

Wareham School Committee
Workshop Meeting
August 4, 2022

A workshop meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, August 4, 2022, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Multiservice Center.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Present from School Committee: Joyce Bacchiocchi, Geoff Swett, Kevin Brogioli, Brennan McKiernan, and Apryl Rossi. Also present, Dr. Matthew D'Andrea, Superintendent, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, Assistant Superintendent, and Jamie Wiksten, Recording Secretary. The meeting was recorded, broadcast, and streamed live by WCTV.

The Chair called the meeting to order and lead the meeting in the pledge of allegiance, and welcomed the new Superintendent, Dr. Matthew D'Andrea.

Transfers:

Ms. Kristin Flynn, Director of Finance, presented the transfers.

The Superintendent shared that he has never seen a policy structured like Wareham's budget policy. Mr. Swett is willing to hear Dr. D'Andrea and Ms. Flynn's thoughts on how to modify the policy.

Ms. Flynn shared information regarding the accounts, and budget transfers required.

Transfer #1:

Ms. Flynn presented the transfer for home instruction.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Geoff Sett- yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Mary Morgan – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Chair Brogioli – yea.

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

5-0-0

Transfer #2:

The second transfer was a transfer to close the books for FY22, including insurance for new employees. Ms. Flynn presented a memo regarding the insurance of new employees.

Mr. Swett noted that Ms. Flynn was reading from a memo between the Town Administrator and the former Superintendent that was made in May 2022 regarding information that he has never seen.

Mr. McKiernan asked for a copy of the memo. Ms. Flynn responded that she is learning this budget and is working hard to balance a budget that occurred before her hire.

Workshop:

The Chair explained the reason for the meeting was designed as a workshop and introduced Dorothy Presser of MASC. Ms. Presser reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the School Committee.

Ms. Presser shared the roles of the School Committee, which is to ask the hard questions, and once the vote is taken, that is the will of the committee, the members must support the vote.

Dr. D'Andrea explained that he answers to the body, not to the individual. It is the collective body that has to make the decision.

Ms. Presser continued that the staff and community are always looking toward the School Committee.

Ms. Presser explained in Massachusetts the Committee is considered the municipal legislature for the schools, with the responsibility to hire the Superintendent, monitor the budget and establish protocols tailored to the Wareham School Committee.

Worksheets were passed out to the committee.

The Chair asked what the process is regarding the agenda. Ms. Presser explained that the meeting is the School Committee member's meeting, and has the final say of the agenda items. Ms. Presser shared that a member can bring to the committee an item that they would like on the agenda, and if the Chair agrees, it should be included.

Ms. Bacchiocchi shared that it might be nice to share the outline of the meetings with all of the members for the year.

Dr. D'Andrea asked if the agenda can change after the 48-hours of the posted meeting. Ms. Presser confirmed that the agenda can continue to change and modify after the meeting is posted at the 48-hour deadline.

Dr. D'Andrea shared that the School Committee should contact the Superintendent prior to reaching out to another administrator.

Ms. Rossi asked if a member should request access to reach out to the attorney or HR department, Ms. Presser explained that access to the attorney is through the Chair. Ms. Presser explained that protocol is important without embedding specifics into a policy.

Mr. Swett shared that past practice is that the attorney will only take a call from the Chair. Mr. Swett feels it is important to have interactions with staff members below the Superintendent. Mr. Swett wants those staff members to be able to speak freely with him if he asks a question regarding the district. Dr. D'Andrea responded that he has no problem with a school committee member speaking with staff members, as long as if there are concerns, the member also calls the Superintendent. The School Committee needs to look at the big picture, instead of pieces of information.

Ms. Rossi feels there is a delicate balance between committee members and community members, and there are people who will offer information whether members ask for it or not.

Ms. Presser explained the community is perceived as having more power than they actually have.

Mr. McKiernan is worried about his role as a parent vs. his role as a school committee.

5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Ken Breyer