

School Committee Meeting
September 3, 2020

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:01 p.m., in Room 320 at the Multi-Service Center.

Chair Bacchiocchi lead us in the pledge of the allegiance.

Call meeting to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Bacchiocchi called the meeting to order. Present from School Committee: Joyce Bacchiocchi, Kevin Brogioli, and Apryl Rossi. Also in attendance Dr. Kimberly Shaver-Hood, Superintendent, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, Assistant Superintendent, and Jamie Wiksten, Recording Secretary.

Absent from the meeting: Michael Flaherty and Mary Morgan.

Chair Bacchiocchi announced that the meeting is being recorded by WCTV, and audio recorded by Jamie Wiksten.

Good News:

- Dr. Shaver-Hood invited Christine Suckow, recommended Interim Business Manager to introduce herself to the committee.

Ms. Suckow shared with the committee that she started her career in Pembroke as a bookkeeper for 8 years. She went back to school and received her business manager's license. From there, she worked in Chatham and eventually landed in Whitman-Hanson when the Business Manager position opened. Now, she is looking forward to becoming a part of the Wareham Community.

- Chair Bacchiocchi thanked Dr. Shaver-hood, Dr. Andrea Schwamb, and Mr. Scott Palladino for making graduation possible. She recognized there were many people behind the scenes. Chair Bacchiocchi shared that the speeches delivered by the valedictorian and salutatorian speeches were excellent, and she shared with the committee the speech written by Valedictorian, Grace Cerrato.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes:

July 2, 2020 - Reorganization.

Chair Bacchiocchi stated that in a previous meeting Mr. Flaherty requested the words “roll call “ be added to the minutes and that has been done.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the minutes of July 2, 2020, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.

All those in favor:

3 – yea

0 – nay

0 – abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

July 22, 2020 - Workshop Meeting

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the minutes of July 22, 2020, seconded by Mr. Brogioli. With no further discussion, all those in favor:

3 – yea

0 – nay

0 – abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

July 29, 2020 - Workshop Meeting

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the minutes of July 29, 2020, seconded by Mr. Brogioli. With no further discussion, all those in favor:

3 – yea

0 – nay

0 – abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Presentation: Wareham Public Schools Uninterrupted, Dr. Andrea Schwamb School Website for Remote Learning:

Dr. Schwamb addressed the school committee, and stated that in June, we began to look at how we weathered the COVID storm academically in the virtual world. We know that Wareham was in good shape to provide virtual instruction compared to other districts. Due to the Superintendent and her leadership team’s vision, there was 1:1 technology and Wareham has significantly increased our infrastructure.

Dr. Schwamb continued that the website titled Wareham Public Schools, Uninterrupted, is a way for parents, and caretakers to help support students as they learn remotely.

Dr. Schwamb stated that the website is an all-inclusive tool to help kids learn, no matter the learning guidelines.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked if the link is available to the public yet. Dr. Schwamb responded the site remains private.

Dr. Schwamb explained that there are landing pages for each teacher in the district, including a page for family resources, technology, and a caregiver's guide to distance learning and family-friendly help for Google users.

Ms. Rossi asked if a link could be included on how to navigate PowerSchool. Dr. Schwamb replied that she would include a page for PowerSchool.

Dr. Schwamb gave examples of how to search for a school page by clicking on a school, department, teacher, and to navigate to the teacher's landing page and playlist.

Ms. Rossi asked what a playlist is. Dr. Schwamb explained that the playlist is a day-to-day schedule posted by the teacher.

Mr. Brogioli confirmed with Dr. Schwamb, that all teachers are using Google classroom for consistency.

Ms. Rossi asked if the page would be safe. Dr. Schwamb confirmed that an invitation is required to enter a Google classroom, which will keep the links safe and exclusive to our students.

Ms. Rossi asked if the Administration and Guidance Departments would have a page. Dr. Schwamb confirmed that everyone would have a page. She continued explaining that the modules have been provided to the staff, followed by the creation of a page, landing pages, and playlists, which will include learning, plans and strategies to balance and create engaging learning. Dr. Schwamb concluded that our goal is to provide a product that is sound.

Mr. Brogioli asked how do you monitor what is happening online?

Dr. Schwamb responded that we have a plan for that as well through our Evaluation Sub-Committee, which is to reach our students safely.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked if the staff is excited about the website. Dr. Schwamb responded that she noticed teachers posting with pride their landing pages on Facebook. The level of creativity and thought seems incredible to Dr. Schwamb. Overall, they should be proud that they are embracing it and doing the work, and everyone is sharing and helping in a collaborative way.

Ms. Rossi pointed out that the pages show the personalities of the teachers, which is helpful when students start remotely and this will help students get to know their teachers as best they can through remote learning.

Ms. Rossi asked if the extra-curricular activities would have landing pages. Dr. Schwamb stated that we are not there yet, but it is a goal.

Fall Athletics: Scott Palladino and Ed Rodrigues

Mr. Palladino stated that the MIAA met on August 27 to review and approve sports modifications for the Fall 2020 season, creating a structure for the 2020-2021 season.

The MIAA approved the following activities for the fall: soccer, field hockey, gymnastics, volleyball, swim, golf and dance.

Mandates: DESE and MIAA had a joint release establishing sports modification with guidelines. Districts that were shaded yellow, green or an unshaded district with students learning remotely at the start of the season may delay their season, and if a student is learning remotely and wishes to participate in sports, the local school committee must approve it.

South Coast Conference: Ed Rodrigues announced that the Superintendents of the South Coast Conference met and it was an 8:2 vote, postponing athletics. Recently, Mr. Rodrigues learned the vote is now 9:1 vote for the postponement of athletics.

Ms. Rossi asked if all of the fall sports would split the season to a floating season.

Mr. Rodrigues responded that the South Coast Conference dates are a little better than that the MIAA dates.

Mr. Rodrigues announced that the first sport session would start after Thanksgiving vacation, no tournaments, and end around February vacation, consisting of 12 games.

The second session of sports (fall) has a suggested start date after February vacation, which would not be ideal, and the date was switched to March 8 – May 9, ending with a spring season would run from May 10 – July 3, with a goal to play 10-12 games.

Ms. Rossi read that practices would be allowed at the discretion.

Mr. Palladino responded that when we are back in session we will have to figure that out, and it could be a unique opportunity for students to play multiple sports. If it is safe enough to return to education, then it is safe enough to return to the

modified practice season.

Mr. Palladino continued that it would put us at an advantage to have a pre-season to the seasons that Mr. Rodrigues described. Spring coaches have the best-case scenario, and if it is safe enough to follow through with it, no one is penalized, with hopes to start the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Brogioli was worried about mixing cohorts, and it seems like a unified plan and he applauded both Scott Palladino and Ed Rodrigues for their hard work.

Mr. Palladino said this would allow some normalcy for the kids. There would be training, followed by the season. If a game is rained out, it will be cancelled.

Chair Bacchiocchi confirmed that a vote was no longer necessary.

Acceptance of Gifts:

Dr. Shaver-Hood recommended the committee approve the following gifts:
AT&T Your Cause Giving Campaign in the amount of \$4.00 for Wareham High School

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the gifts, seconded by Mr. Brogioli.
With no further discussion, all those in favor:

3 - yea
0 - nay
0 - abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Report of the Superintendent:

The Superintendent asked the committee to approve the Bills and Payroll Warrants listed in the Superintendent's Newsletter.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the Bills and Payroll Warrants, seconded by Mr. Brogioli. With no further discussion, all those in favor:

3 - yea
0 - nay
0 - nay

VOTE: 3-0-0

Dr. Shaver-Hood wanted to remind families that we are continuing pick up locations for the food program will be expanded throughout the year.

We will be releasing the transportation routes, and buses will be sanitized between every run and we need to get the timing down of the cleaning and of the routes.

We are excited to welcome out teachers and paras back into the buildings on September 16, and our students back tentatively on October 5, 2020.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked a question about food service, and USDA changing guidelines of food distributions.

Dr. Shaver-Hood confirmed that we can still distribute food the same way it was done in the summer, but we will only need to operate two kitchens, so adjustments have been made, with a plan to operate with all three kitchens once school buildings are open to students. We are working on plans on how to send food home with students when we start the hybrid program. In the meantime, pick up locations are available while we remain in remote.

Fall Town Meeting Article:

Every year this article needs to be included so that we can receive the McKinney-Vento money for transportation of our homeless students. Last year we received \$23,464, which is sitting in the town fund, and we need to request to transfer this money to the school transportation account. The total becomes slimmer each year.

Ms. Rossi asked if the funding is reduced because there are less homeless students being transported, or is it less because the funding is depleted.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that she wished she could tell the committee that the number is less because there are fewer students who are homeless, it is because the funding gets slimmer and slimmer.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the Approval of the article to be included in the Fall Town Meeting, seconded by Mr. Brogioli. With no further discussion, all those in favor:

3 – yea

0 – nay

0 – abstain

VOTE: 3-0-0

Discussion of the Renaming of Columbus Day:

Chair Bacchiocchi was contacted by a citizen/parent to change the name of the October Monday Holiday on the school calendar. The discussion has been postponed, as the parent did not get back to the Chair.

Report of the School Committee:

School Building Update: Good news regarding savings. The interest rate is less, and the bid amount is much less, so there is a considerable amount of savings for the taxpayers.

Dr. Shaver-Hood included that the exciting part of planning has started with choosing of colors and flooring. We feel extremely fortunate, and we will need to start the countdown for the opening very soon.

Chair Bacchiocchi mentioned that there is a lot of community outreach with the sharing of pictures and progress of the new building, and we will continue to keep you updated.

Mr. Brogioli mentioned the Policy Committee will need to be formed and meet. Initially, the high school has 4-5 teachers volunteering to serve, and while we appreciate and applaud their enthusiasm; but we will keep the members to 1 per school. We are looking for six parents from each of the schools in the district, and a parent of special education. Interested parties should get in touch with the superintendent's office. A meeting has not been scheduled, and the committee chairs are unsure if the meetings will be conducted via Zoom or in person at this time.

Any Other Business:

Chair Bacchiocchi mentioned that on September 10 at 6:00 p.m. There is a public hearing held at the Multiservice Center by the Planning Board and they are proposing to make an amendment to some zoning laws, amending the setback to cannabis testing labs and to eliminate the state setback restriction for schools. There is a facility less than 500 feet from Decas Elementary School. They want to lift that restriction, and if anyone has a concern about this, should attend the meeting.

Ms. Rossi asked if the Planning Board could wait until after Decas is performing as a school, and has moved to the new building. Chair Bacchiocchi stated that it is still uncertain what will happen with the Decas building after we move out of it.

Chair Bacchiocchi asked if there was any other business.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brogioli. With no further discussion, all those in favor:

3 – yea

0 – nay

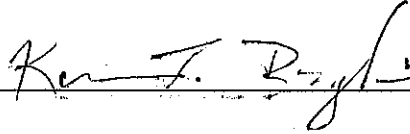
0 – abstain

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VOTE: 3-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kent F. Doyle", is written over a horizontal line.

List of Documents: Superintendent's newsletter, South Coast Conference, Resume of Christine Suckow, Minutes: July 2, 2020, July 22, 2020, July 29, 2020, McKinney-Vento Town Meeting Article.