

December 16, 2015

A meeting of the Wareham School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wareham Middle School Auditorium. Present were Geoff Swett, Cliff Sylvia, Rhonda Veugen, Mel Lazarus, Judy Caporiccio and student representative, Noah Wambolt as well as Superintendent Shaver-Hood and recording secretary, Mrs. Ruiz.

Chair Swett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He stated that the meeting was being recorded for audio and also audio and visual by WCTV.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

Vote on FY'17 Budget

Dr. Shaver-Hood reviewed the timetable of the budget and presented a proposed FY17 budget of \$27,982,503, an increase of 3.12%

Mr. MacMillan, in working with Town Administrator, identified items for the town's capital committee totaling \$400,000 of planned expenditures in instructional programs, materials and technology, capital improvement, and technology infrastructure. The intent is to have this \$400,000 approved at town meeting.

There was discussion and questions from committee members on the new proposed budget.

\$27,982,503 Total

\$26,481,970 Net

\$1,500,533 Non net

It was noted that the increase covered contractual obligations.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the 2017 draft budget for net school spending of \$26,481,970, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

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

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the 2017 draft non-net school spending budget of \$1,500,533, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

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

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the 2017 draft budget of \$27,982,503, seconded by Mr. Lazarus.

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

(Mr. Lazarus left the meeting at 7:16 p.m. due to a previous commitment)

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Sylvia heard that the WHS play was a great success. He also attended a networking reunion with 150 former students who had gone through the DECA program.

Noah Wambolt, student representative, reported that the next WHS play is "Legally Blonde" in the spring; ORR vs Wareham/Carver hockey tonight; winter sports started; college acceptances are coming in now; Wear Grey for Trey Day tomorrow, a WHS student who has health concerns, and T shirts are on sale or donations to the family are being accepted.

Mrs. Veugen stated that the K Club at Minot Forest received 40 donated coats and is having a toy drive. Its officers were recognized by the Kiwanis Club today. She also announced that last evening a grant of \$233,000 was received for new buses thanks to Municipal Maintenance Director, David Menard's work.

Ms. Caporiccio congratulated two teachers, John Flynn and Craig Berriault, on their award for exemplary contributions to student success in the Advanced Placement program.

- WHS Highlights of Events, Programs & Opportunities - a video was shown

Minutes of the Meeting

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015, seconded by Dr. Sylvia.

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

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2015, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

VOTE: yea - 3; nay - 0; abstain - 1 (Mrs. Veugen)

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2015, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

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

Wareham Bike Path Committee

Present from the Bike Path Committee were: Michael Langford, Damon Howard, Eileen Allgor, and Joan Kinniburgh.

The Wareham Community Pathway plan is going by both the Minot Forest School and the Decas School. There is grant money available through Safeway to Schools (1 mile around the school) but will take an effort by each principal to apply for the grants. The funding will be beneficial for the bike path and for the safety of students walking or biking to school. The Bike Path Committee is willing to work with the school department on this grant. Their ultimate goal is to connect to the South Coast Bikeway. There is 13 miles in length from Marion to Buzzards Bay and some road space is needed in Wareham for this path. The committee is currently seeking funds for the Minot Avenue section now.

In response to Mrs. Veugen's question, the biggest obstacle for the Bike Path Committee is the process of doing a pathway.

Chair Swett asked the Bike Path Committee to let the schools know what we have to do to generate the funds. The School Committee appreciates the work of the Bike Path Committee and for being here this evening to share their plan.

Fall Athletic Report

Ed Rodrigues, AD and Principal Palladino gave the fall athletic report indicating the struggles with wins/losses but the good grade point average.

Mrs. Veugen again expressed that a feeder program at the elementary age is needed with current athletes volunteering with elementary students as mentors.

With coaches monitoring grades there was less than five students not eligible to participate under the new requirements.

Ms. Caporiccio stressed that cheerleading is a sport and wanted to make sure the cheerleaders went to away games as well. She was informed by Principal Palladino that the cheerleaders went to all the away games.

Dr. Sylvia stated that the economic and social situations are working against us and to pursue at club levels is very expensive. We need to make Vikings early.

Principal Palladino announced the need of a golf coach and asked anyone interested to please send him an email.

WHS Course of Studies 2016-17

A final copy and a sheet with changes were distributed by Principal Palladino. He thanked the Department Chairs for being here this evening.

Added "All courses weighted"

Electronic portfolio will now be required for Freshman class going forward

Reviewed changes and new courses in Career & Technology Education Program - Cindy Sylvia

Reviewed changes and new courses in Applied Arts - Brent Ruter

Reviewed change in English with a new course - Michael Murray

Reviewed changes in Music with new courses - Brent Ruter

Reviewed change in Math with a new course - Katie Marchessault

Reviewed changes in Physical Education & Health - Cindy Sylvia

Reviewed changes and new courses in Science - Brent Ruter

Mrs. Veugen suggested adding to the description an agricultural piece in the Nutrition course - Principal Palladino agreed to make the change.

Chair Swett asked for the average BMI for tenth graders last year and what can the committee do to help implement change in an attitude for health. Principal Palladino will get this information for the Chair.

Some courses were removed due to lack of student interest.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the FY2017 Program of Studies for WHS, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

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

Financial Reports

- Monthly Financial - Mr. MacMillan highlighted the November report. The summary line balance is less than last year's at this time due to a number of purchase orders encumbered with out-of-district tuition and transportation. Also he has restricted expenditures.
- Transfers - Dr. Sylvia would like to see a listing of contracted services - who, what, when, where?

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the transfers as presented by the Business Manager as follows:

- \$32,711 from Psychological Services to Medical/Therapeutic Services
- \$42,464 from Instructional Technology to Curriculum Director
- \$20,000 from Technology Maintenance to Curriculum Director

seconded by Ms. Caporiccio

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

Acceptance of Gifts

Mrs. Veugen moved the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept with great appreciation the donation to WHS of a minimum of 10 tripod tables and 15 chairs from Curry College Plymouth Campus, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

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

Naviance Program Gr. 6-12

Dr. Schwamb reviewed the benefits of the Naviance program: 1) transcripts will be a direct connect to the College Board; 2) curriculum analysis of students to develop a plan to proceed in their goal with a helpful parent portal 3) portfolio component 4) alumni tracking to meet the requirements of Ch.74 reporting on what our students are doing after leaving high school.

Since Dr. Schwamb was recommending a 5 year contract, the School Committee must vote its approval. This is for next fiscal year with the payment due July 1, 2016, and approximately \$5,000 will come from each of the WHS, WMS, and Curriculum budgets.

The proof of long-term savings will come from time savings and creating efficiencies. The system also has a two way communication with colleges to track if students graduate from college and when. The cost is \$60,750 over five years or \$12,150 per year.

Mrs. Veugen moved to approve the Naviance Program into the Wareham School System, seconded by Ms. Caporiccio.

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

Ms. Caporiccio moved to go past 10:00 p.m. to complete the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

Discussion on School Vacation for 2016-17 School Calendar

Mr. Swett, as Chair of MASC Division VII, was asked to survey by district whether districts support the idea of combining February and April vacation weeks into one two-week vacation week in March. He asked for a short discussion with a sense of the committee if this was a good idea.

Ms. Caporiccio needed to know how teachers and parents feel about this change first.

Dr. Sylvia wanted to keep the February and April vacations.

Mrs. Veugen was in favor but needed to see the pros and cons.

Noah Wambolt, student representative, felt two weeks off is a big break affecting the curriculum and mid-terms.

Dr. Shaver-Hood stated that being from the Midwest she always had a March vacation for one week. Changing would add two days onto our calendar at the end of the year with two holidays within the February and April vacations.

Principal Palladino was concerned with our students being excluded from interscholastic opportunities and felt the attendance rate would be affected if just our school district makes this change.

Chair Swett wanted what's best for students and the students he spoke with say they need the two breaks. It was his sense that the Committee wanted to keep the two vacation breaks. He will report back to the Committee on the Division VII survey results.

Vote to Accept Remote Participation Policy

Chair Swett reported that remote participation may happen with certain cases and must be clearly stated. The remote participant is not part of the quorum and the Chair must be present. The member must notify the Chair ahead of time and it is announced by the Chair with all votes as roll call votes. In executive session the person on the other end of the technology must state that he/she is alone. If the technology fails there is a process involved.

The Board of Selectmen approved the policy for themselves and any boards which it appoints. Since the Selectmen do not appoint School Committee members, Chair Swett recommended approval of the Remote Participation policy for School Committee meetings.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the Remote Participation policy and use the Board of Selectmen protocol as our baseline, seconded by Mrs. Veugen for discussion.

Mrs. Veugen was concerned with the voting piece of the policy relating to the use of technology.

Chair Swett stated that all documents associated with the meeting must be available to the person participating remotely. As Chair, it would be at his discretion to put off a vote until the next meeting if there was a problem.

Ms. Caporiccio stated she has participated remotely with the Beach and Tourism Committee and it would be only four meetings in order to fulfill her commitment on the School Committee.

Chair Swett stated that, if for some reason our policy is not working well, we can always amend it.

VOTE: yea - 3; nay - 1 (Mrs. Veugen); abstain - 0

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Shaver-Hood reported she had conversations about moving 8th grade to WHS and will have a meeting opened to the public on January 14th at 7:00 p.m., location to be determined. There will also be an icon on our district website to ask questions of principals and the superintendent and a website for frequently asked questions. There will be staff meetings for further discussion after vacation. Chair Swett stated that the current plan is this year's 7th graders to WHS for 8th grade next year.
- Anti-Violent Partnership - Wareham High School is one of the schools selected to send two high school staff for training. In the fall 2016, if chosen through the application process, we will apply to bring 30 students for training as peer mentors.
- Concert 7:00 p.m. tomorrow evening at WHS
- Vacation next week December 23rd and returning January 4th

School Committee Reports

- Policy Review Committee Recommendations

Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response - deleted 629 and changed Transportation Manager to Operations Manager

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response policy as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

Transportation of Drivers' Children - no changes

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the policy Transportation of Drivers' Children, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Chair Swett asked about children of monitors and thought that needed to be addressed.

The motion and second were withdrawn. The policy will be brought back to Policy Review Committee.

Community Use of School Vehicles - requests will go to the Transportation Department and not the Superintendent's Office.

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the Community Use of School Vehicles policy as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

Chair Swett asked to delete "and amortization".

Motion and second were withdrawn.

Dr. Sylvia moved to accept the Community Use of School Vehicles policy with the deletion of "and amortization", seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

Crisis Response - no change

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the Crisis Response policy, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

Restraint of Students - updated and reviewed by attorney based on new state law requirements

Dr. Sylvia moved to approve the new Restraint of Students policy as presented, seconded by Mrs. Veugen.

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

Any other business


None

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____



List of documents:

Correspondence: Notice of Vacancy, Personnel List, Superintendent's Newsletter
FY17 Proposed Budget 12/17/15
WHS Athletic Department Fall Report 2015
Changes to the Program of Studies for WHS
WHS Program of Studies 2016-2017
WPS Monthly Expenditure Report 2016 November
WPS Financial Report: Transfer requests
Curry College Plymouth Campus pics
Naviance memo from Andrea Schwamb - December 16, 2015
Remote Participation
Policy on Restraint of Students - Physical Restraint
Community Use of School Vehicles
Transportation Emergency, Safety and Crisis Response Policy
Crisis Response
Transportation of Drivers' Children

