

Wareham School Committee
Thursday, October 6, 2022

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Multiservice Center, 48 Marion Rd.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

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

Arrived late: Geoff Swett

The Chair asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Medina, former teacher and principal of Wareham Public Schools.

The Chair lead the meeting with the pledge of allegiance

Public Participation:

No public participation.

Good News:

Mrs. Bacchiocchi announced the Booster Club is recruiting new parents to help support the athletics.

Student Representative Report:

Indiana Troupe announced WHS Spirit Week will be held on October 17 – 21, 2022, including a Homecoming Dance and Can Food Drive.

He added that the school store dedication ceremony for Dr. Cliff Sylvia was a great event.

The National Honor Society had their first meeting, and Ms. Medina and Ms. Terasconi are the Advisors.

The All Cape College Fair was hosted by the guidance department. IB is having their five-year review.

Principal Reports:

Bethany Chandler, Wareham Elementary School

- 95% student attendance
- 875 students and climbing each day.
- Today (October 6) is the Kindergarten Showcase for parents.

-October 26th is the Pumpkin Story Walk from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

The Chair asked where the concern is regarding student attendance. Ms. Chandler responded that when students reach five (5) absences, parents will be contacted with attendance letters.

Ms. Rossi asked about registration numbers. Dr. Chandler responded that registration has settled down.

Tracie Cote, Wareham Middle School

-Clubs began this week on Tuesdays and students are excited.

-The Middle School is halfway through term one, and progress reports went out last week.

-445 enrollment

-50-60 students are enrolled in intramurals

(Mr. Swett arrived at 6:59 p.m.)

Ms. Rossi asked about attendance at the Middle School. Ms. Cote responded that attendance has not been good, and does not feel that it is a transportation concern. Counselors are working to connect with families and check on student absences.

Mr. Swett asked what the parent reaction was to poor attendance. Ms. Cote responded that she receives a lot of excuses and will be happy to present the attendance criteria and data to the committee.

Scott Palladino, Wareham High School

-Upcoming: IB Diploma Evaluation visit and anticipates positive feedback

-Cliff Sylvia was recognized and the new DECA store was named after him.

-Next Wednesday is the MEFA financial night and encourages every student to attend.

-Haunted Hallways was an amazing event, and excited to bring it back again this year

-Clubs and sports are in full swing.

-NEASC visits WHS on November 13th

-Attendance rate is 93.4%

Ms. Rossi inquired with Mr. Palladino about the attendance issues at the high school.

Mr. Palladino stated that WHS has a non-credit policy and has a little more leverage keeping students accountable. It's 5% of the population that drive the numbers and have many issues that keep them from attending school.

Mr. Swett stated that IB is working jointly with NEASC and will join forces at the next visit in five years. Mr. Palladino was not aware, and reminded him that NEASC does not return again for another 10 years.

Ms. Fondulis, PASS program

Ms. Fondulis announced that the program has a site coordinator, counselor, teachers, and is now housed in the high school.

A new class “Financial Literacy” has been created for night school students, and requires each student to take this course as a graduation requirement.

There are 36 students, including four (4) out of district (school choice), and two (2) teen moms who receive support from the outreach coordinator.

Ms. Fondulis stated the PASS numbers are increasing. Night school was remote an additional year after day school returned from COVID, and some students had to go the route of GED. She is doing outreach, via emails and phone calls. Brochures are sent to guidance offices in other school districts as well.

Pilot Running Club:

Ms. Cote announced that the WMS clubs began and Dr. Wade would like to conduct a running club, and make it an official club. It has never been an official program, and would like the club to promote running and be a good feeder program for the high school.

Ms. Rossi supported the proposal.

Mr. Swett made a motion to accept the pilot club, and Ms. Rossi seconded the motion.

Mr. Swett asked what Dr. Wade would expect the initial numbers to be. (A definite response was not given).

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Student Advisory:

Gisella Priestly, Junior

Ms. Priestly reported that the Student Advisory spoke about keeping the school library open after school hours, as students need a place to go and are not comfortable at the public library. The advisory will try one day per week and see how the schedule works. National Honor Society students have been asked to tutor and support students during this time.

Dress code was discussed. A survey will be conducted, asking opinions about dress and bandanas. Ms. Priestly shared her opinion that students of color are uncomfortable with the teacher's impression of bandanas, and wished cultural items would be allowed.

Mr. McKiernan asked why students are uncomfortable attending the public library afterschool.

Gisella Priestly shared there was an instance when the librarian reacted, and shouted the students were kicked out, and if they didn't leave she would call the police. Ms. Priestley's opinion was the students were mostly low income students and of color. Mr. Palladino interjected that a few students making poor choices ruined it for several other students.

Mr. Palladino shared that Dr. D'Andrea approved funding for an afterschool pilot program at the library.

Mr. Swett shared his opinion regarding the library's inability to differentiate between the students.

Mr. Swett also added that we don't want what students are wearing to be the subject in the classroom. The more clothing draws attention, the less it is about learning in the classroom.

Gisella Priestley responded that students are taken out of class to be disciplined for what students wear.

Europe Trip:

Mr. Palladino shared that Mr. Gardner would like to conduct a trip abroad in June 2025. There would be fundraising, allowing for parents to create a payment plan less than \$100 a month. We have had nine tours with EF Tours in the past. These trips have been a tremendous success. There will be a tour guide assigned to the Wareham group. There is travel protection and the cost is \$4399. If the school locks in early, there are discounts. There will be a donation page, and money can be gifted.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi asked about cancellations. Mr. Palladino responded that the only thing they would lose is the \$95 enrollment fee.

Mr. McKiernan asked which grades could attend. Mr. Palladino responded that January 1 is the cutoff date to move forward and will be targeting Grade 8, 9, and 10th graders. Once you sign up, the price is locked with an incentive to commit and only need 6 students to make the trip.

Ms. Rossi asked about passports and visa travel guidelines. Mr. Palladino responded that guidance will be offered from staff and ER tours.

Ms. Bacchiocchi made a motion to approve the trip, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Budget Transfer, Kristin Flynn

Ms. Flynn shared that the electricity increase at Wareham Elementary was due to a moisture control issue. The Facilities Supervisor was able to get the problem under control, and after a few weeks the electricity has returned to the main mode with normal usage.

\$25,000 transfer – the town does not allow bills to be paid in lines of deficit.

We do not have a full year history of Wareham Elementary yet. Mr. Swett clarified that we used all of the money allocated for the entire year in the months of July and August.

Dr. D'Andrea added that it was a hot and humid July, and had a moisture issue using nine industrial humidifiers running 24/7 and the increase of electricity created a perfect storm.

Dr. Schwamb included the building wasn't empty at the time, operating the summer programs.

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

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Uniform Grant Guidance, Kristin Flynn

Ms Flynn: As part of ESSER funds, in order to be in compliance with Federal Grant Regulations, Wareham needs to update its grant guidance documents. Our policies for procurement, along with other schools were found not to have submitted what is required. Ms. Flynn reached out to DESE and was advised to take these steps, to make us in compliance and is timely.

Dr. D'Andrea stated that this is the practice that should be followed. School Committees accept the grant, but not how the grant is used. The School Committee would be informed how the grant can be used.

Ms. Flynn added that the grants are due over the summer for the start of the year, and would present the grants – their total and priorities – and the School Committee would accept and acknowledge the grant. Throughout the course of the year, she would offer an update of the grants. The regulations are a provision of the law.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi confirmed that in every warrant the School Committee receives warrants with both LEA and grants as listed.

Mr. Swett stated the School Committee approves and signs. Mrs. Bacchiocchi responded that she asks for backup before anything that she signs.

Ms. Bacchiocchi made a motion to approve the Uniform Grants Guidance with hopes of another conversation regarding this, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

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

Yea – 4, Nay – 1 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-1-0

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. D'Andrea asked the committee to accept a \$770 donation to the Class of the 2025 and Backpack supplies from Walmart.

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

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

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

Ms. Bacchiocchi made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Rossi

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Report of the School Committee:

Superintendent Goals:

-Focus Indicators have been listed under each approved goal.

-The Chair acknowledged 11 indicators listed to be addressed under the goals.

-Ms. Rossi pointed out that there is only one focus indicator under district improvement and feels there should be at least four indicators under each goal.

-Mr. Swett read 21 indicators and the proficient section of each indicator, and does not feel this will allow him to be a fair judge

-Mrs. Bacchiocchi responded that this was done to make the process uniform and fair, same goals, same indicators, and inform the Superintendent what we are evaluating on.

-Indiana Troupe shared he recalls from the MASC presentation that 1-2 focus indicators for each goal would make it more uniform.

-Dr. D'Andrea indicated that he has to provide evidence regarding the goals, and chose focus indicators, that he has addressed under each goal.

-Dr. Schwamb explained that the goals have been identified, and can't be measured by the focus indicators, as all of the indicators bleed through.

-The Chair stated 11 indicators are represented, and MASC recommends 7-8.

-Ms. Bacchiocchi included the evaluation has been defined by DESE.

-Mr. McKiernan added that the School Committee should use the focus indicators for the overall performance.

-Mr. Swett was displeased that there is not one indicator regarding the budget, which is an ongoing responsibility of the Superintendent.

Ms. Bacchiocchi made a motion to approve the Superintendent's Goals, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

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

Yea – 3, Nay – 2 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 3-2-0

Mr. Swett expressed his disappointment with the outcome of the vote.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi reminded Mr. Swett there is a Superintendent Evaluation Committee that she serves on along with Mr. Swett.

Ms. Rossi gave an update that the Policy Sub-Committee will meet on October 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and is still looking for a high school parent to join the committee.

School Committee Data Requisition:

The Chair asked Dr. D'Andrea and Dr. Schwamb for all MCAS information percentages per school and overall information as a district. The Chair included that he would like to see data shown in a public way including absenteeism and test results. He would like to see each student, attendance, and their scores, and see if there is a correlation to attendance.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi added that she would like to see data from year-to-year, per grade.

Without any further business, Mr. McKiernan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Swett.

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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