

Wareham School Committee
June 16, 2022

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on June 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was recorded by WCTV and streamed live, and audio recorded by Jamie Wiksten.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Present: Joyce Bacchiocchi, Kevin Brogioli, Apryl Rossi, Geoff Swett, and Brennan McKiernan. Also present, Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, and Jamie Wiksten, Recording Secretary.

No Public Participation:

Good news: Ms. Bacchiocchi mentioned she had the opportunity to attend the WHS award ceremonies and graduation for the Class of 2022 and congratulated the graduates.

Obsolete Furniture: The Superintendent asked the committee to deem items listed in their packets as obsolete. Ms. Rossi asked if any items were sold, and would there be a list of such items. The Superintendent shared they are working with a company to resell the chrome books and will have an update for the committee.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to deem the items obsolete, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

ESY Summer Program, Melissa Fay:

Ms. Fay presented to the committee the Extended School Year program is for students with IEPs. Ms. Fay shared there are 125 students with a 5-week and a 6-week program. ESY serves breakfast Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. There are a few staff positions to fill, and are hopeful to fill these positions prior to the start of ESY.

Mr. Swett asked about hiring. Ms. Fay responded that we continue to remain optimistic, but hiring is difficult globally at this time, as no one is applying to these positions.

BST, Summer Programs:

Ms. Fondulis shared that Beyond School Time (BST) has 13 grants and will serve the following rosters: CARE (145 students), BOOST (42 students), and Boot Camp for incoming K students (14 students).

WMS: There is an Accelerated Academy at the Middle School and is offered by BST to provide academics for learning loss. There are 60 students in Grades 5-7.

WHS: BST also provides an Accelerated Program at the High School (35-45 students), and SAIL program is offered for Grades 8-12, which is credit recovery program.

Ms. Fondulis also shared that for the first time, there will be a PASS summer program, which is a 5-week program offered from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Ms. Fondulis announced there would be High School Intern students working at the elementary school. Students who are interested in education in Grades 8, 9, 10, will work as interns, be paid, and will receive 144 hours, earn 5 credits for taking part in the program which is made possible by the 21st century grant.

Dr. Schwamb added that the students who worked at BOOST last year are all returning.

Mr. Swett asked about the number of students in comparison to other years. Ms. Fondulis responded the numbers are relatively the same.

Ms. Fondulis shared there are 84 staff members working the summer programs, there is no fee, and transportation, breakfast and lunch are provided.

Proposed Bus Driver Rates: Ms. Kristin Flynn

Ms. Flynn presented the transportation substitute rates for 2022-2023.

Ms. Bacchiocchi made a motion to accept the proposed Bus Driver rates for 2022-2023, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

Report of the Director of Finance, Kristin Flynn

Ms. Flynn presented the budget transfers. She explained to the committee that she is requesting a transfer into clerical, substitute teachers and nurse lines. There was a change in a secretary position, therefore, the cost center has changed.

Ms. Bacchiocchi noticed that transportation is not listed for transfers. Ms. Flynn responded that she was able to make some budget transfers under \$25,000.

Mr. Swett asked Ms. Flynn how she was adjusting to her new position. Ms. Flynn responded that both the school and town have been helpful, kind, and welcoming.

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

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

Proposed Hourly Rate:

Ms. Flynn presented to the committee a standardized list of hourly wage positions for the hiring principals and administration, and can refer to this list during the hiring process.

Mr. Swett thanked Ms. Flynn for providing the rate sheet and she noted that substitute rates would remain the same rate for another year.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the proposed hourly rates, seconded by Ms. Bacchiocchi.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

Report of the Superintendent:

The Superintendent introduced Col. Stanton (via zoom) who attended remotely to recognize Mike Collins. Mr. Collins was on the interview committee when Col. Stanton was hired. Col. Stanton stated Mr. Collins launched the JROTC program in Wareham.

Mr. Palladino shared that Mr. Collins began at WHS in August 2003. During his first year teaching, he launched the JROTC program. The program began in August 2004. The JROTC program continues to receive awards and Mr. Palladino feels the District is fortunate to have this program for Wareham High School students. Over 800 students have enrolled in JROTC since the program launched.

Report of the Superintendent:

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

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the Bill and Payroll Warrants, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

The Superintendent asked the School Committee to approve \$500 from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program to be used for Wareham Middle School STEM programs.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the gift, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

School Safety: Karl Baptiste and Dean Decas

In light of recent school shootings in Texas, Officer Baptiste shared with the Committee that the District does not share our safety measures publicly, but takes all precautions. He urges staff to pay attention and do things the correct way. Pull a door shut, and push it shut. There is no tolerance for joking about firearms. We have to take these warnings seriously to keep our schools safe.

Officer Baptiste announced that ALICE Training is conducted two times per year, and it is discussed and drilled during advisory periods at the high school.

Dr. Schwamb mentioned at the start of the school year there is an ALICE training for new staff.

Ms. Rossi stated that she recently learned the attackers may have taken part in ALICE training, and will know the protocol which is concerning.

School Calendar:

The Superintendent presented a suggested amendment to the 2022-2023 District Calendar: moving the Professional Development day scheduled on November 10, 2022 to February 17, 2023, as the District recently learned there is an MCAS makeup day on November 10th.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to amend the calendar, seconded by Ms. Bacchiocchi.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

Cafeteria Employee Contract:

Salary increase for the following three years: 1.5%, 2.5%, 2.5%

The Superintendent reminded the Committee that cafeteria workers are paid through federal food service funding and does not touch the LEA budget.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the Cafeteria Contract, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

Custodians

Salary increase for the following three years: 2%, 2.75%, 2.75%

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the Custodian Contract, seconded by Ms. Bacchiocchi.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the Cafeteria Contract, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Class of 2023 Prom Vote

Ms. Terasconi and Marian Karam, Class of 2023.

Marian Karam requested an approval for the senior prom to be held at the Falmouth Cape Club, May 2023. Mr. Swett expressed concerns about finding the right venue at the right price.

Mr. Swett made a motion to accept the prom venue, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

SCC Discussion: Scott Palladino, Ed Rodrigues

Mr. Palladino reminded the committee that it was discussed at a previous meeting that Wareham High School is failing our school district by remaining in the South Coast Conference, and Mr. Palladino disagrees.

In 2020, WHS eliminated user fees to help encourage students to play sports.

Mr. Palladino had hoped to tell the Committee that there were equivalent schools (in size) added to the SCC, but it did not pass. Mr. Palladino shared his proposal for the 2023-2024 season that a school can decide if they do not want to play crossover games. This must be sent to the conference from Athletic Directors, review the information, and this will allow plenty of time for teams to fill their schedule. Mr. Palladino asked the SCC to make a formal league, and to opt out of the league if it is not supported.

Schools may drop out one year in advance of SCC, and it needs to be declared within that time frame.

Mr. Palladino would like to see Wareham stay in the league, and compete against small schools, as there is a new dynamic with scoring from the MIAA. Wareham would be independent for a year, while we plan to move forward.

Mr. Swett asked if the principals and athletic directors vote? Mr. Palladino responded that the principals vote at SCC. He also noted there are two new principals coming into the conference and he is not sure where they stand.

Mr. Rodrigues stated that a new conference is going to want us and will welcome us into the conference.

Ms. Bacchiocchi shared that athletics is the culture of the school. She has recently heard that students are contemplating leaving because of the sports. It's a long process, and students are looking at their high school experience and what they want it to be, but if we can speed this process up in any way. Mr. Palladino confirmed that the decision would have to be made in September.

Mr. Palladino met with coaches before the evening's presentation and they are aware of what is going on.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi mentioned middle school sports. The Athletic Director spoke about a meeting with Tracie Cote, but mentioned that an athletic program will be hard with grade 8 no longer at the middle school. An intramural track program would be a nice program, but he is not sure if we will be competitive with only Grade 7. It is hard to develop a player in 4-5 years, and Wareham should look at other sports that do not have the Tigers or JBA already in place as a feeder.

School Committee:

The School Committee presented Dr. Shaver-Hood with flowers and thanked her for her nine years of service as Superintendent.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bacchiocchi.

Joyce Bacchiocchi – yay, Geoff Swett – yay, Apryl Rossi – yay, Brennan McKiernan – yay, and Chair Brogioli – yay.

Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____



Supporting Documents:

Superintendent's Newsletter

Obsolete Equipment

Transportation Substitute Proposed Bus Rates

Budget Transfer Request

Proposed Rates for Hourly Positions 2022-2023

District School Calendar – proposed amendment

Prom 2023 Proposal