – 5 students (3 felonies; 2 imminent danger)
- Independent evaluation requests - can be very costly $750 -$10,000 per student (7 last year and 12 this year)
- Extended evaluation placements - increased $10,000-$40,000 (3 requests last year and 9 requests this year)

There were questions and comments from the members.

Mr. MacMillan explained that the SpEd Stabilization Fund was set up last year at the fall town meeting for $200,000. To access this fund a vote of approval is needed by both the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Pratt moved to approve the expenditure of $100,000 from the SpEd Stabilization fund for the cost of special education tuition, subject to the approval of the Selectmen, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- WHS/WMS PTA enrichment grants awarded to middle school teachers totaling $7,565.71
- $409.39 from Stop & Shop A+ Awards Program to WHS
- The Class of 2018 gift of an outdoor eating area with an additional cement pad, white vinyl fence with security gate, and additional outdoor seating/tables.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the gifts as recommended, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for Business Manager

Dr. Shaver-Hood invited Mrs. Susan Owens to meet the Committee as the candidate for the Business Manager position.

Mrs. Owens gave her introduction including her background and current position in the Sharon Public Schools as Business Manager and her involvement in Sharon with building projects.

The committee members had some questions for Mrs. Owens.

Mrs. Morgan moved to vote approval of the appointment of Susan Owen as Business Manager, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent's Report

a) Approval of Bills and Payroll Warrants

Payroll of May 26, 2018 $854,152.97
Bill Warrant 6/7/18 $56,599.65
Payroll of June 2, 2018 $142,293.82
Bill Warrant 6/14/18 $109,934.56 & $80,296.85

Mrs. Spear moved approval of the payroll and bill warrants as presented, seconded by Mr. Flaherty.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

b) Review of Reconfiguration of Schools

Dr. Shaver-Hood reviewed the staffing and class sizes for next year. She was not able to provide the comparisons from last year as it was just requested today. She will also provide the members with the special education numbers for substantially separate by grade level and total school.

The Superintendent is working with the principals in the scheduling process and room assignments and once the maps are finalized, she will send out updates. There is a total of 22 reductions of full-time positions; 3 RIFs; eliminated 14 part-time positions and added back 12 full-time cafeteria workers.
Areas of concern:

- Minot – need funding for a social worker
- Middle – need funding to add one more teacher for 5th & 6th grade
- Central Office - lost a bookkeeper may add this back
- Exchange student program revenue is up to $100,000 so we will add a counselor at the high school to work with these students and assist in the increased number of students coming to the high school

Mr. Flaherty brought a flash drive which he had placed information and requested it to be shown. He showed graphs from the February 28th meeting of the current structure and proposed staff with the closing of Minot. He noted huge changes from the new numbers and expressed concern with the lack of deans for discipline.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that the principals were concerned with the number of required evaluations, and after seeing retirements and resignations, some money was freed up to keep the Assistant Principals in place. The Middle School chose not to have a dean. These decisions were a collaborative effort of the administrators.

It was reported that the savings is the same but the positions were reallocated in the most preferable model.

Mr. Flaherty shared slides from DESE on the alternative school for 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 and asked why not 7th and 8th graders any more when we had the alternative school for grades 7-12?

The current principal of record is Mrs. Fondulis who works with Mr. Palladino in the High School. Next year's program will be housed at the Multi-Service Center from 4-7 p.m.

In response to the concern about disciplinary issues for 7th and 8th graders, Dr. Shaver-Hood stated there was more behavior issues from lower middle school and upper elementary (Grades 3-6). We will explore an alternative program at this level and will be forming a committee.

The Chair stated that yes the configuration changed from the beginning but our resources are being used in the best possible way. The Superintendent noted that we have 4 outstanding principals to lead us forward where the other model we had 3 principals.

c) Regarding the moving process we are having weekly meetings. The cost to move is $40,000 to $50,000. The Elementary PTA is donating $15,000 for a playground area at middle school and the Minot preschool playground will be moved to Decas School and fenced in for about $10,000.

d) The time schedules for next year have been adjusted with the start time at Minot earlier, later at Decas, and no change for HS/Middle. Bus registration information is being sent in and on-line payment deadline is July 18th due to technical problems in paying on-line. We will be leasing vans and bringing back two out of district runs to in-house to offset costs.

School Committee Reports
Chair Bacchiocchi announced the Release of Executive Session Minutes of March 22, 2017, October 25, 2017, January 3, 2018, and February 28, 2018.

Any other business - None

Mrs. Morgan moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Spear.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____

List of documents:
Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy
Minutes of the Meeting May 23, 2018
WPS Monthly Expenditure Report May 2018
WPS Summary of Revolving Funds and Private Grants 2018 May
WPS Transfer Requests
Request to Access SpEd Stabilization Fund 6/6/18
PTA Grants
Class of 2018 Gift