



WAREHAM HIGH SCHOOL

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School Council Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2022 7 a.m.

Invitees: Joyce Bacchiocchi; Jill Johnson; Christopher Gardner; Megan Kashner; Scott Palladino; Jamie Wiksten; Anne Berriault; Kerry Morrell; Michele Lefrancois; Billie-Jo Bean; Broy; Asher Hamilton; Anne Cote; Lester Smith

In attendance: Scott Palladino; Jill Johnson, Megan Kashner; Christopher Gardner, Bekki, Joyce Bacchiocchi; Anne Berriault, Alexandra Bumpus

Review and Approval of past meeting minutes.

The topic of approving the meeting minutes was unfortunately missed, and will be added to the April agenda.

Agenda Item 1 - Mask Update

The plan was originally to give you an update on when the masks were coming off, which is currently scheduled for March 14, 2022. Recent developments, including the federal government lifting its federal mandate on masks being worn on buses has added a potential new twist.

The School Committee is meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, and at that time, it may modify the mask mandate.

Wareham High School is following the direction of the School Committee and we are currently wearing masks and had no issues yesterday with students wearing masks.

Students and Staff will still be able to wear masks if they so desire moving forward no matter the outcome of the vote on Wednesday - after March 14, 2022.

Joyce Bacchiocchi - there will be a re-vote on masks on Wednesday at the School Committee meeting - to reconsider the vote on masks. Wareham has followed DESE guidelines and with the updated information have planned this meeting at the earliest possible time.

Questions - Jill Johnson - will parents be able to watch the School Committee Meeting?

"HOME OF THE VIKING SHIPS": Scholarship, Citizenship, Craftsmanship, Leadership and Sportsmanship

Answer - Joyce Bacchiocchi - yes, there will be no public participation, but the public can watch proceedings on Zoom.

Agenda Item 2 - Scheduling update for the 2022 - 2023 school year

The process of scheduling for the 2022 - 2023 school year starts in the fall and in December we turn in the Course of Studies to the School Committee. The last few years it has been early January and once approved, we begin the process here.

With the Course of Studies approved, we created a form for each class from Juniors down to the Eighth grader. The Guidance Department then scheduled to meet with each class beginning January 27 and running to February 8, 2022 to meet with all students to discuss the available courses and discuss options with students. A deadline was set for April 1, 2022 for completion of course selections. Then we start the process of creating the schedule for next year. It takes approximately 2 months to finish the schedule. It's based on student interest and staffing.

The process can be very frustrating. When we leave in June, the schedule looks great, but over the summer we have students move in and move out. It impacts the class schedule and size. Last year we waited until early August to set it, however, in fairness to students that are attending WHS it can get very complicated with summer reading requirements etc.

Question to - Alexandra - do you enjoy the process?

Answer - yes, I like the elective options available for the upcoming year.

Additional Questions - none

Agenda Item 3 - 8th Grade Dual enrollment Timelines

Mr. Palladino is going to the Middle School on Wednesday to present Dual Enrollment options for grade 7. The presentation moves through the process and shows them a way they can confidently follow the path they want to take if they want to push themselves.

Although most WHS students stay in the traditional education scheme - the individuals that look to dual enrollment have the following choices:

1. Option 1 - Traditional Dual Enrollment
 - a. 4 High School courses - English 9 Honors; Algebra 1 Honors; Intro to Physical World Honors, World History CP

Additionally - WHS is offering two other options

2. Option 2 - Part-Time Dual Enrollment - Humanities
 - a. 2 High School courses - English 9 Honors, World History CP
3. Option 3 - Part-Time Dual Enrollment - STEM
 - a. 2 High School courses - Algebra 1 Honors, Intro to Physical World Honors

8th Grade Dual Enrollment Timeline

1. Presentation to 7th Graders - March 2, 2022
2. Completed application available on March 4, 2022
3. Presentation to 7th Grade Parents - March 9, 2022
4. Application deadline - March 25, 2022
5. Student Interviews - April 5, 2022 - April 14, 2022 - via Zoom
6. Student notification of acceptance - End of April 2022
7. Student orientation - Early June 2022
8. Student training (2 hours) - August 2022

June orientation - before the students go home for the year and highlighting the training (schedule, classrooms, expectations) In August, we hope to be able to have a cookout or bbq this year.

30 - 40 students are expected to be enrolled in this for the upcoming school year.

If a student doesn't get accepted, there are other opportunities and pathways for students to get into dual enrollment after the 8th grade. A small number of students take this route, and it is not easy, but it is possible.

Questions

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - is the parent orientation in person or Zoom

Answer - Mr. Palladino - we have done hybrid meetings this year (Zoom and in person), and found it to be very successful 80 - 85% online but we have had 7 - 15 parents in the Auditorium. There are parents that have child care issues, travel issues etc., the hybrid approach works best for us.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - are you able to accommodate part time - are you seeing more kids enroll?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - not as much as we would like, but the kids that are coming in, are more confident and comfortable. We haven't seen a drastic increase, but part of the allure in the past was that you got to come to the high school as an 8th grader, but now that everyone is already here - it's not as exciting or enticing. But the quality of performance has improved.

Question - Megan Kashner - I have 2 8th grade soccer players that excel, great kids, but they are still looking to go out of district for HS. Parents and students are looking to go elsewhere due to our lack of electives. Is there a follow-up to those students to find out why they are leaving the district so that they can share their experiences and why they are leaving.

Answer - Mr. Palladino - we have done survey's in the past, and we haven't done that due to Covid issues. But we should probably look into that moving forward now that we are back to normal. We also here, if I don't go as a freshman, it will be very difficult to move schools after freshman year. Students know they can try it, and can always come back.

Question - Jill Johnson - I know this family, and others that are in the school. We are going to start losing lots of students due to behavioral issues that the school is experiencing.

Answer - Mr. Palladino - we are running 4 collaboratives right now. We have more out of district children who are in the building. The kids that were in TLC are now in inclusion with the general population. Eighth grade is a very difficult class this year. The inconsistencies that we have endured over the past 2 years have caused issues. We are sighted every year for the amount of discipline we give out with DESE, but the eighth grade is a very difficult group. The first quarter of the year was very difficult.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - At the school Committee meeting we hear all the time, how are we going to keep kids in Wareham. If we have a parent and/or teachers who are able to identify the issues, or areas we are experiencing, can we make those changes to keep kids in wareham, is that a possibility?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - we have follow-ups with people when they are leaving, we do not always receive information that is tangible.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - we are hearing this morning, non-specific information, can we look at this?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - we used to have four Deans, now we have two Deans that also teach. We can't keep cutting the budget. Each time we have to cut the budget, we have lost parts of administration that would help with these issues. It's very frustrating.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - are the 8th graders part of the Advisory Reps?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - Yes they are. The inconsistency over the last two years has been chaotic for all students. Some of the behaviors should taper off, due to the consistency of attending school. Students who want to be here are doing very well. And I need to be proactive for the kids and parents that want to be here. We've had kids go to Ivy League schools - consistently. The top 30% of our kids go to great schools.

Comment - Meghan Kashner - I tell people all the time that our kids are going to top tier schools. When kids are having learning time taken up by discipline actions it's causing parents to want to protect their kids from bad language, discipline and teachers taking abuse from students.

Answer - Mr. Palladino - teachers are pretty good at identifying issues and writing up kids - we are sighted by DESE every year for the amount of discipline we write up. Do we hire another administrator or hire another teacher - those are the questions that need to be answered. These issues need to be brought to the attention of the administration directly.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - will the dual enrollment presentation be on the website.

Answer - Mr. Palladino - yes, but we do it after the meeting so as to not give away the information ahead of time.

Agenda Item 4 - MCAS Schedule

MCAS schedule is as follows:

March 22 and 23, 2022 - Grade 10 ELA

April 12 and 13, 2022 - Grade 8 ELA

May 4 and 5, 2022 - Grade 8 Math

May 10 and 11, 2022 - Grade 8 Science

May 17 and 18, 2022 - Grade 10 Math

June 7 and 8, 2022 - Grade 9 Science

June 7 and 8, 2022 - Grade 10 Science

Agenda Item 5 - NEASC Update

We have one more early release as we prepare for the visit in the fall. We've had two meetings to review and discuss. We will be voting on the standards (Mr. Palladino's standard 5 will be completed over the summer due to the boilers and fire alarms being addressed).

Megan Kashner - is Standard 4 - talks about the support we give students directly, not just special ed, but in all aspects, all the services we give. What that process is, and all that WHS does to help the student overall.

Over the summer we will be solidifying where they will stay, agendas etc. We expect 6 - 8 people. We expect that we will receive an excellent report.

Within the building, by the time the visit occurs we will have updated a number of things, including windows, plumbing, boilers etc., which hopefully translates into a better learning environment for our students.

Questions - none

Agenda Item 6 - MYP Update

Officially becoming an MYP school - completing the MYP application which will be sent out at the end of March. We will have a visit from the Baccalaureate program. We started with IB, MYP is the middle school program. There are some projects built into this. Non traditional learning vs. traditional teaching.

All teachers have been trained in MYP - even in the non-IB courses, this allows them to use some techniques into their overall teaching.

Questions:

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - Tell me one difference we will see between this year and next year due to MYP

Answer - Mr. Palladino - There will be a shift in the curriculum. Project based assessments of student choice, and more opportunities for engagement for students vs. teacher instruction. The teacher is going to give them what they need, and the students will be figuring it out. Less traditional, learning the principles, with direction from the teacher, the student will be engaged in figuring it out.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - Does this work for all levels of students?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - A hybrid will work. Teachers have to be present in the class and it allows the teacher to differentiate and be more student driven, vs the needs of the class as a whole.

It forces us to get our curriculum approved. Instruction based on global connection is important.

Question - Anne Berriault - In reviewing the course selection process I was surprised to see the SAT prep was a required course. Many Colleges and Universities are not using the SAT anymore for admission. What are we doing about that?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - we have had a push in the past to increase our SAT grades. We always offered SAT prep and only a small number of students were taking it. We wanted our students to be prepared. We are watching that and considering whether it is a Covid thing, or a long term change. If it's a long term change, then we will take it up with the School Committee to change our standards.

We need to watch it, and see our students negatively impacted due to a reversal in the standard. We should know in the next year or two.

Question - (I did not record who asked it) - Criminal Justice course - I had to reach out to Guidance, because I couldn't find it on the Course Selection Sheet. Not sure if the title is different from what we are calling it. We need to show our differentiability, our resources and areas that we can focus on.

What can we do for more PR to increase and promote the awareness of all the great things the school has to offer? We are not being heard, and communication is consistently an issue. There are a lot of opportunities, can we work together to create a better public relations campaign?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - we will add it to the next agenda for discussion.

Criminal and Civil Law was the course in question.

PR is definitely something that needs to be improved.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - There has been more work done to the WHS this year, and improvements made. During the town meeting, the meeting was moved to the gym, why?

Answer - Mr. Palladino - we have had electrical lighting issues in the auditorium - we have hired a consultant to give some specs, and they are drawing up plans. The tough part is, it's not a classroom, and it's used by the town as much as by the school - we are looking at about \$75K to \$100K that needs to be completed. Once we have specifics we can create a 4 or 5 year plan to address it.

During Town Meeting where you need to read things it's difficult at times to use the Auditorium.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - what about the lights out back

Answer - Mr. Palladino - there is an issue - but no one can figure out what the problem is. Electrical issues continue to be an issue.

Question - Joyce Bacchiocchi - the sign for the softball field has been approved, will that be ready for the spring.

Answer - Mr. Palladino - will there be money for that? As far as we know there are no funds yet - there is a relative that may be donating money - but we need to price out the sign first. Placement of the sign is being discussed, so the best possible location is chosen - under the scoreboard most likely.