

School Committee Meeting

May 20, 2021

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on May 20, 2021 at 7:14 p.m. using zoom technology. The meeting was recorded by WCTV and streamed live.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Present: Joyce Bacchiocchi, Kevin Brogioli, April Rossi, Geoff Swett and Mary Morgan. Also present, Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, Assistant Superintendent, and Jamie Wiksten, Recording Secretary.

Public Participation:

Indiana Troupe, student, shared information regarding the DECA Auction scheduled for May 23, 2021 and invited the school committee members to attend the event.

Bridget Kearns, parent of two WPS students, shared with the School Committee that two of the schools were using backpack sprayers in the cafeteria, and feels the spraying is not a safe practice. Ms. Kearns sent emails to the Superintendent, Mrs. Cote, and Mr. LeFavor, and asked why there is not another method of cleaning when students are in the buildings. Two weeks later, she had not received a response from the schools. Ms. Kearns reaches out to OSHA and to the Board of Health. At this time, the schools informed her that her child was misinformed. She asked what the cleaning agent was and was told Dawn detergent was used to clean and disinfect. At this time she feels she is being “stone walled” and reached out to DESE.

DESE felt the method used was in the discretion of the school. Ms. Kearns shared that CDC guidelines suggests that sprayers should not be used in rooms where there are people, and should be used with extreme caution.

Her son has not observed anyone spraying as of that day. Mr. LeFavor assured Mrs. Kearns that the schools have changed their protocol, and staff has been properly trained.

Ms. Kearns understands that everyone is under intense pressure, but a response took weeks and is disappointed how this played out.

Ms. Kearns began speaking about a second issue regarding masks but was interrupted by the Chair, reminding Ms. Kearns that she was well over the two minutes allocated or individuals during public participation and asked Ms. Kearns to email the school committee her concerns. Ms. Kearns feels that mask wearing is harmful and will email the School Committee the many studies she has found to support her sentiments.

Mr. Swett shared that MSDC (material data safety sheets) is common practice in health care facilities, and also admired Bridget for her passion and speaking with the committee.

Ms. Kearns feels parents should be included in conversations about decisions regarding masks.

Ms. Rossi feels this past year has been a huge learning curve, and will watch for Ms. Kearns emails. She also shared that the schools have noted there is less spread of illness. Ms. Rossi has personally seen the benefits of wearing a mask.

Good News:

Mr. Swett thanked the Superintendent, Ed Rodrigues and Scott Palladino for a successful start to spring sports.

Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that the meeting is Emily Roberge's last as Student Representative, thanked her for her contributions, wished her the best in her future endeavors, and she will be missed.

The Chair mentioned that she was happy the DECA auction was reinvented this year, and yesterday the first Unified Track Meet for students with special needs took place.

Report from the Student Representative:

Emily Roberge shared that the DECA tailgate auction is this weekend. She thanked the Onset Bay Center for the kayak lessons that were given to Key Club Members. Senior Activities have been announced. Miss Roberge announced that May 21, 2021 would be the last day of school for the seniors and she thanked teachers and peers. She thanked the school committee and is grateful for the opportunity to serve as Student Representative.

Minutes of the Meeting - April 29, 2021:

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Morgan.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – abstain, Apryl Rossi – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, and Geoff Swett - abstain

yea – 3, nay – 0, abstain –2

VOTE: 3-0-2

Obsolete Furniture:

Mr. Brogioli made a motion to declare the furniture listed from Wareham Middle School obsolete, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain –0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Amended School Calendar:

The Superintendent explained that a 5th workday was added to the teacher contract, making the 180th day June 16, 2021 and the 185th day June 23 2021.

Mr. Swett made a motion to amend the School Calendar, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Summer CARE/SAIL Program:

Ms. Jane Fondulis, BST Coordinator, announced to the School Committee that after 14 months of remote afterschool programming, the in-person program returns. CARE is offered through the 21st Century Grant.

The program will run Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided. This is also the fourth year of BOOST, which is a program that supports students academically.

Monies have been awarded for Middle and High for accelerated programming in the morning, and in the afternoon there will be enrichment with Buzzards Bay coalition as well as Mass Audubon.

Mr. Swett asked for clarification and the difference between the programs. Ms. Fondulis noted the BOOST program is specifically designed for students who have not thrived during the past year, due to COVID. The CARE program is geared toward at-risk and disadvantaged students. Ms. Fondulis confirmed that between the two programs, the staff could meet the needs of the students.

Ms. Morgan asked for clarification regarding the extra money available to provide summer programming.

Ms. Fondulis responded that every grade level has received grant funding and will have summer programming.

Mr. Brogioli thanked Ms. Fondulis for working hard to obtain the grants. Mr. Brogioli asked if staffing the programs is an issue? Ms. Fondulis responded that she has enough staff, college interns, and is posting for high school students, encouraging them to apply and to learn how to go through the application process.

Mr. Brogioli asked if the schools are mandating students to attend who did not do well during the academic year? Ms. Fondulis shared that Ms. Cote has made it mandatory, or they will not pass. At the High School level, students will earn credit back to advance to the next level.

ESY Summer Program, Melissa Fay

This year, Ms. Fay is servicing more students than in the past. ESY services the ASD classrooms, providing in-person full services, OT, PT, and located at Minot Forest. ESY offers community experiences for the 18-22 transition students, including a therapeutic program, and counseling.

The Chair asked Ms. Fay if she is confident she can service all of the students.

Ms. Fay shared the amount of work the teachers and Dr. Schwamb put in place, the covid compensatory services due to the lack of in-person, and there are more students in need of services this summer.

Accelerated Program – MSBA

The Superintendent asked the School Committee for a vote to move forward with the two major projects.

Wareham Middle School Roof Replacement:

The Superintendent explained that the Wareham Middle School Roof is rapidly aging and in dire need of replacement. Seagulls recently damaged the roof, which flooded building. This damage has happened twice in the past three years.

Wareham High School Boiler Replacement:

The Superintendent shared with the committee that the boiler needs to be replaced at the High School. Replacement parts are becoming difficult to locate and purchase, and it is essential to replace.

Mr. Swett asked if the entire roof was replaced in 2005. The Superintendent shared that there are substantial problems with the roof, and it is inspected on a bi-monthly basis. The new roof will be substantially thicker to handle the dropping of quahog shells by seagulls.

Mr. Swett made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form. He stated that having convened in an open meeting on May 20, 2021, prior to the closing date, the Wareham School Committee in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated May 20, 2021 for the Wareham Middle School located at 4 Viking Drive, Wareham MA, a roof replacement and for Wareham High School located at 7 Viking Drive, Wareham, MA replace boilers which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

Full Roof Repair/Replacement: The single ply TPO roofing membranes and is quickly deteriorating from sun and weather exposure and has caused numerous floods.

Boiler Repair/Replacement Boilers: the boilers are disintegrating from the inside fire walls out. The boilers are all original and over 30 years old and need to be replaced;

And hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, seconded by Ms. Apryl Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, and Geoff Swett – yea.

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Report of the Business Manager:

Moving forward, Mr. Swett requested for subtotals and totals for the monthly financial reports.

Ms. Suckow explained that the budget transfers are all within LEA budget, and the bottom line of the general funds will stay the same. Ms. Suckow shared the chart of accounts has been updated, and she will send the chart to Mr. Swett.

Mr. Swett noted there is a lot of movement of salaries and asked why.

Ms. Suckow shared that resignations, retirements, and medical leave contribute to transfers. The committee voted to give Unit A 1%, including steps, and that is why there is a lot of movement between account lines.

Mr. Swett made a motion to approve the budget transfers, seconded by Ms. Rossi.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, and Geoff Swett – yea.

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

Report of the Superintendent:

The Superintendent asked the committee to accept the payroll warrants as listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the payroll warrants, seconded by Mr. Swett.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

The Superintendent asked the committee to accept the bill warrants as listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the bill warrants, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

District update from the Superintendent:

Latest information from the Commissioner -

1. Summer school will be a continuation of the school year
2. No masks outdoors, recess, sports, unless unable to social distance
3. Fall opening - asking for no social distancing but will continue to mask
4. Looking to set up onsite clinics for student vaccinations
5. Graduation guidance: attendees and staff are not required to wear masks.

Important Dates –

May 22: Prom

May 24 – 28: Senior Final Exams

May 28: Senior Parade

June 1: Athletic Awards

June 3: Academic Awards

June 4: HS Graduation

Additional Dates –

Transportation Enrollment – Available online, June 30th deadline

Kindergarten Drive Thru – May 25th 5:00 p.m.

Last Day of School – June 16th (half day)

Mr. Swett asked the Superintendent about mask wearing in the fall, and should the committee expect more changes. Dr. Shaver-Hood shared that if DESE stays consistent, we can expect more changes.

Ms. Rossi asked for confirmation regarding the transportation fees that were voted on by the School Committee, waiving fees for 2021-22, and wanted parents to have that reminder.

Mr. Swett also thanked the Superintendent for the waiver of sports user fees.

Report of the School Committee:

Mr. Swett shared that the new elementary school now has regular power, gas turned on, and water.

About 2% of the reimbursement is contingent on the LEAD certification, and the Elementary School Building Committee is moving in a direction that saves money.

The Chair mentioned that the new school committee assignments were included in the packet.

Ms. Rossi asked if the June 17th meeting will in-person or zoom. The Chair has been consistently asking the town, and has not heard from them. June 17th is the strategic planning presentation, which involves many people, and feels that if we keep the meeting remote, it will allow more participants to attend.

The Chair hopes to return to in-person meetings on August 19th for the school committee meeting.

Ms. Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Swett.

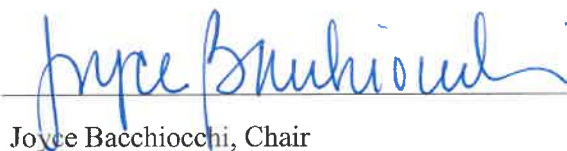
Roll Call Vote: Chair Bacchiocchi – yea, Kevin Brogioli – yea, Apryl Rossi – yea, Mary Morgan – yea, and Geoff Swett - yea

yea – 5, nay – 0, abstain – 0

VOTE: 5-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joyce Bacchiocchi", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Joyce Bacchiocchi, Chair" is printed.

Joyce Bacchiocchi, Chair

List of Documents:

Agenda

Superintendent's Newsletter

April 29, 2021 Minutes - Draft

School Calendars – Draft #2

April Monthly Financial Report

Budget Transfers #5

Required form for SOI/MSBA

Obsolete Furniture List - WMS

School Committee 2021-2022 Assignments

Notice of Vacancy

Notice of Personnel

