

Wareham School Committee

February 1, 2024

There was a meeting of the Wareham School Committee Meeting at 48 Marion Rd., on February 1, 2024. The meeting was recorded by WCTV and broadcast live, and audio recorded by Jamie Wiksten.

Attendance: Brennan McKiernan, Joyce Bacchiocchi, Apryl Rossi, and Geoff Swett (Acting Chair), Dr. D'Andrea, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, and Jamie Wiksten, recording secretary.

Absent: Kevin Brogioli

Public Participation: No public participation

Good News: Apryl Rossi shared she pulled papers for reelection of the School Committee today. The Acting-Chair announced that the Boys Basketball team is still in first place.

Minutes of Meeting: (11/16/23, 12/7/23, 12/21/23, 1/4/24, 1/18/24)

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve to minutes, seconded by Mr. McKiernan.

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

Yea – 4, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Student Representative: Gisella Priestly provided a report from the High School including updates on clubs, FAFSA, senior trips, and senior dues.

Principal Reports:

Tracie Cote, WMS:

Student attendance rate 93%, and staff is 95%

Blue Foot Café is hosting an art exhibit for the month of February featuring middle school artwork. Report cards went out and there will be a breakfast to celebrate honor roll.

Bethany Chandler, WES:

Student attendance rate 92%, and staff is 91%

Upcoming events include a tutoring group on Fridays for students who are on the cusp for math and ELA. February 6th is the 100th Day of School. February 15th is Hall of Presidents. The art teachers have created a 3D Globe for staff and students. Dr. Chandler brought a workbook highlighting Grade 3 sequence of units for the School Committee members.

Scott Palladino, WHS:

Student attendance rate 92%, and staff is 95%

Semester two classes have started, course selection has begun. The High School hosted AP/IB Night with 45 parents in attendance. The High School had a visit from DESE.

Ms. Bacchiocchi asked about the Cell Phone committee. Mr. Palladino responded that the cell phone committee has met a dozen times, and has reached out to schools who have devices in place to see the effectiveness in our district.

"A policy is only as good as the adhering to the policy."

There was a conversation regarding the BOOSTERS CLUB and the lack of participation.

The Acting Chair stated that there was a congressional hearing, stating to Mark Zuckerberg "You have blood on your hands." Mr. Palladino responded that the principal's job has become more difficult since social media has become available on phones.

Ms. Cote stated that people make poor decisions on social media, and parents are busy and it's a scary situation when children make poor choices, and spending 100% of their time on social media. Mr. McKiernan stated that parental involvement is the solution to this problem.

The Acting Chair asked each principal how they budget for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Chandler responded that she looks at grade level population, looks at student experience (Unified Arts), supports, and line items for supplies and utilities, student population and quality education.

Ms. Cote responded that the topic of budget is an endless process, so planning is important to create the best teaching and learning environment. Ms. Cote asks for input of her staff in anonymous surveys, and her admin team come together and create an ideal budget based on the students we have each year.

Mr. Palladino shared that it is the most frustrating part of the job, and you have to look at what is going to help maintain what we have for staff, and identify our needs for line items. When we cut an item, it's so hard to bring it back. Students continue to request American sign-language, we do not have the capacity to bring that on board. When we cut, there are no electives, and students are taking online courses as the only option.

Jane Fondulis, PASS Program:

Ms. Fondulis shared that Semester II began last week. 17 new students enrolled for the second semester. There are now 11 school choice students in PASS. Mr. Marcus, Site Coordinator, shared that there are 5 classrooms, and the total number of students is 36.

Mrs. Bacchiocchi asked if 36 is the capacity, and Ms. Fondulis responded that PASS would max out at 50 in the space that we currently utilize in the High School.

School Choice, MASS Grad Drop Out Prevention Grant, MY CAP Grant Career College Readiness fund the program.

The Acting Chair asked if the grant is a fixed cost.

Attendance is different in PASS. The students attend each class 18 times per semester. After three absences, they do not continue in that class.

Mr. Marcus shared that they use a contract, and it works very well.

There is an Investing Course and Culinary Arts as electives.

Superintendent's Report

Apryl Rossi made a motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Brennan McKiernan.

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

Yea – 4, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Spring Town Warrant

The Superintendent and Director of Finance presented a warrant article for the School Committee approval and vote.

Ms. Flynn shared that McKinney-Vento funds are from last year, and reimburse at 82.45%, and the refund is \$123,882.00 and returned to the town. The article is to ask for the transfer to move from the Town to the school transportation revolving account.

Ms. Rossi made a motion for the approval of the warrant article and to see if the Town will vote to approve the transfer of McKinney Vento revenue received in FY23 \$123,882.00 into the School Transportation Revolving, second by Brennan McKiernan.

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

Yea – 4, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Seeing no other business, Ms. Rossi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McKiernan

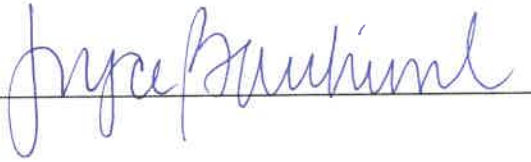
Roll Call Vote: Geoff Swett - yea, Joyce Bacchiocchi – yea, Brennan McKiernan – yea, Apryl Rossi - yea

Yea – 4, Nay – 0 Abstain – 0

VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joyce Bacchiocchi", is written over a horizontal line.

Agenda

Superintendent's Newsletter

Minutes 11/16/23, 12/7/23, 12/21/23, 1/4/24, 1/18/24

McKinney – Vento Town Article