

November 18, 2015

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Members present were Geoff Swett, Cliff Sylvia, Rhonda Veugen, Judy Caporiccio and Noah Wambolt, student representative as well as Superintendent Shaver-Hood and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz. Mel Lazarus was absent.

Chair Swett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being taped by the recording secretary and that WCTV is recording and televising this meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

GOOD NEWS

Superintendent Shaver-Hood shared that the learning expedition at Decas School was held today and she thanked staff and students as well as the 15 students from the high school who worked with the elementary students.

Dr. Sylvia asked the Chair for a moment of silence for those lives lost in Paris this week.

Dr. Sylvia announced DECA was having a connection night November 28th at the Marriott for networking with those who have been involved with the DECA program.

Noah announced the Powderpuff Game tomorrow night and trying to get a Powderpuff game against ORR next week.

Mrs. Veugen announced that the Elementary PTA Fair this past weekend was successful.

Chair Swett announced his attendance at the Cape Cod Orchestra performance 4th grade field trip.

Dr. Sylvia announced that he had attended the annual MASC Conference last week with a lot of informative workshops and our Chair represented Wareham admirably at the Delegation.

Minutes of the Meeting

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the minutes of November 4, 2015, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

FY17 Budget Presentation

Chair Swett announced that the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee met twice with administration to develop this budget. Tomorrow's meeting is open to the public for budget presentations by our principals/directors at the Multi-Service Center.

Mrs. Veugen mentioned that the Town Administrator also had an opportunity to view this budget.

Dr. Shaver-Hood and Mr. MacMillan presented the FY'17 Budget Overview. The school department was asked to develop a level service budget, which totals \$28,382,503, an increase of 4.6% or \$1,247,848.

The presentation included:

- a. FY'16 budget compared to FY17 draft budget by net, non-net and total with areas of increase:
 - Step and lane/contractual
 - SpEd out of district transportation
 - SpEd out of district tuition
 - Substitutes
 - Heating
 - Utility
 - Supplies and services
 - b. Student Enrollment - trends and enrollment projections from NESDEC with a level off of declining enrollments the next several years based on birth rate, current enrollment and trends in the area.
 - c. Building Footprint and Usage - sq.footage increase because of the number of students being down but decreasing our buildings
 - d. Staffing Composition - FY'12 reduced 30 FTEs with a drop of enrollment
 - e. Staffing Experience Profile - the greatest number of teachers are in their first year and minimal in year 30
 - f. Salaries - assumed same # of positions with increase in salaries to meet contractual obligations
 - g. Out of District SpEd Tuition - increase of 2% in cost but increase has slowed
Administrator of Special Education, Mrs. Shea, informed the Committee that already seven children have moved in from out of district and she and the new part-time Out of District Coordinator are looking actively at cohort groups or programs to bring some students back into the system.
The Committee discussed circuit breaker money at 75% and needed lobbying efforts to include transportation costs.
 - h. Substitutes - projecting increase based on expenditures in 2015
 - i. Heating - small increase to be in line with FY15
 - j. Utility - adjusting the budget down
There was discussion on solar and the town's solar project farm for an offset of our electric bills but the town is at its maximum.
 - k. Other Supplies and Services - set with a maximum increase of 1%
- Mr. MacMillan highlighted health services for sped students to meet their needs and out of district sped transportation increases.

Chair Swett was concerned that out of district transportation, a major expense which is part of a student's IEP, cannot be used for circuit breaker money.

Mrs. Veugen stated that the school department can manage these two categories but they are not under our control.

Negotiations for 2016 will include the paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, and food service workers.

The FY17 budget priorities are to meet the needs of all students in

- technology
- in district sped services
- social, emotional, academic learning
- professional development, rigor and accountability

At tomorrow's meeting the principals will be presenting their specific school budgets.

Dr. Sylvia stated that a level service budget doesn't face the reality that our professionals are the lowest paid in the area.

Mrs. Veugen agreed but salary is one data point on why we are losing teachers. Pay, environment, and how the teacher is being challenged are other factors.

It was noted that the non-net amount does not reflect the changes made on August 1st and the mechanics salaries are in this budget. Based upon the presentations tomorrow and feedback from the committee members and/or administration, budget details may change but the total number is what we will work with.

Superintendent Shaver-Hood stated that the district has developed quality, outstanding programs the last two years, i.e., dual enrollment, STEAM academy, elementary opportunities, academic and extracurricular opportunities due to the hard work of administrators, teachers and staff members.

Chair Swett asked to see the new initiatives and/or details on how the budget priorities will be met.

Dr. Shaver-Hood will send letters and make several announcements and send emails to members of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee relative to the Public Hearing on December 2nd.

(Dr. Sylvia left meeting room 8:01 p.m. - 8:04 p.m.)

Financial Reports

- a. Monthly Expenditure Report for October - noted were the percentage remaining in technology and curriculum line items
- b. Grants & Revolving - McKinney Vento voted at Town Meeting but not given to us yet; not in a position to get new buses perhaps on Capital Planning list. Mr. MacMillan was asked to add a description key to the report on revenue and expenditure. Other funds mentioned were School Lunch and Athletics.
- c. Grant Grid FY16 - Curriculum; Beyond School Time; Student Services; Food Service; District-Wide
- d. Transfers:
 - \$335,230.45 from Classroom Teachers to Principal/Assistant to reflect leadership changes made this year
 - \$141,872.00 from K-12 Dept. Head Salaries to Principal/Assistant to reflect leadership changes made this year
 - \$5,400 from Pupil Transportation to Crossing Guard
 - \$7,200 from Pupil Transportation to Other District Wide Administration
 - \$25,275 from Programs with Schools Other than Public Schools to Medical & Nurses Expenses
 - \$4,000 from Instructional Other to Instructional Equipment

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the transfers as provided, seconded by Mrs. Veugen

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

Class Size Report

Dr. Shaver-Hood reviewed the enrollment and average class size per grade per school

1,117 students in elementary

797 students in middle

543 students in high

There is a range of 20+ students and some courses with low numbers are combined classes at the high school. Projected Kindergarten numbers did not match to enrollment so we were able to keep other sections lower. The members were impressed with the class size numbers to optimize student learning.

Mrs. Veugen asked to have like districts using data from DESE be included in the report.

Principal Palladino answered concerns on teacher caseload at the high school. Some elective courses have a higher enrollment while AP courses are lower. Also deans and part-time teachers will show a lower caseload. He is working on a better balance.

It was noted that the middle and high school facilities were comparable in size but not comparable in enrollment.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced that the Commissioner of Education proposed a new version of MCAS, the next generation MCAS 2.0, a hybrid assessment of MCAS and PARCC for the spring of 2017 with computer based assessment implemented in 2019.

Mrs. Veugen felt it was important to have a workshop discussion as a district to put together a communication plan to MASC, MASS and on the Hill in order to see change.

There was discussion on why Wareham should have to do the PARCC Assessment since we volunteered only at the high school last year. We should focus on MCAS and MCAS 2.0.

Dr. Shaver-Hood announced that our students did well in PARCC in English with 87 students scoring a 3, 4, or 5 meeting expectations and 34 students scoring a 1 or 2.

School Committee Reports

November 23rd next Policy Review Committee
Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee has met

Any other business

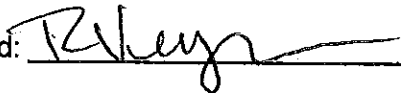
None

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

VOTE: yea - 4; nay - 0; abstain - 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



List of documents:

Correspondence: Notice of Vacancy, Personnel List, Superintendent's Newsletter
FY17 Budget Overview November 2015
WPS Monthly Expenditure Report October
WPS Revolving and Private Grants October 2015
WPS FY16 Grant Grid
WPS Financial Report: Transfer requests
Class Size Report 2015-2016

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2016

TOWN OF WAREHAM
TOWN CLERK