

Wareham School Committee  
September 15, 2022

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, September 16, 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 Ross. 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 lead us in the pledge of allegiance

The Chair explained the protocols of public participation and the practice of negotiations. He added that the School Committee agrees in the value of all of our workers.

**Public Participation:**

Deanna Semple stated that the mantra does not have money. The School Committee is offering pennies, adding positions that are non-student facing positions in the district. She stated that the district did not budget for the cost of living with the contract negotiations in mind.

Mary Nielsen, Paraprofessional, was expecting more positivity from the School Committee. She provides curriculum support, greets students, and helps children in the cafeteria. She challenged the committee to follow her around for 6 hours, and then follow her to a swimming facility where she works a second job.

Marilyn Ramsey, Paraprofessional, spoke as a parent and acknowledged that her son was non-verbal, barely making ends meet and prays the committee will see their worth.

Nancy Cederholm, Special Education Secretary, Wareham Elementary School shared that paraprofessionals cover for the teachers, changing diapers, and offer a wide spectrum of duties. They are worth more. She asked why the percentages are not the same across all unions.

Michele Lefrancois, Teacher, shared in 1992 she was hired as a paraprofessional, followed by a teaching position. Her concern is what we are saying to graduates who are job hunting, and look at what we offer.

**Good News:**

Dr. D'Andrea shared that Dr. Schwamb is the brains behind the professional development throughout the school year, and at the start of the year it was well done on opening day. The Boys Soccer won 5-0 and the Field Hockey Team won 2-0.

Mr. Swett shared the Volleyball team shut out Seekonk this week and the Girls' soccer team won 4-2.

### **Student Representative Report, Indiana Troupe**

For the past five years, the high school experience was turned upside down. Indiana was happy to report he is seeing the athletics doing well and team numbers increasing. Student Council is bringing back Haunted Hallways on October 27 from 5-7 p.m. and all of the clubs take part in this event. Spirit week, homecoming, and pep rally will be lumped together and students are excited that the events are combined.

Indiana shared that he attended the State Meeting – met DESE staff, talked about MCAS, student representation, and student mental health. The highlight is conversing with all students from all schools.

He reported that most Fall Sports have created Instagram Accounts.

The Viking Ship (DECA store) is opening this year.

### **Report of Director of Finance, Kristin Flynn**

July 2022 (FY23): A pie chart was created for the budget.

Instruction 68.1%

Pupil Services 10.5%

Operation & Maintenance 9.4 %

Tuition for Other Districts 7.1%

Benefits & Fixed Charges 3.9%

Administration 0.9%

Fixed Assets 0.1%

Mr. Swett asked what generates journal entries. Ms. Flynn replied that it could be intra-department, or if a payment was coded incorrectly when paying an invoice, and a correction would need to be made.

Mr. Swett continued that transportation is in pupil services, and he would like to see sub-totals on future reports. and Ms. Flynn indicated that she would like to move forward with a breakdown.

Mr. Swett asked about the high efficiency boilers. Mr. Trahan added to the conversation and responded that the six low efficiency boilers will be replaced with 6 high efficiency boiler systems, and will be energy efficient, but when you are tying it into a school that can't support that, there will be a cost.

Ms. Rossi shared the amount of past business managers she has worked with, and complemented how well Ms. Flynn explains everything.

End of Year Report (FY 22)

72.4% was for instruction

9.6% Pupil Services

7.8% Operations and Maintenance

Ms. Flynn's observations for FY22 are: utilities due to the prices, and the new school. Transportation fuel prices, out of district outside vendors, and out of district tuition.

There were transfers last year in the tutoring lines, and athletics will need to be watched. There is a need to have more money in the athletics revolving account, and did not have the budget to cover sporting official costs.

Ms. Bacchiocchi noted this could be the effects of not having user fees for the past three years.

## **Warrant Article for Fall Town Meeting, Erik Trahan, Facilities Supervisor**

### High School Boiler Project:

Mr. Trahan explained there are six (6) hot water boilers, and three (3) hot water heaters that tie into the boilers. Existing pumps are used to adjust the flow and fluctuate.

Ms. Rossi asked if the MSBA project comes in under budget, would the town see a savings.

Mr. Trahan responded that the project will begin in the summer of 2023. If on track, the project should close out September 2024.

The Superintendent explained that there is an article to be read at Town Meeting and once approved, he would bring it to town meeting and the town will be reimbursed 70+%. The project is right on track and once completed will save the town a considerable amount of money.

Mr. Swett made a motion to see if the Town of Wareham (the “Town”) will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for the boiler replacement project at Wareham High School, 7 Viking Dr. Wareham, MA 02571, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program and for which the Town has applied for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”). The Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA’s Board of Directors votes to invite the Town to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town, and seconded by Ms. Rossi.

### Roll Call Vote:

Geoff Sett– yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi–yea, Brennan McKiernan– yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Chair Brogioli – yea.

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

5-0-0

### Wareham Middle School Roof:

Mr. Trahan explained that Section F (roof) is not 29 years old which is the qualifying age, and 2033 would be the date that Section F will be ready for replacement under the terms of MSBA. The reimbursement rate is 71% for the areas that qualify

Dr. D’Andrea has spoken to the Town, and recommended to vote on the article to submit to the Town, and in the interim he would like to have a meeting with the Town Administrator, budget sub-committee, and Finance Committee to lower the cost of the roof and an opportunity to replace the roof, specifically Roof A, but feels with the timeline we are working with, to look at our options with MSBA, whether they approve the project with a final number on the reimbursement.

Ms. Rossi stated that a separate sub-committee would need to be put together for the project.

Ms. Bacchiocchi responded that the language is included as part of the article.

Mr. Swett said at what point are the taxpayers going to be told what the cost is.

Dr. D'Andrea answered that the School Dept. would present at Town Meeting, and clarify what all this means, as we want the voters to know that this saves a tremendous amount of money.

Mr. Swett responded that there should be a transparent plan for the Town Administrator might say we don't know where this money is coming from.

Mr. Swett made a motion to see if the Town of Wareham (the "Town") will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for the Roof replacement project at Wareham Middle School, 4 Viking Dr., Wareham, MA 02571, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program and for which the Town has applied for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"). The Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the Town to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote:

Geoff Sett– yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi–yea, Brennan McKiernan– yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Chair Brogioli – yea.

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

5-0-0

### **Report of the Superintendent**

The Superintendent asked the committee to approve of Payroll and Bill and Warrants as listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Roll Call Vote:

Geoff Sett– yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi–yea, Brennan McKiernan– yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Chair Brogioli – yea.

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

5-0-0

West Nile Update:

Dr. D'Andrea shared information with the district and community, and has taken precautions by having spraying conducted and adjusted our sport schedules to avoid dusk/mosquitos.

Ms. Rossi asked about the rain following the spraying.

Dr. D'Andrea responded the chemical used was effective and the rain did not affect it.

### Superintendent Goals

The Superintendent sub-committee met earlier this week and the goals have been listed as a draft:

Goal #1: Student Learning (2-year goal)

Year 2 an action plan would be developed to identify the weaknesses.

District Improvement Goal #1:

Emergency Plans for the administrative team and police. Wareham has done this in the past, but in need of an update. Police and Fire have already reached out and are anxious to do this work as well.

District Improvement Goal #2: Website – recognized there is a need to update the site and make it more user friendly and interactive. The School committee has developed a sub-committee to look at our options - Wareham Communication and Community Relations Sub-Committee.

District Improvement #3 (Two Year Goal): Retention of our students. School Choice students, reaching out to families who have made that decision with a survey and learn what informed their decision and develop an action plan. Organize the data and share with the school committee and develop a plan to address the concerns that were learned.

Professional Practice Goal:

Visible in the schools, being present at the school and classroom visits, and document the time and dates and share with the School Committee.

Focus Indicators:

Mrs. Bacchiocchi shared that she and Mr. Swett met with the Superintendent.

Dr. D'Andrea shared that most of the focus indicators align with the goals and the strategic plan.

Mr. Swett expressed his concerns about the limited focus indicators.

The Chair stated that Dorothy Presser shared what has been presented as the best practice.

Ms. Rossi agrees with Mr. Swett, and does not like to feel limited, and might want more options.

Ms. Bacchiocchi stated she feels Mr. Swett and Ms. Rossi want the ability to evaluate on anything, which contradicts with the Superintendent Goals.

Ms. Rossi would like more time to look at the Rubric.

The Chair asked if after the sub-committee meets with the Superintendent, the goals could be set by the October 6, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Swett made a motion to accept the goals and set the date to October 6th for the focus indicators, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote:

Geoff Sett– yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi–yea, Brennan McKiernan– yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Chair Brogioli – yea.

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

5-0-0

The Chair confirmed on October 6<sup>th</sup> the committee will move forward with focus indicators.

### **Recognition:**

The Chair spoke on behalf of students and coach's recent accolades.

The Chair stated that last year we recognized the Tennis Coach informally at a meeting, and he has been nominated as the MIAA Tennis Coach of Year, Mr. Swett.

The Chair also recognized Brooklyn Bindas, Grade 11, Tennis Student and is a backbone of the Girls Varsity Tennis Team.

The Chair recognized next Mr. Chris Gardner, Boys/Girls Winter and Spring Track Coach.

### **Spring Sports Update, Ed Rodrigues**

Mr. Swett stated the AD never gets enough credit and thanked Mr. Rodrigues for his hard work.

#### SCC/League Affiliation Update, Scott Palladino

Mr. Palladino reported that Wareham doesn't plan to be in the SCC conference for 2023-2024 and plans to begin the process of joining the Mayflower League and spoke favorably of Mayflower and the 11 schools in the League.

Ed Rodrigues hopes the Mayflower league will accept Wareham. Their bi-laws will need to be reviewed.

There is no winter track in the league, so this would need to be considered and reviewed.

There is an October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and the AD will keep the School Committee informed.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi shared that she is certain that they will move forward in the student's best interest.

### **Report of the School Committee:**

- Superintendent Evaluation: The Sub-Committee will put together a timeline.

- School Committee Protocols 9 of 10 have been agreed upon, with the exception of #5.

- The chair will put together the protocols for the next meeting and possible vote.

### **Any other Business:**

Dr. D'Andrea shared there is a bus driver who has been an employee for almost a year, and is out of sick days. She cannot access the sick bank, because you need to be a member for 5 years according to the bus

driver contract. A number of drivers would like to donate sick days, for a total of 48 days for her. This is not contractual and would need the school committee to vote.

Mr. Swett's only concern is setting precedent.

Dr. D'Andrea stated we could write a side letter agreement. D'Andrea also explained that it's a good idea to explore speaking with the attorney regarding this.

Dr. D'Andrea asked if the committee would consider approving 15 days, the amount she could receive from the sick bank if she were eligible.

Mr. Swett would be willing to vote for the request if we also vote to investigate with the unions early access to the sick banks.

Ms. Rossi would like to see the Superintendent and Committee work on language for a procedure or a policy for scenarios such as these.

Mr. Swett made a motion to approve a donation of 12 days to the employee, seconded by Ms. Rossi

Roll Call Vote:

Geoff Sett– yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi–nay, Brennan McKiernan– yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Chair Brogioli – yea.

yea – 4, nay – 1, abstain – 0

Vote: 4-1-0

Mr. Swett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rossi

Roll Call Vote:

Geoff Sett– yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi–yea, Brennan McKiernan– yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Chair Brogioli – yea.

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

