

March 1, 2017

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Mary Morgan, Geoff Swett, Mel Lazarus, Cliff Sylvia, and Judy Caporiccio as well as Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Student representative Jamie Read was absent.

Chair Lazarus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being broadcast live through WCTV and recorded for audio by the recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brian Fitzgerald, Teacher and President of WEA, expressed his appreciation of the healthy skepticism from the committee on the Watson system presented at the previous meeting. His two points of concern were the data collection of students' interests and home environment as well as the pricing. Watson comes in cheap then once all the data is in the system and we depend on them, the price goes way up.

GOOD NEWS

Recognition of Girl Scout Troop - Dr. Shaver-Hood welcomed Troop Leader Bethany Cardinal and Girl Scout Troop #65239 and recognized the troop for their community service including a food drive, assembling care packages for deployed troops, preparing breakfast for homeless through Nights of Hospitality and a donation of food and money to the STAGE Backpack Program through CARE. Mrs. Cardinal introduced the girls who were all 4th and 5th grader. The troop donated Lemonades cookies to the Committee.

Dr. Steedman introduced 6th grade student Wayne Cash who applied for the Prudential Spirit of Community Service Award. Wayne is involved in the Church of the Good Shepherd feeding program and TOP Soccer Program. Dr. Steedman presented Wayne with a 2017 Certificate of Excellence for being among the top 10% of all applicants from the state and qualifying for the volunteer award.

Dr. Sylvia congratulated the boys' basketball team for sharing in the South Coast title and announced the tournament game tomorrow evening at home.

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr. Swett moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

General FY18 Budget Discussion

Chair Lazarus announced that the Selectmen voted the budget number the Town Administrator proposed to them for a balanced budget.

Mr. Swett stated that he personally votes on a higher budget to show a respect for the management team who present their needs. The budget advisory committee is proceeding collaboratively with the town to present a manageable number for both the town and schools. His reading of the law is the budget number presented by the School Committee is the required dollar amount to be presented at Town Meeting. There seems to be some disagreement and this will be resolved between now and town meeting since we are asking for a ruling. The Town Administrator is presenting different ideas to make the process simplified and less time consuming using a formula for the dollars available, i.e. taking last year's budget and the revenue available and each get a percentage. Mr. Swett does not feel we can accept this

formula since we are competing to attract as many parents and children to our school system and a minimum level of funding is required to provide outstanding programs to our kids.

Dr. Sylvia agreed with Mr. Swett that an honest effort is being made to come up with a solution. Personally he has problems with the process and the state is not funding its mandates. We must continue to work with our legislators. The additional funds we received last year were not added to our base. Our Association has been very flexible in working with our School Committee and has shown good faith. Our teachers are being paid poorly and the majority are staying put to work through a difficult situation. There is an attitude that it is more important to educate tech school than our own students K-12. Their per pupil increase averages 3-4% per year per student. Whatever percentage Upper Cape gets for a budget we share, whether an increase or decrease, and apply it to our budget. A policy or a motion is in order. We need technical education and Dr. Sylvia supports it but it's about equity in terms of paying the assessment bill. The town administrators and selectmen of the community schools under Upper Cape need to come together with a plan.

In answer to Mrs. Morgan's question if we can present the budget as voted by the Committee to Town Meeting and what would happen, Mr. Swett responded that it was his understanding based on Town Charter our budget goes before the voters and the right of first amendment to that budget goes to the Finance Committee. If there is an unbalanced budget, the Finance Committee would determine where to make the adjustment to balance the budget. Mr. Swett stated that he is not making this a recommendation as we are now working collaboratively for a solution.

Chair Lazarus agreed with Mr. Swett that it was not in our best interest to open our budget on town meeting floor. He commented on the relationship between the School Committee and the Association. The WEA membership has made concessions in the past, i.e., no increase, layoffs, contribution to health care premiums. To attract teachers we need to be competitive and account for this in the budget process.

Ms. Caporiccio stated she personally believes if the budget is not level services, it is a cut and effects what students get. When you cut programs, you are not saving just what is on the paper but money has gone into training and programs and we are not moving forward.

School Attending Report

Dr. Shaver-Hood presented three reports including a ten-year data report, indicating where our students are attending. Currently there are 699 students going out of district.

Mrs. Morgan commented that she was surprised that private school enrollment was not going down with choice enrollment increasing. She asked for a breakdown by schools the number of students coming in via choice in past years.

Dr. Sylvia stated that we have done wonders with a shrinking budget and keeping our educational integrity in place. Based on his own experience, our education quality in Wareham is as good as or better than most.

Ms. Caporiccio stated that she noticed the overall problems happened three years ago when not passing the override and she was looking for trends. She asked about any interest for kids coming to Wareham next year due to the IB program.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated we anticipate receiving IB certification and once this happens we will have more inquiries within the next three weeks.

In answer to Ms. Caporiccio's question on whether we have done anything different to make our district placements better, Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that some students were brought back to Wareham with programs and it depends on who comes in and who goes out, including aged out students.

Mr. Swett stated that we simply have fewer kids in town to educate but the school choice number is the most disconcerting as there is a perception of what is going on in our schools. This perception needs to change.

Mrs. Morgan was interested in feedback given to administrators on why students are leaving our district. She stated that the IB program is good but some Ch.74 accredited programs will attract our own students and possibly other students.

Dr. Sylvia stated that Wareham has one of the highest credit requirements in the area and gives our students a better preparation for college.

Chair Lazarus stated that it bothers him when kids go to other school districts believing they will get a better education. This perception is incorrect. We have the highest credit requirements in the South Coast conference and with IB implementation we will see students coming to us in 2-3 years.

Vote to Cancel Agreement between School Committee and Wareham Athletic Association

Joyce Bacchiocchi of the Athletic Boosters Club was present. The Boosters Club is seeking CPC funds to replace the concession stands and the Board of Selectmen has requested a vote by the School Committee to cancel the 1992 Agreement between the Wareham School Committee and the Wareham Athletic Association.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the request of the Athletic Boosters Club to cancel the agreement for discussion, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

It was noted that the WAA sent a letter to the district to turn the concession stands over due to staffing and building concerns.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay - 0; abstain - 0

Superintendent's Report

Approval of Bills and Payment Warrants:

Payroll 2/18/17 \$149,820.31

Payroll 2/25/17 \$785,543.69

Mr. Swett moved approval of the payroll warrants, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 1 (Dr. Sylvia)

Bill Warrant 3/2/17 \$135,906.13

Bill Warrant 3/9/17 \$60,646.77

Mr. Swett moved approval of the bill warrants, seconded by Dr. Sylvia

VOTE: yea - 5; nay - 0; abstain - 0

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared the following information:

Minot -

- Partnering with UMass Nutrition Lesson for remainder of school year
- International Night March 16
- Jump Rope for Heart March 18
- Feasibility Study March 7
- PreS Application/Screening for peer partners March 10 & 24

Decas -

- K Registration March 6-9
- Jump Rope for Heart March 11
- Jr. Achievement Gr 1 March 14 and Gr. 2 March 21

Middle -

- Science Fair tomorrow with Awards assembly at 6 pm and gym open to public at 5 pm - thanks to all businesses who donated
- Spirit Week next week

High -

- Basketball game tomorrow 1st round of State tournament
- March 7 meet spring coach
- March 9-12 DECA States
- March 9 PTA
- March 18 & 19 Home Show DECA

The recent dropout rate report indicates Wareham had dropped 51 students over the past year, 19 of those students left the district and have not enrolled in any other Massachusetts school and no district has requested their records. These 19 students have not attended Wareham for 1 to 8 years and the last known school is held responsible.

School Committee Reports

None

Any other business

Ms. Caporiccio recognized Chair Lazarus as this was his last meeting. He has served 21 years in this school district and a part of history goes with him. She thanked Mr. Lazarus for his service on the School Committee. The members wished Mr. Lazarus good health and stated that he will be missed.

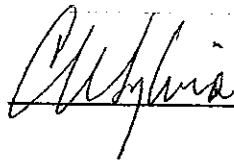
Mr. Lazarus stated that he was leaving with a heavy heart. He has been committed to the system for the last 20 something years and he was sad about leaving but good about what he has done. He thanked his colleagues on the committee, the administration, and the teachers for their dedication. He thanked the public for the support they give the system.

Dr. Sylvia moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Morgan.

VOTE: yea - 5; nay - 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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

List of documents:

Correspondence: Newsletter, Personnel List, Vacancy Notice

Minutes February 15, 2017

School Attending 2017 Reports

Agreement between the Wareham School Committee and Wareham Athletic Association, Inc. 1992

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