

School Committee Meeting  
December 21, 2023

There was a meeting of the Wareham School Committee Meeting at the Multi Service Center. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was recorded by WCTV and broadcast live, and audio recorded by Jamie Wiksten.

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

The Chair lead the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

No Public Participation:

Ms. Devlin, Wareham resident for 41 years, and stated she has two children in the Wareham Public Schools. Her son is on the basketball team. She does not feel it is right that children who are failing classes are still able to play, and presents as favoritism on the team. She requested the School Committee look into the policy regarding athletics and criteria to play. She spoke to the athletic director, and felt both she and her son were belittled by him.

Mr. Swett injected that Wareham has recently raised the grading standards.

Dr. D'Andrea asked her to call him tomorrow and he would be happy to speak with her about her concerns.

Good News:

Dr D'Andrea addressed a recent event that happened with a teacher outside of the workplace and thanked the High School staff for taking care of each other.

Mr. McKiernan reminded high school families that there is a Capstone project as an option in place of the portfolio, and the pilot program permission slip is due tomorrow.

School Nurse Appointment, Kayla Blount, RN

The Superintendent announced that Danielle Ambrose will transfer to the Middle School upon the retirement of Sue Akins in February 2024.

The Superintendent introduced Kayla Blount and submitted Ms. Blount to the School Committee for their consideration for hire.

Ms. Bacchiocchi welcomed her back to Wareham (former student). Mr. Swett was blown away by her resume and recognized that Kayla Blount is a certified nurse practitioner.

Ms. Blount shared that things have changed in the medical world since covid, and moved into school nursing, and is interested to return to her home town.

Ms. Bacchiocchi made a motion to appoint Kayla Blount as School Nurse, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

#### Food Service Annual Report, Michael Russo

Mr. Russo shared that Gov. Healey recently signed for funding for universal free meals for all students in the state of Massachusetts.

The Profit and Loss statement and images of the new equipment purchased were shared with the committee.

This fiscal year, beginning in July, some months include profit, some months loss, equipment purchases, repairs, and the number of school days are all factors in the monthly statements.

Purchases: cafeteria tables for WES and WHS, ice machines, combination ovens, and a 2022 food service van. The previous van was a 2007, and it was transferred to another department.

Mr. Russo compared the participation in breakfast and lunch at all three schools, comparing the participation rates between the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year.

Ms. Rossi inquired about the dual enrollment student numbers and asked if the dual enrollment students effect the High School participation rate. Mr. Russo stated that he has not deducted the BSU students, and will reach out to Mr. Palladino for the numbers.

Mr. Swett also added that senior privileges can impact the high school participation rate, as those students are coming and going during meal times.

Mr. Russo acknowledged that Wareham is doing better than the state average. Mr. Swett added that he would like to see the state averages included in the next year report. Mr. McKiernan asked about surplus food, and Mr. Russo responded that they don't normally have a surplus.

Mr. Russo acknowledged his staff and the team effort district wide.

Director of Finance, Kristin Flynn

Ms. Flynn shared that the budget is very stable. Accounts that she watches are transportation and out of district.

She included that the Payroll Bookkeeper tracks the salary lines and we may see some salary transfers soon.

Professional salaries and support salaries, the 9% for retirement must be included when paying salaries through the grant, so Ms. Flynn has made some changes to keep the money "here" in Wareham. It is good practice to keep the salaries out of the grants because of the retirement requirements.

Mr. Swett asked about the buses that were approved last spring. Ms. Flynn responded that the big bus has arrived, but still waiting on the vans.

FY 25 Budget:

The Superintendent and Ms. Flynn asked the School Committee to approve a 6.73% increase, which will also include \$1 million dollars in cuts, and asking the committee to approve \$35,765,553.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the FY 25 budget, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

Discussion: Mr. Brogioli is not in favor of the cut, but knew this would happen with the ending of ESSER funds and the fiscal cliff.

Mr. Swett shared that the budget sub-committee is aware of the plans of the 1.2 million dollars in cuts, and has plans to cut more. The ESSER money was a band-aid, and those years are over. The loss of students is also a contributing factor, inflation, and town revenue are not rising as fast as expenses and salaries.

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Superintendent Report:

The Superintendent shared the following gifts:

\$150 from Noah Young

Hats for the WMS giving tree

\$20,000 from Maurice and Anne Makepeace Family

\$5000 for the ASLP Program

Holiday gifts from Gifts to Give

SEMASS \$1000 for families in need

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

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Payroll and Bill Warrants:

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the bill and payroll warrants, seconded by Mr. Sweet

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

#### Report of the School Committee:

##### #1: School Committee Policy Development

Mr. McKiernan made a motion to accept the changes, seconded by Mr. Swett.

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

##### #2 Policy Revision and Review – No Changes

Mr. McKiernan made a motion to accept the policy with no changes, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

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

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

#3 Policy Adoption

Ms. Rossi shared that the sub-committee made a recommendation to suspend the existing policy, and adopt the MASC version of this policy.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to suspend the existing policy, and adopt the MASC version of this policy, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

#4 Request for hearing for School Committee (was tabled by the sub-committee)

#5 Succession of Authority

Mr. McKiernan made a motion to accept the policy changes, seconded by Ms. Bacchiocchi

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

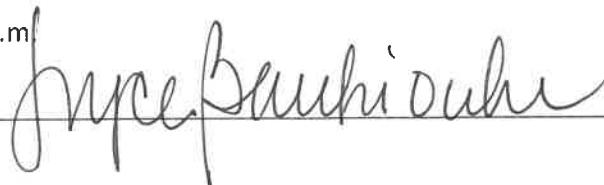
Roll Call Vote: Kevin Brogioli - yea, Geoff Swett - yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yea, Brennan McKiernan, yea

Yea – 5, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce Bacchiocchi", written over a horizontal line.