

School Committee Meeting
September 17, 2020

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., in Room 320 at the Multi-Service Center.

Call meeting to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Bacchiocchi called the meeting to order. Present from School Committee: Joyce Bacchiocchi, Michael Flaherty, and Kevin Brogioli. Also in attendance, Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent, and Jamie Wiksten, Recording Secretary.

Absent from the meeting: Mary Morgan, Apryl Rossi, and Dr. Andrea Schwamb

Chair Bacchiocchi announced that the meeting is being recorded by WCTV, and audio recorded by Jamie Wiksten.

Chair Bacchiocchi lead us in the pledge of the allegiance.

Public Participation:

No public participation took place at the meeting.

Good News:

Mr. Flaherty shared with the committee that the Wareham High School Graduation was incredible. He felt the speakers were incredible, the ceremony was held in a perfect spot, and the school couldn't have done it better.

Mr. Brogioli is happy to hear from the principals that so many teachers have opted to come into the buildings over the past few days, meet their students, and start working.

Chair Bacchiocchi commented that there were students in the buildings for the very first time since March 13, 2020.

Approval of Minutes: August 6, 2020

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.
No further discussion. All those in favor:

3 – yea
0- nay
0-abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Approval of Minutes: August 20, 2020:

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.
Chair Bacchiocchi asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Flaherty asked for a correction to be made in the second paragraph of Public Participation, to be changed from “committee” to “public” in the sentence “Mr. Flaherty believes the *committee* (*public*) is allowed to speak.”

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to amend the minutes.

Chair Bacchiocchi noted that she asked Mrs. Wiksten to change the word *council* to *counsel* in the Public Participation section, and these changes have been made.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Mr. Brogioli
All those in favor:

3 – yea
0- nay
0-abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Approval of Minutes: September 3, 2020

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.
No further discussion. All those in favor:

3 – yea
0- nay
0-abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Appointment of Christine Suckow, Interim Business Manager:

Mr. Flaherty welcomed Christine Suckow and stated that he has a mutual acquaintance that spoke highly of Ms. Suckow. He asked Ms. Suckow to speak about her experience with the MSBA.

Ms. Suckow shared that when she worked in Monomoy (Cape Cod), she headed the

OPM search.

Mr. Flaherty also asked Ms. Suckow to speak about MASBO. Ms. Suckow shared that she was awarded the Don Johnson Award for Efficiency and Effectiveness. During her time in Whitman-Hanson, Ms. Suckow was able to save the school district half a million dollars by changing start and stop times for bus times and outsourced custodians and saved \$300,000 for the school district.

Mr. Flaherty asked when would we be expecting the End of Year Report, and Ms. Suckow mentioned that many towns are filing for an extension due to Covid-19, and she is waiting for information from the town.

Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the appointment of the Interim Business Manager, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked if there was any further discussion. Mr. Flaherty asked to have on record that he wished the Interim Business Manager contract was more than a one-year contract, and Ms. Suckow responded that a one-year contract is best practice for an Interim position.

All those in favor:

3 - yea
0 - nay
0 - abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Back To School Update:

(Back To School Slide Show)

Dr. Shaver-Hood welcomed the principals to give a brief overview.

Decas Elementary:
Bethany Chandler, Principal

Ms. Chandler shared with the committee that Decas students have begun virtual learning with the "Uninterrupted" website. She noted the staff has done a beautiful job building an online school, filled with transparent information. Laura Pol and Sara Russo were a huge help bringing the website to life.

Ms. Chandler continued that Decas students arrived today, smiled through their masks, and the staff was so excited to receive the students.

Mr. Brogioli asked how many students were present at Decas. Ms. Chandler responded 11 students today, and Preschool students begin on Monday.

Mr. Flaherty asked if the students were learning in or outside of the building. Mrs. Chandler responded that the students were learning both in and outside the building, and students were represented from all grades in the Learning Center, ASD Classroom and TLC Classroom.

Ms. Chandler presented the Decas numbers for Grades K-2: Hybrid: 352, Remote: 139, changing daily. Average class size for hybrid is 9 students per class, and the staff has their class lists and ready to go.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked how much flexibility do they have at Decas. Mrs. Chandler responded she has some flexibility, and can accommodate up to 12 – 15 students in each classroom.

Mr. Flaherty asked Ms. Chandler how many students are in each class for remote learning. Ms. Chandler responded that remote class size totals are high, with an average of 22 students per class. The online teacher can work in the morning and afternoons with breakout groups. When we move to hybrid, there will be live videos, recorded classes, and zoom meetings.

Ms. Flaherty asked if the schools are removing everything off the walls. Ms. Chandler responded that there are still some laminated posters and décor. As a primary school the goal is to make the classroom student friendly. Dr. Shaver-Hood added there is a spray used for the sanitation process. Paper and material that are not laminated cannot handle this process continuously over time.

Minot Forest Elementary:
Joan Seamans, Principal

Ms. Seamans has conducted a lot of communication with the families in preparation of the start of school. She has posted slide shows, zoom meetings, answering phone calls, emailing, and has been able to help with the family's anxiety by doing so.

Ms. Seamans expressed the joy and comfort that she felt seeing students and staff today, which offered a sense of normalcy.

Grade 3: Hybrid 111, Remote 57
Grade 4: Hybrid: 83, Remote 54

Minot Forest has several teachers who chose to teach hybrid, and teachers who chose to teach remote. Some teachers are working in teams, and some teachers are self-contained, giving her staff a chance to choose the best way that works for the individual teacher.

With the start of school, there were some minor issues with technology, but an overall true team effort.

Ms. Seamans was able to pop into some of the zoom classes to say hello to students, and noted the classes were going very well.

Ms. Seamans thanked custodians for all of their work over the summer. They have removed paper, and will move forward with window painting to help decorate the rooms for the students.

Ms. Seamans continues that the website has been great for the teachers and students and a fun way for the families to connect with the teachers. Despite the unexpected fire drill on day one, the students did a great job.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked how many students were present at Minot Forest.

Ms. Seamans responded she had 11 students in the building.

Minot Forest has 10 students who have not picked up chrome books in Grade 3 and 8 students who have not picked up chrome books in Grade 4. Ms. Seamans continues to reach out to families.

Mr. Flaherty asked percentage wise, how many staff members Ms. Seamans had in the building.

Ms. Seamans responded that she had 25-30% percent of the staff in the building.

Wareham Middle School:
Tracie Cote, Principal

Ms. Cote shared with the committee that she owes a huge thank you to her entire staff, as this has been quite a summer. The first day of school was an amazing day. WMS had 40 students in the building across three different programs.

There were 30 staff members helping the students, and everyone appeared very happy.

Ms. Cote shared that Wareham Middle School had 50% of the staff in the building working.

Wareham Middle School: 539 students
-338 hybrid
-193 remote
27% of these students are Special education

Wareham Middle School prepared for the start of the year with zoom meetings, social media postings to help keep parents and the community informed.

Mr. Brogioli asked Mrs. Cote about the technology in the building. Ms. Cote responded that last year there were no issues in the building and Mr. Cannon, Technology Specialist, will call parents and talk them through the technology issues.

Mr. Flaherty was happy to hear the principals commend the custodians. It is more and more clear to him how much the custodians are doing.

Mr. Brogioli asked if the principals envision staff meetings. Ms. Cote responded that she is fortunate to have a large auditorium and can accommodate her staff in the auditorium for staff meetings, with social distancing.

Wareham High School
Scott Palladino, Principal

Mr. Palladino recognized everyone in the district, from the Superintendent to the students, as everyone has played a huge part of where we are today.

Mr. Palladino announced that sub-separate students were in the building today, and he is looking forward to hybrid, bringing many more students in the building.

Mr. Palladino praised his staff. Custodians have moved half the furniture out of every classroom, following guidelines.

Mr. Palladino thanked his secretaries. It requires many hours answering questions and assuring parents. The teachers and paras received 12 days of PD which provided comfort to the staff for the start of the year.

Mr. Palladino noted that the technology department, with a very small staff, has stepped up to make sure everyone has what they need, and 88% of his students have picked up their chrome books.

Mr. Palladino shared that WHS has done more HVAC work in the building then in the last thirty years. There are 213 hybrid students A-K, 198 hybrid L-Z, and 189 remote. The PPE is in place, with decals marked on the floors. Wareham Interrupted website is an amazing platform for his students, and 140 8th graders logged in for a zoom meeting with 100+ students in attendance on zoom.

Mr. Brogioli asked if there are any teachers/staff who are strictly remote. Mr. Palladino responded "none".

Mr. Palladino stated that the secondary level is a little different. He explained that he has highly qualified teachers to work with students who signed up for their classes

back in May, assuming we would return to a traditional mode. The caseload has not changed for the teachers, and will be teaching in two modes (hybrid/remote).

Mr. Flaherty asked how many students were in the High School building with the start of school. Mr. Palladino responded that there were roughly 30 students, with 40% of his staff teaching from the building. Mr. Palladino was happy to zoom-bomb the remote classes and see the remote learners.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked Dr. Shaver-Hood to speak about HVAC and air quality testing.

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared there has been cleaning and sanitizing of the ductwork. WPS has had the HVAC looked at, and what is not in working order is to be fixed, repaired, or replaced. She continued that we have contracted with a company to come in and test air quality in offices and classrooms. If there is a problem in a certain room, we will bring in a company to look at the ventilation and see what the exchange rate is. The testing is completed and we are now waiting for the report. Dr. Shaver-Hood feels confident that we will receive a good report based on the reaction of the company who tested the buildings.

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced the High School has one major project scheduled, which has not been done in years due to financial constraints, and now we can take advantage of the situation and address these needs.

Mr. Flaherty stated that we take the silver lining wherever we can.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated she was very happy that the Principals shared accolades about their staff, and if it weren't for their building leadership and how well they work with their staff, we would not be in the position that we are in today. Dr. Shaver-Hood continued that she feels very fortunate that we have the principals that we do because "hard work" doesn't even begin to describe how our lives have been since March, which has been non-stop. Dr. Shaver-Hood stated this speaks to their professionalism, their dedication and willingness to do whatever it takes to make it work.

Mr. Flaherty thanked Dr. Shaver-Hood for her statement. Mr. Flaherty referenced Mr. Palladino's saying "...put Wareham students against any other students in the state..." With that being said, Mr. Flaherty puts our Principals and Assistant Principals against any other in the state, and he wouldn't want anyone else.

Chair Bacchiocchi referenced Mr. Palladino's saying "you have to be on the job," and she addressed the Principals praising they have all certainly been on the job since March, including the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

Acceptance of Gifts:

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended the committee accept the following gifts:

- Two (2) Vinyl Banners by Target Graphics, donated to the Elementary School Building Project - Total value \$240.00

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the donation, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.
No further discussion. All those in favor:

3 - yea
0 - nay
0 - abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Dr. Shaver-Hood asked the committee to accept the Memorial Bench in honor of Trey Miranda, donated to the Wareham High School. Trey Miranda attended Wareham High School and lost his fight to cancer. The bench has been donated by Marjory Rakoski.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.
No further discussion. All those in favor:

3 - yea
0 - nay
0 - abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Dr. Shaver-Hood asked the committee to approve the bill and payroll warrant as listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter.

Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the Bills and Payroll warrants, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.
No further discussion. All those in favor:

3 - yea
0 - nay
0 - abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Dr. Shaver-Hood reminded everyone that WPS will continue to distribute breakfast and lunch throughout the school year at the designated locations. Over the summer we were allowed to distribute meals to any student, but moving forward will only be able to distribute meals to Wareham students.

Dr. Shaver-hood announced that the website *Wareham Interrupted* will be the key area to find information.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked if the students would go home with food during hybrid, and Dr. Shaver-Hood confirmed this is correct and she is in the final stages determining how to distribute these lunches.

Report of the School Committee:

Policy Review Sub-Committee:

Mr. Flaherty mentioned that the Policy Review Sub-Committee is looking for parents from each school, including a Special Education parent to serve on the committee. Interested parents should contact Jamie Wiksten jwiksten@wareham.k12.ma.us by September 23, 2020. Mr. Brogioli and Mr. Flaherty will select the committee, and most likely meet through a live zoom meeting, as there is not a room that can hold that many people and remain socially distant.

School Building Committee:

Chair Bacchiocchi announced that the next School Building meeting is on September 28. The building is still two weeks ahead of schedule.

Any Other Business:

Mr. Flaherty referred to the report distributed at the meeting by Ms. Suckow, and asked Dr. Shaver-Hood if there is anything concerning in the report. Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that there are a few account lines that need to be adjusted in payroll.

Mr. Flaherty asked which line item PPE will come out of.

Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that PPE is not coming out of the LEA budget. WPS received a CARES Grant \$507,000, and some of the PPE will be purchased from this grant. She continues that the town has allowed the School Dept. to purchase PPE's, however, whenever we use that money, a purchase order must be submitted, and have another account as a back up plan, which serves as a place holder, incase the purchase request is denied by Plymouth County. With any hope, we will have the majority of our CARES money remaining and could roll into next year if that is at all possible.

Mr. Flaherty asked the superintendent to confirm that we rehired all of the staff that we said we would rehire.

Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that she did, but money was moved from supplies and material lines and put it in the CARES budget, because if we didn't, we would be paying a 9% to MTRS.

Mr. Flaherty asked for confirmation that staff members who were intended to return after the layoffs were rehired.

Dr. Shaver-Hood confirmed that everybody is back that is suppose to be back. She stated that there were still some layoffs that were not recalled, because they were not in positions that were recalled.

Dr. Shaver-Hood added that due to hybrid, we do not need three kitchens open, and we had to furlough cafeteria workers, and invited these employees to be bus monitors or seasonal custodians, but they did not have any interest.

Mr. Flaherty asked if any bus drivers have been furloughed, and Dr. Shaver-Hood responded no.

Dr. Shaver-Hood responded that on Wednesday (Full Remote), the schools still need drivers for food distribution, OOD student transportation, and we continue to look for bus monitors, CNA's, seasonal workers, and like many school districts, we are struggling for people to apply for jobs right now.

Mr. Brogioli inquired about substitutes, and asked how that will work moving forward.

Dr. Shaver-Hood explained we are hiring two permanent intermittent subs per building, and will hold right now and not hire any more subs. If the schools see the need, we will hire, but feel strongly that we want the same sub with us four days a week and keep contained.

Dr. Shaver-Hood continued that she is aware of two bus companies who closed during Covid, which makes it harder to find OOD transportation and is a challenge for the school district.

Chair Bacchiocchi offered the opportunity for Ms. Fay, Director of Student Services to speak. Ms. Fay approached the microphone and shared with the committee that it was an extensive amount of work that made day one run flawlessly, everything went so well, and it was so exciting to see our students.

Ms. Fay shared with the committee that there are 44 Out Of District (OOD) students (4 remote, 40 in person), and there is a strain on transportation as we search for drivers and vendors. Preschool starts on Monday, September 20.

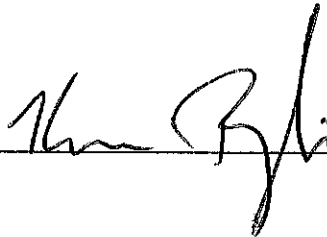
Mr. Flaherty made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.
All in favor:

3 - yea
0 - nay
0 - abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Th Brogioli', is written over a horizontal line.

List of Documents:

Superintendent's Newsletter, Minutes August 6, 2020, August 20, 2020, September 3, 2020, Monthly Report 9/2020

