

Wareham Public Schools
September 21, 2023

There was a meeting of the Wareham School Committee Meeting at The Multiservice Center, 48 Marion Rd, Room 320. The meeting was recorded by WCTV and broadcast live, and audio recorded by Jamie Wiksten.

Attendance: Kevin Brogioli, Brennan McKiernan, Joyce Bacchiocchi, Geoff Swett, and Apryl Rossi, Dr. D'Andrea, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, and Jamie Wiksten, recording secretary.

Public Participation:
None

Good News:
Dr. D'Andrea shared MCAS results was released and congratulated the Wareham Elementary School, as it was designated by the state as one of the 66 school across the state for high achievement and growth and made mention to significant growth in Grade 4

Student Representative:
Gisella Priestly shared clubs have begun at the High School. The band is performing at the High School football game, DECA, Drama, Key Club, Student Council have all begun. The sports teams are doing well, and the football team is really enjoying the new coach. The first meeting for Credit for Life launched this past week.

Minutes of the Meeting:

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the minutes for the 4/27/2023, 8/31/2023, 9/7/2023 meetings, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Roll Call:
Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Facilities Report:
Erik Trahan, Facilities Supervisor

Middle School Roof:

Mr. Trahan announced the Middle School roof project (phase one) is complete. There were some delays at the start of the project. This past Tuesday, there was an inspection

conducted. Next year, the town approved the budget (\$7.5 million) for the remainder of the roof, and Mr. Trahan is now working with OPM to set a schedule for the second phase.

Mr. Swett asked when the bidding begin for the next roof? Mr. Trahan believes the bidding for phase two will be at the end of the year.

Boiler Project:

The project is still in progress.

-Controls commissioning will take place October 6, 2023

-Boiler start up: October 11, 2023

-Legally the building will need to have heat by October 15th.

Currently, the savings is just shy of \$900,000.

Mr. Swett asked why the projects are coming in lower than expected. Mr. Trahan stated that it is a competitive bid, and that might play a part in the savings of each job.

Ms. Flynn added a few years ago did a roof project in her former district, and believes this could be a residual effect of the price increase due to covid price inflation.

Report of the Director of Finance, Kristin Flynn

Ms. Flynn presented the August Financial report and the initial monitoring of the new school year salaries. Ms. Flynn noted out-of-district tuitions on the report, and stated are doing well at this time.

Ms. Bacchiocchi confirmed that out of district tuitions are encumbered for the entire year.

Mr. Swett asked if there are any negative surprises. Mr. Swett asked if the benefit eligible-employees are all budgeted for accurately. Ms. Flynn responded that once we go through all of our salaries, we will have a better understanding of the budget. The electricity at WES and out of district tuitions are her only concerns.

Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent asked the committee to accept the following gift: \$1000 donation from Cape Cod 5 bank to support Credit for Life.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the gift, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Warrants: The Superintendent asked the committee to accept the bill and payroll warrants as listed in the newsletter.

Ms. Rossi made the motion to accept the warrants, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Obsolete Furniture:

The Superintendent asked the committee to deem obsolete a universal weight lifting device, stored in the old B/G Club, weight lifting room.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to deem the item obsolete, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Dr. D'Andrea mentioned there will be a cell phone committee at the High School to implement the best way to contend with cell phones in our buildings.

The question was asked what the grant money will be used for. Dr. D'Andrea responded that the money will be used for staff/committee members, and devices for cell phone storage in every classroom.

Ms. Rossi asked Gisella Priestly her perspective of the cell phone.

Ms. Priestly responded that in light of what has been happening in the world, she believes that locking up phones will be hard for students, and doesn't think it is the solution.

Ms. Rossi asked about smart watches, and do we ban watches, and where is the line?

Dr. D'Andrea responded that these are all good points. The classroom is a learning environment and when we allow cell phones, we are not protecting the learning environment, and we have to remove the distraction.

Dr. Schwamb added there will be five staff members serving on the committee and witnessed excessive cell phone use in the past and is already seeing a better learning environment with the rules enforced thus far.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi noted there is a cell phone policy in the High School handbook on page 35.

The Chair noted this topic is not an agenda item tonight, and asked if the cell phone committee can provide an update to the School Committee.

Report of the School Committee:

MCAS Requisition:

The Chair asked for suggestions for the October 19th report.

- Mr. Swett requested information supporting the recent improvement of scores.
- Mr. McKiernan would like to see how covid impacted the students who began their education remotely.
- Mrs. Bacchiocchi would like to see comparison of a student cohort from grade to grade
- The Chair asked for DART comparisons and a clear explanation of SPG, and areas of concerns.

Policy Review Sub-Committee:

-October 4, 2023 is the first meeting and Ms. Rossi is looking for a Wareham Elementary School parent to join the committee.

MCAS Resolutions:

Resolution 1: Full stable Funding Metco

Mr. McKiernan made a motion to approve Resolution 1, seconded by Ms. Rossi

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-abstain, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -4, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1

VOTE: 4-0-1

Resolution 2: Regarding investigations and recommendation for transportation bidding procedures

Mr. McKiernan made a motion to approve Resolution 2, seconded by Ms. Bacchiocchi.

Roll Call:

) Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl
) Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Resolution 3: Regional Transportation

Mr. McKiernan made a motion to approve Resolution 2, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-abstain, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea,
Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -4, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1

VOTE: 4-0-1

Resolution 4: Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Mr. Swett suggested that if the committee votes to recommend this resolution, the Committee ought to say we are going to adopt a position, or do we really want a position, or a title of these responsibilities, and would it be a stipend position.

Mr. Swett moved to abstain from Resolution 4, seconded by Ms. Rossi

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl
Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Resolution 5: MA School Building Authority

Mrs. Bacchiocchi and Mr. McKiernan questioned the resolution. Ms. Rossi responded that the resolution could be broken up

Mrs. Bacchiocchi made a motion to accept the resolution by removing the \$8 million cap.

Mr. Swett made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-nay, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -4, Nay – 1, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-1-0

Resolution 6: School Bus Stop Arm Surveillance Act and Enforcement and Penalties

Ms. Bacchiocchi mentioned the expense of surveillance and made recommendations to Ms. Rossi.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the recommendation and approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Resolution 7: Related to MCAS

Mr. McKiernan does not like MCAS, but believes an alternative is needed before it is eliminated. Ms. Rossi responded that one of the issues is the graduation requirement.

Mr. Swett responded that the MCAS bar is pretty low, and there are multiple tests that can be taken. Dr. D'Andrea responded that he is not aware of any student who was unable to graduate because of the MCAS test.

Ms. Rossi stated that this resolution might not affect Wareham. The Chair supports the second part of the resolution.

Mr. McKiernan made a motion to accept the 1st, 2nd, and 4th section.

Ms. Bacchiocchi felt the statements contradict each other, and agreed with the Chair on the second part of the resolution.

Ms. Bacchiocchi recommended eliminating section 1,3,4 and keep section 2.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept Ms. Bacchiocchi recommendation, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-nay, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -4, Nay – 1, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-1-0

Resolution 8: Safe Storage of Firearms

Mr. Swett made a motion to accept Resolution 8, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Seeing no other business, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Roll Call:

Joyce Bacchiocchi-yea, Geoff Swett-yea, Kevin Brogioli-yea, Brennan McKiernan-yea, Apryl Rossi-yea

Yea -5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey W. Swett", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'G' and a distinct 'S'.