



WAREHAM HIGH SCHOOL

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School Council Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2021 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; Anne Berriault; Christopher Garland; Megan Kashner; Alexandra Bumpus; Benjamin Biogioli

Agenda attached, minutes in order of discussion:

Agenda Item 1 - Review and Approval of past meeting minutes.

There were no modifications or additions to the minutes as recorded - passed 3/0/1

Agenda Item 2 - Course of Studies for the 2022 - 2023 school year

Principal Palladino led the discussion regarding the Wareham High School Course of Studies. The process of developing changes to the 2022 - 2023 Course of Studies is underway. Department Heads and administration are working on what courses can be offered next year. Wareham High School runs 100+ courses in a year. Mr. Palladino includes input from Department Heads, Student Advisory Council input to develop the in school as well as potential online alternatives.

There continues to be support for vocational classes, and student driven requests such as Mandarin and American Sign Language. Budget restraints can make it difficult to add classes as adding the necessary teachers to support the initiative.

Mr. Palladino stated that the 2022 - 2023 Course of Studies will be presented at the January 4, 2022 School Council Meeting for review and then will be presented to the School Committee.

Questions:

1. Anne Berriault - Does the accreditation allow an "unlicensed" individual to come to WHS and teach an individual course.

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

Mr. Palladino - There is a process in place, and requires a waiver, however it is time consuming and can be challenging. Part time staff can be an issue due to scheduling.

2. Joyce Bacchiocchi - How can we expand vocational offerings?

Mr. Palladino - Space/logistics for additional vocational opportunities can be problematic, our supply of available classrooms is an issue, we need to use classrooms for multiple classes, and we need to utilize what we have.

3. [Anne Berriault](#)- Concerning potential budget constraints, can we increase interest in psychology, criminal justice and sociology -as those are currently trending interests for students entering college/university. Liberal arts and Masters in psychology is a major move in higher education and may distinguish us from other districts.

Mr. Palladino - AP Psychology is currently offered to create pathways for students interested in those fields. Currently 30 credits of electives are required for graduation, and we have been able to move budget line items to create certain courses.

Agenda Item 3 - NEACC Dissenial Visit Notification

The NEACC Dissenial Visit is scheduled for November 13 - 16, 2022.

There are three recommendations prior to the visit, and Mr. Palladino will be asking the School Council to meet with the visiting team. The visiting team will be meeting with staff, students and be in classrooms. Their visit is a very good thing, and we are looking forward to their visit.

Wareham High School has been accredited since 1960 and has never lost it. In 2010 Wareham High School had a roof issue, but due to the team visit, we were able to obtain funding for the repairs. Other areas of concern are technology - which has been greatly increased

Questions:

1. Joyce Bacchiocchi - There was a recent upgrade to the boilers, will it show a savings to electricity and gas?

Mr. Palladino - Yes, however, it will not be discernible until next year. Once the budget line item is shown overall. Once they are replaced we expect to decrease the the line item due to less maintenance being needed.

Agenda Item 4 - Budget update **Agenda Item 5 - Winter Athletics**

ASR Funds - Federal Funds for Covid - last year was the first year in 12 that no teachers were cut. Because of that, we were able to offer more support to students. This year, cuts are being made,

however we are being very strategic. Approx \$250k in cuts are being made, two positions and specific line items (athletics, maintenance etc) in order to make the necessary numbers. Mr. Palladino is positive our students will not be impacted.

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 School Committee will vote on the 2022 - 2023 budget. The process starts in September, gets approval overall and then is presented to the Town Meeting in the spring.

Questions:

1. Joyce Bacchiocchi - Will Athletic user fees be coming back?

Mr. Palladino - Yes, they are coming back. Hopefully not an increase over what we have implemented in the past.

2. Joyce Bacchiocchi - Will this impact the number of students who participate in sports, and how much will it raise?

Mr. Palladino - Difficult to ascertain at this time

Megan Kashner - Not sure of the impact at this time.

Chris Gardner - We have more participants in Winter Track, with a good class mix

Mr. Palladino - Last year the changes made to the timing of sports impacted participation overall. Currently we have 18 clubs and 135 students participating

3. [Anne Berriault](#) - Are there other sports we can combine like Hockey (Wareham/Carver).

Mr. Palladino - Not at this time, the cost associated with Hockey is why we are co-op with Carver. In order to co-op with another town for sports, it is necessary to prove that each school individually can't field a team. We are trying to create a situation where Wareham High School competes in a single school division vs the large regional schools we compete with now. It's all about creating opportunities for students.

4. [Anne Berriault](#) - Among parents there is conversation about the competitiveness of Football, maybe it could be a coop situation.

Mr. Palladino - overall the AD believes that we are missing a Freshman feeder program, which would be a vessel for more involvement.

5. [Joyce Bacchiocchi](#) - At the Booster meetings they are discussing Middle School sports.

6. [Joyce Bacchiocchi](#) - Are sports teams allowed to fundraise?

Mr. Palladino - Teams are allowed to fundraise, for items that are not supplied by the school such as - warm ups. There is some miscommunication with the coaches around this.

Agenda Item 6 - CYE/WHS Mentorship

Thirteen students are currently in a mentorship program. Mentors have been vetted (they are not parents or teachers). Eighth graders with academic problems can use this relationship to work with them to help their academic progress.

This program is being run by Heather Cleveland, who is completing a Social Worker Internship at WHS. We are hoping we see improvements in these students.

Agenda Item 7 - COVID-19 numbers/precautions for students and staff

Numbers and tracking - 2 teachers and 10 students, which is a trend down from last week as of Monday, December 6, 2021.

We currently have 7 students in the “test and stay” program. They will come off the program next week. They were in close contact with someone at lunch who tested positive. All positive students were exposed out of school. This is our first trial of the test and stay program.

Vaccinations - 7 of the 10 children currently in the “test and stay” program have not been vaccinated. Our approx #'s of vaccination are:

Approx 80% of staff - 78% documented

Approx 20% of students vaccinated

Approx 55% of Wareham (town) is vaccinated

Questions:

1. Anne Berriault - Are we communicating this to students and staff? Can something be sent out from the Superintendent/District to communicate with parents directly?

Mr. Palladino - Documentation has gone out, but it's a fine line to get the documentation. It's a sensitive subject, but will discuss with the Superintendent to see if we can get the word out.

2. [Joyce Bacchiocchi](#) - Can the school get the vaccination information from the state?

Mr. Palladino - Due to HIPPA, the WHS does not have access to that information. But the vaccination card can be emailed to the nurse.

Next Meeting - January 4, 2022

