

School Committee Meeting

Thursday June 17, 2021

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on June 17, 2021 at 7:01 p.m., 48 Marion Rd. The meeting was recorded by WCTV, streamed live, and audio recorded by Jamie Wiksten.

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

Absent: Mary Morgan

The Chair led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair thanked WCTV for all of their hard work streaming the meetings throughout the pandemic.

Good News: Ms. Rossi congratulated Geoff Swett, the Girls' Tennis Team, and the Boys Track Team for a great spring season.

Chair Bacchiocchi commended the Art Department on the traveling art show. She also congratulated the High School and PASS 2021 graduates.

The Chair also congratulated Adrienne Padden, the new Student Representative.

The Minutes of May 6, 2021:

Kevin Brogioli made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Apryl Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

The Minutes of May 20, 2021:

Ms. Rossi asked for one change: correct *Mr.* Rossi to *Ms.* Rossi.

Apryl Rossi made a motion to approve the minutes with the suggested change, seconded by Kevin Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Class of 2022 Prom:

Mr. Palladino introduced Ms. Zac, Senior Class Advisor, Brigid Irving, President, and Abby Wiksten, Vice-President.

Brigid Irving requested a senior prom date of May 14, 2022, with an estimated cost of \$65 dollars per ticket. Ms. Rossi asked how the class chose the venue. Brigid Irving shared that Ms. Medina recommended the venue to the Class of 2022. Abby Wiksten shared the price of the 2021 prom ticket was \$75 last year. Ms. Zac shared the class fundraised very well as underclassmen and is in good shape.

Brigid Irving shared that if a senior sells an ad in the yearbook, the senior dues are waived.

Apryl Rossi made a motion to approve the Class of 2022 Senior Prom venue, seconded by Geoff Swett.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

4-0-0

The Strategic Plan, Dr. Andrea Schwamb

Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood thanked the school leaders, Steering Committee and School Committee for their involvement. She is looking forward to the future and thanked Dr. Schwamb for her hard work.

Dr. Schwamb shared that there were 39 people on the committee. The committee chose to in-list the Student Council in the branding of the Strategic Plan.

The 2021 Strategic Plan helped guide priorities and bring the new plan to life, with hopes that the 2026 plan will do the same.

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that so much as happened in the district since 2014, DESE has evaluated the District, as well as NEASC, which allowed WPS to analyze attendance, discipline, and professional development data.

Abby Wiksten, Student Council President, shared that an essential part of the strategic plan is the process of the acceptance of college. The 2021 strategic plan pushed the Wareham student to explore some of the most prestigious colleges. Both the current and proposed Strategic Plan has and will continue to help Wareham students stand out academically.

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared Wareham constantly uses data showing significant improvements throughout the school district.

Junior Indiana Troupe thanked Dr. Schwamb, Dr. Shaver-Hood and Steering Committee, allowing the student council to be involved. The Student Council gathered ideas for the branding and voted. The Student Council shared their own thoughts and a logo for the school.

Dr. Schwamb continued that WPS 2026 identifies the very best of what it means to be human. The priority is to prepare Wareham students for the future because our students deserve the very best.

Mr. Palladino unveiled the new vision: *the portrait of the graduate*. Wareham Public Schools promises to provide opportunities for all to discover the greatest versions of themselves by acquiring knowledge, wisdom, and skills. The Wareham student thinks critically, communicates, and perseveres.

Scholarship:

Ms. Cote, WMS Principal

Promise #1 We promise to implement best teaching practices and use high quality Instructional resources with embedded technology to empower student voice and include experiences and assessments that are authentic and standards-based, so that students become thoughtful learners that persevere, focus on individual goals, and become productive members of our schools, our society, and local and global community.

Social Emotional Learning Committee:

Ms. Bethany Chandler, Decas Principal

Promise #2

Social-Emotional Learning: We promise that social and emotional awareness is

recognized and taught, so that students and staff will gain the confidence to positively influence the decisions they make.

Community College Career and Life Inspired:

Mr. Palladino

Promise #3

Community: College, Career, & Life Inspired: We promise that students will have greater exposure to a variety of opportunities and will be prepared to make impactful life choices as they progress.

Professional Learning

Mrs. Joan Seamans and Ms. Sandi Ponte, Co-Leaders

Promise #4

Speaks to all of the other promises and priorities. Professional Learning: The district and schools' leadership teams promise to provide professional development that is rigorous and aligned to support effective learning in modern environments so that educators will be able to create a learning path for themselves to support and nurture students that reflect the portrait of a WPS Graduate.

Stewardship - Digital Convergence

Bonnie Lasorsa, Director of Technology

Promise #5

Digital Convergence: The district promises to make certain that technology is accessible and transparent so that users will be empowered to focus on their individual goals. Define digital convergence – hardware, software, and digital resources are integrated equally. We reflected where we are now, and recognized the need to integrate and influence a much clearer path moving forward.

At the completion of the presentation, Ms. Rossi asked if remote learning would remain an option, including on snow days. Dr. Schwamb responded that DESE supports face-to-face learning.

The Chair added that she recently learned Worcester was looking into on line learning.

Ms. Rossi asked Mr. Palladino if he was aware of the number of Wareham students who graduate from college. Mr. Palladino responded that through Naviance he can track the students who enroll and graduate. This is the 5th year of Naviance, and a year away from gathering significant data.

Ms. Rossi asked if 1:1 technology will continue with the upcoming school year. The Superintendent confirmed there will be 1:1 technology.

Mr. Brogioli shared that the Strategic plan is professionally done and asked if there are benchmarks each year. Dr. Schwamb shared each school will have specific benchmarks and when she returns to the committee in November, they will present these benchmarks.

Ms. Seamans shared the impact of Modern Teacher, which now drives the professional development for the teachers, and the district is capitalizing on this.

Mr. Swett asked if educators should teach morality.

Indiana Troupe shared that English Teacher Mr. Wilson poses a question, how the student views morality. He continued that students learn what is right and wrong. We learn through school, and believe that school should share a roll.

Mr. Swett asked if students should be asked to do this.

Abby Wiksten responded that the class encourages students to pick a side without feeling pressure. Teachers have opinions, and she and fellow students appreciated the open discussion and voice.

Indiana shared there is a respect for the difference of opinions with the teachers in Wareham.

Ms. Rossi asked the students what was the greatest focus as a Wareham Public School student and what direction do they want to see with the new plan.

Indians answered student voice and choice, and is happy to see that it is represented in the plan.

Abby Wiksten added that students are put first in Wareham, and there is great respect between the student and teacher.

Mr. Brogioli shared that he hopes the AP and IB level is matriculated into the other levels of learning.

The Chair thanked everyone who attended and for the passion in the room. The students of Wareham are so fortunate.

Dr. Schwamb stated working on the plan during the pandemic was a beacon of hope looking toward the future, and it is a promising and exciting plan.

Mr. Swett made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan 2026, seconded by Apryl Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

UNIT A SIDE LETTER:

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared the Unit A Side Letter Agreement, making it reflective in the language for the purpose of memorializing a one-time agreement.

Kevin Brogioli made a motion to approve the Unit A Side Letter, seconded by Apryl Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Monthly Financial Report – May:

The Chair thanked Christine Suckow for the report and including totals.

Budget Transfers:

The budget transfers reflect personal day buy back and retirement incentives.

Apryl Rossi made a motion to approve the budget transfers, seconded by Kevin Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Obsolete Furniture:

Apryl Rossi made a motion to approve the Obsolete furniture, seconded by Geoff Swett.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent asked the committee to approve the following gifts:

- *To the DECA Club, Wareham High School:* \$10,752.09 from the Booster's Club
- *To the Minot Forest Elementary School:* \$3000.00 from the Atlantic Subaru Adopt-a-Classroom Program, to six teachers each receiving \$500 to spend on classroom supplies.

Mr. Palladino confirmed the Booster Club gift was for the DECA Booster's Club.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the gifts, seconded by Geoff Swett.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Bill Warrants and Payroll Warrants:

The Superintendent asked the School Committee to approve the Bill warrants and Payroll warrants as listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter.

Apryl Rossi made a motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Geoff Swett.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Juul Lawsuit:

The Superintendent explained the Mass lawsuit is the litigation for past monetary damages the District has suffered, but also includes information regarding compensation to deal with the vaping epidemic on school grounds. Wareham would receive possible money to hire counselors to help with addictions, and offer free education programs. There will be no cost to Wareham.

Mr. Swett confessed he is not a huge fan of this, but would like to see the benefit this would add in support of the health department.

Mr. Palladino shared that vaping detectors were installed in the bathrooms prior to covid. Vaping is so new, and we do not know the long-term effects.

Ms. Cote shared having bathroom monitors in the schools helps monitor this.

The Chair asked Dr. Shaver-Hood if the committee votes yes, is it possible to drop out and The Superintendent confirmed this to be correct.

Apryl Rossi made a motion to approve The Juul Labs Inc. Mass Lawsuit, seconded by Kevin Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Elementary Foreign Language:

The Superintendent shared that the district would like Foreign Language to be taught at the elementary level. This would be an introductory class, moving toward middle school and it allows for 10 unified art classes for the elementary schools. The Chair shared that her fear is the future of the language class and can Wareham afford this program moving forward.

Mr. Swett announced he is going to vote in favor, shares the concerns of the financial component, and the impact this will have on the MYP program.

Ms. Rossi agrees with the one-year trial of the program at the elementary school.

Apryl Rossi made a motion to approve a one-year trial of the program, seconded by Geoff Swett.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

ESSER FUNDS:

The Superintendent shared that ESSER funds come with a requirement to have a committee. This is a significant amount of money and the committee will need School Committee members, administrators, student, and community members.

The Chair asked about reporting, and will there be a required format to follow. Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that she would be briefing the committee quarterly.

Mid-Cycle Review:

Goal Review for Evaluation year August 1, 2020 -2021.

The Superintendent reviewed three major goals:

Goal 1: The New Elementary Building and Capital Projects

- Coordinate and participate in the Elementary Building Project and the Capital needs of the project.
- Timelines are met and updates shared with the Committee and Community.
- 10-12 hours per week are spent on the project.
- Coordinate purchases
- Walk through of Decas and Minot Forest, determining what is moved and not moving into the new building.

The Superintendent shared with the committee that by March, she knew there would be money that could contribute to capital expenses, including HVAC, chillers replaced, units that hadn't worked for years, scoreboards, textbooks, new flooring, gym painted, windows at the high schools, new mowers etc. The Superintendent's goal is to move from reactive repairs, but proactive repairs and upgrade. The principals support these capital projects. A HVAC Technician was hired, including a shared plumber with the town.

Goal 2: Student Growth and Experiences

- Opportunities provided for students, expanding choice and enhancing learning experiences.
- Provide staff with information and opportunities.
- Providing social workers to the district. When a student is suffering, learning is compromised. Counselors, social workers and school psychologists have been hired to support this goal.
- Analyzing data, professional development opportunities, and summer programming to support of this goal.

Goal 3: Emotional Intelligence for employees

- Strategies to assist in understanding various emotional responses.
- Opportunities to expand professional relationships
- Opportunities to expand community partnerships
 - Partnerships with outside agencies. We can't do everything by ourselves. How can we help others? The Superintendent has collaborated with Buzzards Bay Coalition, YMCA, Eastern Bank, helping make programming available for Wareham students and families, which is absolutely vital. The Wareham Public Schools is proud to announce that since July 1, 2020 we have served over 523,487 meals. That was a need.

Mr. Swett commended the Superintendent supporting her decision not to push a September opening of the new school, when informed by the project manager that a January opening would be advantageous the impact of that *one* decision was the bidding became highly competitive, and saved the taxpayer millions of dollars.

The Chair said it would be impossible to quantify the work the Superintendent has done during the pandemic.

Dr. Shaver-Hood appreciated the compliment, but added that it was not without the help and hard work of her administrative team and solid leadership.

Ms. Rossi shared how happy she was to hear about the capital plans, HVAC, and Plumber.

Report of the School Committee:

Building update: Mr. Swett shared the project is on schedule, and October 12 is becoming a realistic opening date. The building remains controlled by the general contractors, and he looks forward to the community can see the building,

The Chair shared that Michael Flaherty brought the article to the spring town meeting and the school was named Wareham Elementary School.

Ms. Rossi wished everyone a stress-free summer, and enjoyable summer.

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Apryl Rossi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Geoff Swett.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 4, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by: _____



List of Documents:

Superintendent's Newsletter

May 6, 2021 Minutes

May 20, 2021 Minutes

Juul Lab Inc

May Financial Report

Budget Transfers

Obsolete Furniture

Notice of Vacancy

Notice of Personnel List

Unit A Side Letter Agreement

WPS 2026 Strategic Plan

