

February 13, 2020

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Multi-Service Center, Room 320. Members present were Michael Flaherty, Apryl Rossi, Mary Morgan, Joyce Bacchiocchi, Laurie Spear and student representative Emily Roberge as well as Assistant Superintendent Andrea Schwamb and Recording Secretary Michelle Ruiz. Absent was Superintendent Kimberly Shaver-Hood who had scheduled time off.

Chair Flaherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and stated that the meeting was being taped by WCTV for broadcast and an audio recording by Mrs. Ruiz. Anyone taping the meeting must let the Chair know. One person indicated a recording was being made.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

Mrs. Bacchiocchi congratulated Emily Roberge on her election as Lt Governor of the Key Club, 10 school districts across the Cape. She shared that the elementary schools celebrated their 100 days. There was a Buddy Bench at Minot Forest and she has asked the Chair to invite these folks to a meeting to hear how this happened. There was a WHS Naviance program presentation by Guidance and she reminded parents that Naviance is available on the home page of the high school.

Ms. Rossi announced that the WHS Hockey team made it to the South Coast Conference Tournament and student Q. daConta is the #2 top scoring player in WHS history.

Chair Flaherty attended the Alumni basketball game this past weekend and the Cape Cod Collaborative legislative breakfast with representative Gifford and others, which was very informative.

Report of the Student Representative

Miss Roberge shared that the Key Club is accepting donations for Teens for Jeans. She gave an update on the Ideal Lab Space in the Library and announced the Boys' Basketball Senior Night was tomorrow and a Valentine's Day breakfast by Chef Breda on Friday.

Minutes of the Meeting

Ms. Rossi moved to approve the minutes of January 23, 2020, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Global Ambassadors April 2021 Study Tour Presentation

Teacher Joe Franco along with Global Ambassador students Brooke, Ava, and Indiana presented the April 2021 Azores and Spain 9-day trip by Lingo Tours. The cost is \$3,387, which includes transportation, hotel, breakfast, three course dinners, and admission fees.

In response to the Committee members' questions, scholarships are through the CARE Program, where students can help with homework/activities/clubs at a \$12.00 hour stipend, which goes into their personal account for the trip. This year's trip to France and next year's trip to Spain were decided upon by student interest. The trip is open to the community and chaperones cost is offset. There is a flat cost no matter how many sign up but the more students, the more chaperones are needed. They will start advertising through Facebook, posters, and an informational session to students in the Middle and High School.

Update on New Elementary School by Project Manager

Chad Crittenden and Mark Adrean of PMA Consultants along with Dennis Daley of Mount Vernon Group shared a PowerPoint presentation on the new elementary school project.

Mr. Daly showed pictures of the site plan and the floor plans including the innovation hub.

Mr. Crittenden updated the committee on the project cash flow, what has been paid to date and the MSBA reimbursement. The trade contractor bid results will be in next week and the general contractor bid is due February 27th. The project schedule shows the building substantially complete by October 2021 with occupancy January 2022, after winter break.

A virtual tour of the outside of the school was shown. MVG has a program for high school students to learn what is involved in building a school; a shadowing program with the high school students going to the trailer on site to develop an interest in architect and project manager jobs. Dr. Schwamb stated that teacher David Arnold is working with the contractors for the student participation program by MVG.

Mr. Daly answered Ms. Rossi's concerns regarding chairs in the cafetorium, the area that looks like fields and the probability for expansion. There will be adult chairs in storage when needed. The paved play areas serve for parent pick up and can be painted in different ways. The capacity for the school is 1,020 and we are at the low end of design capacity with 24 classrooms.

Mr. Crittenden stated that MSBA uses 80% so another 20% is available for added wings. In answer to Mrs. Morgan's concern, the project appears to have stopped because Wareham hired three contractors, as a cost method with a two-month stoppage planned, not the same as the Dunfee school project.

In answer to Miss Roberge's question about the art rooms, Mr. Daly stated that there will be diffused light and natural light from above with tube lights.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi stated that the Building Committee meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is March 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Daly and Mr. Crittenden addressed Chair Flaherty's concern with safety. Consultants were brought in and the best available technology is being used. Several hundred cameras will be integrated into the police station, and safety and bulletproof glass will be installed in certain areas. Time and communication are a key part of school safety.

Chair Flaherty liked the targeted sections near the classrooms and the graphics in the cafeteria. He suggested using pictures that "Grumpy" took of nature in the local area.

Food Service Report

Dr. Schwamb gave Mike Russo an introduction as our new Food Service Director.

Mr. Russo reported on the meal participation rates at each school for breakfast and lunch from September through January with his focus to increase participation. He compared rates from the last two years to the current year. The state and USDA are pushing Breakfast in the Classroom with a share table, take home food or eat later. We have received support from Project Bread, a \$3,826 grant to WHS and Decas to improve breakfast participation rates; New England Dairy for \$1,574 in January for a hot chocolate milk dispenser at WHS; and two DESE \$20,000 grants for hot and cold serving counters at WHS and Middle School.

Ms. Rossi asked if food allergies or bus arrival times may be why participation is low.

Mr. Russo explained that dietary requirements go through the school nurse then into the system so workers are aware when delivering meals. We have lactose and gluten free items and we must meet dietary restrictions to provide a free meal to every child. There is also a breakfast after the bell mandate that allows students to take food to the classroom to eat. The front foyer at the high school also has a food cart for students and we are looking at a second location for a food cart.

Mrs. Spear asked if the choice of food for each grade level is the same.

Mr. Russo stated that Decas and Minot each have their own menu and WMS and WHS have the same menu, all menus are developed by the Cafeteria Manager and reviewed by him. In answer to Miss Roberge question of why water is not being served, water cannot be offered as an alternative to milk or juice but we have filtered water stations. We can sell water a la carte.

In answer to Mrs. Bacchiocchi's question whether we need to have a certain rate of participation to keep free, Mr. Russo stated, no but we would have a more viable operation. The more you serve will offset the overhead. CEP is a four-year agreement and we are in year three. Each year DESE looks at our enrollment for qualification for free lunch to meet that threshold. 54% is our baseline and we are now under that at 49%. In April we can re-baseline for the next four years.

Ms. Rossi asked if we can track which students do not participate using their PIN # and perhaps reach out to those parents and create an exemption (opt out) so they do not count on our participation rate. Mr. Russo stated that DESE does not allow exemptions and we must use the whole student body as our count.

Acceptance of Gifts

Dr. Schwamb recommended acceptance of the following gifts:

- \$4,000 from the DECA Boosters Club to DECA at WHS to offset costs of State and National Competition
- A guitar to the Minot Forest music program from the son of Ellie Sullivan, a musician
- Undergarments for the Minot and Decas nurses offices from the Women's Society of Christian Service

Ms. Rossi move approval of the gifts, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Student Opportunity Act

Dr. Schwamb reviewed the purpose of the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) as a recalculation of the Chapter 70 funding formula. She reviewed how Chapter 70 is calculated now and Wareham's Chapter 70 aid in 2019, 2020, and 2021. 85% of the new money is going to 35 schools districts and the remainder to all the other towns in Massachusetts. The Commissioner presented the SOA on January 23, 2020 and all districts are required to submit evidence based plans by April 1st which must include input from everyone in the district. DESE has not provided the templates yet for the plan. We will receive approximately \$72,000 each year for three years and have to submit the short form. The four statutory evidence-based plans are:

- Evidence-based practices
- Meaningfully engage stakeholders (parent/community)
- Resource allocation plan
- Outcome metrics

Tonight is the overview of the district SOA Plan. The administrators will provide the plan to faculty, students, and councils and we will create a draft plan after feedback and present to the School Committee on March 12th and then a vote on March 26th. The committee members should inform your constituents, read the plan when you receive it, make suggestions to the administration, and respond to the plan. The SOA Plan should be a collaborative effort.

Under the budget for FY21 we may be cutting some paraprofessionals. We have vetted data since February 2017 to present on student proficiencies. The suggested plan is to use the additional Chapter 70 funds to keep the paraprofessional positions and add in Red Bucket training for parent volunteers, which is happening now.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi stated that under the Town Administrator's report, school choice tuition going out went down and coming in went up, which is good news.

Vote on Article for April Town Meeting Warrant - Transfer of Unused Balances

Dr. Schwamb stated that Dr. Shaver-Hood submitted the article in order to meet the deadline. The article is to transfer unused balances from previous town meeting articles to help defray the cost of HVAC and building repairs at WHS and Middle School (\$40,930.44).

Ms. Rossi moved to approve the article as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Report of the Assistant Superintendent

- Approval of Bill and Payroll Warrants -Under MGL Chapter 41, Section 56, Ms. Rossi moved to approve the following payroll and bill warrants, seconded by Mrs. Morgan:
 Payroll Week Ending January 25, 2020 \$138,266.12
 Payroll Week Ending February 1, 2020 \$980,935.08
 Payroll Week Ending February 8, 2020 \$143,014.58
 Bill Warrant 1/30/20 \$3,692.32 & \$1,875.00
 Bill Warrant 2/6/20 \$171,175.79 (Minot project)
 Bill Warrant 2/6/20 \$3,692.32 & \$172,745.25
 Bill Warrant 2/13/20 \$160,361.48

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

- Use of Facilities Waiver of Fees – Dr. Schwamb shared that the superintendent, after consulting with the Chair, waived the fees for Community Youth Empowerment. CYE is not a nonprofit or for-profit organization but a group of volunteers. Under #5 of the Facilities Use policy, the superintendent is allowed to waive the fees. Instead of charging as a private group, she charged as non-profit - \$20 application fee, \$20 rental fee plus custodial fees incurred for the event.

Report of the School Committee

Recommendations Policy Review Committee – Mrs. Morgan presented the following recommendations:

Graduation Requirements – She asked to table this policy until there is more information on the statement "For inclusion in class rank, a student must have spent a minimum of four high school semesters in Wareham Public Schools System". The Superintendent had suggested adding, "An exception may be made by vote of the School Committee". Since the meeting, Mrs. Morgan has learned that students who attend a collaborative have the right to be included in the class rank. She has emailed the state civil rights who said she should ask the Department of Education, but felt it could be a violation of civil rights.

Ms. Rossi moved to table the Graduation Requirements policy until the March 12th meeting of School Committee, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

Ms. Rossi was also concerned with a student transferring in for IB and then being discounted in class rank.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Observations of Special Education Programs – deleted the first part of sentence one with reference to legislative amendment and changed one bullet and placed that language in the paragraph

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the Observations of Special Education Programs policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Social Networking for Staff - the added language came from the town's policy

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the Social Networking for Staff policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response - no changes made

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to approve the Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi asked if the committee should look at the public comment policy from MASC based on a recent court case. Chair Flaherty asked Mrs. Morgan to have the policy looked at by the Policy Review Committee.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi reported on the January 28th Board of Selectmen meeting she and the superintendent attended on town warrant articles. The MSBA SOI article was approved, but the article approved by the School Committee on naming the new elementary school was not approved for the warrant.

Chair Flaherty stated that he was told the proper process was to submit an article for town meeting so the Committee did such. Since the article was not approved for the warrant, he filed a citizen petition article that will be on the warrant to name the new school "Wareham Elementary School".

Any other business - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Flaherty asked for a vote to go into executive session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining - MOU, WEA Unit C Paraprofessionals per Chapter 30A, Section (2) and Executive Session Minutes per Chapter 30A, Section (7) and to come out to possibly vote and then adjourn.

Ms. Rossi moved to go into executive session as stated, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

(9:10 p.m. - 9:49 p.m.)

Ms. Rossi moved to approve the MOA with the Wareham Education Association and the School Committee regarding sick bank with changes to #1 – 29 days to 15 days, seconded by Mrs. Bacchiocchi.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

Mrs. Bacchiocchi moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea – 5; nay – 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: 

List of documents:

Correspondence: Superintendent's Newsletter, Personnel List, Notice of Vacancy, Bill & Payroll Warrants
Minutes of the Meeting January 23, 2020
LingoTours, The Azores and Spain April 2021
Project Update Presentation
WPS Food Service
Gifts – Minot Forest School
Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Chapter 70
Town Meeting Warrant Article
Graduation Requirements
Observations of Special Education Programs
Social Networking for Staff
Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response

WAREHAM TOWN CLERK
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