

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

March 13, 2014

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Weymouth School Committee met on March 13, 2014 in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Sean Guilfoyle with the following members present: Ms. Belmarsh, Mrs. Curran, Mrs. Nardone, and Mrs. Sheehan. Also present were Superintendent Kenneth Salim, Assistant Superintendent Garry Pelletier, and Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka. Ms. Flemer and Mayor Kay were not in attendance.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Mrs. Curran, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee with one correction.

Student Advisory Committee

Tim and Julia came to the table and reported on events at Weymouth High School including the walk in memory of Holly Bunker on March 15th, the Capstone Fair on March 25th and 26th, and the overall positive results of an online survey about the Capstone experience which was followed by a brief discussion with members of the School Committee. Mrs. Sheehan asked Dr. Salim for a list of the Capstone advisors.

Public Comment

Mr. Gustavo Perez asked if he could speak after the Report of the Budget Sub-Committee. Mr. Guilfoyle agreed.

Committee Announcements

- Mrs. Curran reported that the High School Robotics Team would be competing with 40 other teams at Northeastern University on March 29, 2014. The website for more information is www.nefirst.org.
- Mrs. Sheehan reported that SEPAC and TWPC had a joint workshop on Tuesday about Universal Design Learning Presentation and asked that it be posted on the website. She also spoke about a You Tube Video they presented from Cast.org.
- Mrs. Sheehan reported that the next meeting of SEPAC will be held on April 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adams Library.
- Mrs. Sheehan reported that the next meeting of TWPC will be held on April 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Humanities Center.
- Mrs. Sheehan also reminded everyone that WEF's "Who Wants to be A Know It All" Quiz Night is scheduled for March 28, 2014 at the Weymouth Elks. Funds raised by this event are used for mini grants to teachers in Weymouth. Information can be found on line at wefinc.com or contact Diana Flemer, the Captain of the School Committee Team. Dr. Salim added that this is a great event and a lot of fun.

- Mr. Guilfoyle noted that the reasons Ms. Flemer and the Mayor were not at the meeting tonight was because Ms. Flemer was having surgery tomorrow and the Mayor was involved with Southfield meetings.

Report of the Superintendent

- Correspondence
 - Introduction of Boy Scouts Troop 19
Dr. Salim introduced Matt Martel, Assistant Scoutmaster for Weymouth Troop 19 and other local troops. Mr. Martel explained that the Scouts were here tonight because they are working on badges and one of the requirements is observance of a public meeting. They each came to the table and introduced themselves.
 - Dr. Salim reported that he spoke at the Credit for Life Event held earlier today which hosted 125 WHS seniors. He detailed the event and how it benefits students. He thanked all the volunteers and sponsors, and congratulated students and teachers who made it possible, especially Karen Monahan for leading the organization of this event.
 - Dr. Salim shared an update to the State Budget regarding a joint resolution of the Ways and Means Committee.
 - Dr. Salim reminded everyone that the next Parent University is scheduled for next Thursday, March 20th with keynote speaker Ed Gerety. Workshops start at 5:30 p.m., the key note speaker will be at 6:30 p.m., and Session 2 workshops at 7:45 p.m. A link is on the WPS website for sign up and the courses being offered.
 - Accelerated Improvement Plan and Community Engagement in WPS
(Dr. Salim asked that this item be taken out of order)
Dr. Salim invited Betsy Harris and Julie Bowen to join him at the table. Dr. Salim explained the development of the Accelerated Improvement Plan and summarized the key issues. He also explained the vision, district goals and the alignment with the district's three strategic levers. The three strategic levers are professional learning focused on the instructional core, effective use of data, and Parent and Community Engagement. Mr. Pelletier highlighted Community Engagement with the town of Weymouth and other organizations. Ms. Bowen reported on the Junior Achievement Community Partnership and her experience with them. Dr. Salim spoke about the programming provided by the New England Wildlife Center and the opportunities it provides students. Ms. Bowen took students on a tour of Care.com in Waltham which was a day long program for students that taught them about interviewing and marketing skills.

Principal Daniel Birolini and some of his students from the Abigail Adams Middle School came to the table and described their experience at the New England Wildlife Center through a grant from Arbella and how excited they were to participate. Mr. Birolini thanked Dr. Mertz and the Wildlife Center for the great opportunities they offer.

At 7:48 p.m., Mr. Guilfoyle stepped out of the meeting, returning at 7:49 p.m.

Dr. Salim described the opportunities that the Community Partnership Program has provided for students. He also spoke about the Integrating College and Career Readiness Grant (ICCR).

Ms. Belmarsh asked about the ICCR Grant and Mr. Pelletier gave a brief overview of this \$50,000 grant and the way it will be used over the next two years. A discussion continued about the experience students are provided. Ms. Kustka spoke about the role of Betsy Harris with the Community Partnership Program.

- Communities That Care Youth Survey Presentation

Dr. Salim invited Lyn Frano, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for the Town of Weymouth, to the table. Ms. Frano was joined by Jackie Doan of the Department of Public Health who is also a member of the Weymouth Youth Coalition. The survey was conducted in the fall of 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2013 to students in grades 7-12 of the Weymouth Public Schools. The survey was completed by 2,596 students in 2013. The purpose was to gather data on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, risk and protective factors. She reviewed the positive findings overall at the middle school level and the high school level in the use of marijuana, prescription drugs and alcohol. She asked Dr. Salim if he would post the results on the school website. A DFC grant helps to support students and programs within the schools. Ms. Doan spoke about the proposed 2014 Board of Health regulations regarding tobacco products and policies and programs to consider. A discussion followed with members of the School Committee with emphasis on raising the age of selling tobacco products from 18 to 21. On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to have the Superintendent send a letter to the Board of Health in support of raising the age of selling tobacco products from 18 to 21. Mr. Guilfoyle thanked them for their work.

- Southfield Discussion

Dr. Salim reported that feedback has been given to the Mayor and Starwood with questions regarding Chapter 70 aid for Southfield students since last discussion. It was determined that Chapter 70 funds will only be increased when there are 200 or more students from Southfield enrolled. Also, the use of portable classrooms to adjust for space needs is being actively researched. Starwood projects approximately 24 additional students for 2014-2015.

Report on Teaching and Learning

There was no report.

Reports of Sub-Committees

- Budget Sub-Committee

Ms. Belmarsh reported that the Sub-Committee met on March 4, 2014 and focused on the needs of three important pieces: Weymouth High School, Athletics, and the Supplementary Budget. She then read the minutes of that meeting which outlined the details of each piece. The Budget Sub-Committee is asking for a vote from the full School Committee to move the FY15 Budget to the Mayor's office by March 27th. The Mayor is scheduled to move her budget to the Town Council on April 15th. A motion was then made by Mrs. Sheehan and seconded by Mrs. Curran to accept the report of the Budget Sub-Committee. A discussion followed regarding the athletic budget which and Dr. Nicolucci's music report. Mrs. Curran asked that a job description for Director of Music be added to the budget request and that the position be posted. Discussion followed and Mr. Guilfoyle noted that we need to get a budget number from the Mayor's office before we can add anything else. In the meantime, Ms. Kustka is gathering information on the cost of music directors in other districts and Dr. Salim will add it to the needs list.

At this point Mr. Guilfoyle invited Mr. Perez to the table. Mr. Perez commended the School Committee and administration for the budget they have put forward. He emphasized the need to continue the progress we have made with Net School Spending (NSS) and aim to provide more resources to Weymouth Public Schools. Mr. Perez also addressed the athletics budget for 2015 and expressed his frustration with continuing issues with user fees, coaches' salaries, and revenues. He suggested that the Budget Sub-Committee meet again on this topic within the next two weeks so that it may be submitted to the Mayor.

There was no further discussion and the vote to accept the report of the Budget Sub-Committee passed.

- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee

Mrs. Sheehan reported that the Sub-Committee met with four of the SEIU collective bargaining units on March 10th. Meetings have been schedule through June. A strategy session is scheduled for March 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the School Administration Building. On motion of Ms. Belmarsh, seconded by Mrs. Curran, it was unanimously voted to accept the report of the Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee.

- Policy Review Sub-Committee

Mrs. Sheehan reported that the Policy Review Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet on March 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the School Administration Building.

Discussion Items

- Chapman Facilities

Dr. Salim reported that he is having ongoing conversations with Mayor Kay regarding a feasibility study for the Chapman Middle School. A discussion followed

about whether the study would be to repair or replace the current building. Dr. Salim clarified these issues. Discussion continued. A motion was made by Ms. Belmarsh and seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to send a letter to the Mayor's office requesting that the process to fund a feasibility study for Chapman begin. After further clarification, this motion was unanimously voted for approval.

Action Items

- Bills Paid
On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to pay the bills in the amount of \$787,889.44 on Warrant #38-2014 with money to pay.
- Acceptable Use Policy – 3rd reading
Following a discussion about the discipline of students regarding cell phone use in the classroom, on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to approve the Acceptable Use Policy (IJNDB) as presented and amended. Mrs. Stevenson thanked the teachers and staff for their help in preparing this document.
- Update to Anti-Bullying Policy – 3rd reading
Mrs. Sheehan noted the addition of the words “and notify Central Administration” on page three of policy JICFB. She then made a motion to accept the Anti-Bullying Prevention Policy as presented and amended. This motion was seconded by Ms. Belmarsh and unanimously approved.
- Confirmation of action taken on Field Trip Request – WHS Dance Team to compete in Bellows Falls, VT, Saturday, March 8, 2014
On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to confirm action taken on the field trip request of WHS Dance Team to compete in Bellows Falls, VT, on Saturday, March 8, 2014. Mrs. Sheehan asked about the ratio of students to chaperones which Dr. Salim said he would look into. She also asked how the team did in competition and Mrs. Curran replied that the team took 3rd place.
- Confirmation of action taken on Field Trip Request – WHS Color Guard to compete at Salem High School, Salem, NH, Saturday, March 8, 2014
On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to confirm action taken on a field trip request by WHS Color Guard to compete at Salem High School, Salem, NH, on Saturday, March 8, 2014. She asked the same question about student to chaperone ratio and also how they did in competition. Dr. Salim will check.

New Business

- Mrs. Sheehan asked if the Committee could have a report on the number of seniors who have not fulfilled their community service. Dr. Salim said he would look into it.
- Mrs. Sheehan asked about the Wildcat Bakery not being open to students. Ms. Kustka confirmed that it is due to nutritional issues for students.
- Mrs. Sheehan asked about the fee for instrumental classes at the middle schools being \$18.00. The teachers are paid \$11.00 and she asked about where the balance of that fee goes.

- Mrs. Sheehan noted that the website still lists the housemasters at the middle schools as assistant principals and that needs to be changed to be consistent.
- Mrs. Sheehan asked about the use of the words “desired qualifications” as opposed to “required qualifications” on the job posting for Business Manager. Dr. Salim clarified and discussed the reason.
- Mrs. Sheehan also asked for clarification in the actual title for the Assistant Superintendent’s position for the replacement of Mr. Pelletier. Dr. Salim clarified that the actual title is “Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services and Support.”
- Ms. Belmarsh asked for an update on the status of the tree to be planted for Rev. Terry Martinson. Dr. Salim said he would check.

Mr. Guilfoyle then took the opportunity to congratulate and thank Mr. Pelletier on both a personal and professional level for all he has done for the school system. Mr. Pelletier had announced his intention to retire during the upcoming summer.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on March 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

At 10:14 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail S. Sheehan – Vice Chairperson

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
March 13, 2014

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Minutes of January 23, 2014
- Communities That Care Youth Survey Presentation
- Accelerated Improvement Plan and Community Partnerships Presentation
- Warrant #38-2014
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Field Trip Request by WHS Dance Team
- Field Trip Request by WHS Color Guard