

## **WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

February 27, 2014

7:00 p.m.

### **MINUTES**

The Weymouth School Committee met on February 27, 2014 in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Sean Guilfoyle with the following members present: Ms. Belmarsh, Mrs. Curran, Ms. Flemer, Mayor Kay, Mrs. Nardone, and Mrs. Sheehan. Also present were Superintendent Kenneth Salim, Assistant Superintendent Garry Pelletier, and Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka. Also present was Interim Business Manager Mickey McGonagle.

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

Chairman Guilfoyle then invited Weymouth Police Chief Richard Grimes and other members of the Weymouth Police Department. Chief Grimes introduced retiring Safety Officer Robert Barry and Captain Phillips and Concanon, Detective Critch, and Officers Flanagan and Favreau. He spoke about each of their roles in the town and schools. Officer Barry was congratulated and thanked by individual members of the School Committee and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. He received a standing ovation for his many years of service and care for the children of Weymouth.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted 6-0-1 to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2014 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee with one minor correction. Mayor Kay abstained.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to table the Minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee.

#### **Student Advisory Committee**

There was no report.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Committee Announcements**

- Mrs. Sheehan reported that at the last Townwide Parent Council meeting there was a presentation by Lyn Frano, the Town's Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Dave Morgan, a registered pharmacist, and a representative from D.A. Morrissey's

office about drugs. Ms. Frano can be contacted for further information at [lyn.frano@weymouth.ma.us](mailto:lyn.frano@weymouth.ma.us). The next meeting of Townwide Parent Council will be a joint meeting with Special Education Parent Advisory Council on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Humanities Center. It will be a Universal Design Learning Workshop and all are welcome.

- Ms. Belmarsh reported that the Weymouth Theater Company will be participating in a drama festival at Brookline High School on Saturday. A dress rehearsal is scheduled for tomorrow night and all are welcome.

### Report of the Superintendent

#### - Correspondence

- Dr. Salim reported that Early Education Commissioner Tom Webber visited the Johnson Early Childhood Center yesterday with a focus on play and learning. Dr. Salim congratulated Principal Victoria Silberstein and Coordinator Maura Perez.
- Dr. Salim reported that the Southeast Regional STEM Network Event was held in Weymouth on February 25<sup>th</sup> to learn about STEM initiatives. He congratulated Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple and teacher Mary Ann Bryan who spoke about the engineering process. About 25 students from Academy Avenue School participated.
- Dr. Salim reported that the next Parent University is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> and there would be a session on substance abuse with Lyn Frano offered. Also, Ed Gerety, the keynote speaker at the Colloquium this year, would also be offering a session. Further announcements about Parent University will be posted on the website and Alert Now messages will be sent.
- Dr. Salim invited some students from Hamilton Primary School who are in the music program and VIP program. This program started at the high school level and is now in the primary schools as well.

While waiting for the students, Ms. Belmarsh noted that Ed Garrity had spoken to the Youth Group at Old South Union Congregational Church a few years ago and was very well received.

- Austin Maskell, a junior at WHS, explained the VIP (Volunteers in Practice) program and the impact it has on students and the community. Katie Lovett, a senior in the VIP program, congratulated all the volunteers from Hamilton Primary School. Over 1700 chores were completed by Hamilton students in a Chores for Change program. They raised over \$1500.00 for the Weymouth Food Pantry. These students will be inducted into the VIP Program in April. Dr. Salim thanked the students and Mr. Galusha.

#### - Southfield Discussion

Dr. Salim reported that there was a public meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> regarding proposed legislation. An analysis has been given to the Mayor's office. Also, an

additional student moved to Southfield last week. Mayor Kay noted that a proposed agreement has been sent to the School Department for review. After the School Department's review, it will be sent to Tri-Town to be finalized.

#### Report on Teaching and Learning

##### - Weymouth Public Schools Music Review – Dr. Sandra Nicolucci

Dr. Nicolucci came to the table and gave an overview of her background. She then presented her report on Weymouth's K-12 Music Program which included the goals and mission statement of the music program; a three day review period at the primary schools, middle schools and high school; her recommendations at each level; and pre-k through 12 priority action steps. A discussion followed with the School Committee expressing their appreciation for her insight into improving Weymouth's music programs. Mr. Guilfoyle then asked if any members of the audience would like to comment. Marie Danahy, Robert Gaffney, Roberta Curran, Peter Delano, Jessica Baker, Carl Marcus (student), and George Berg came to the table and expressed their concerns about Weymouth's music programs and their hopes for the future. Mr. Guilfoyle asked Dr. Salim to prepare cost information for the next Budget Sub-Committee meeting. Ms. Flemer asked that the community stay involved and work together with the School Committee going forward. Dr. Nicolucci concluded by stating she witnessed the potential, passion and enthusiasm for the music program and would be happy to assist in the future.

At this point, a motion was made by Ms. Belmarsh and seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to take the Budget Sub-Committee report out of order. This motion was unanimously voted by the School Committee.

##### - Budget Sub-Committee

In light of the public hearing on the budget tonight, Ms. Belmarsh wanted to make sure people were up to date. She reviewed the discussion from the last two meetings, noting that the presentations were on the website. She highlighted the identified needs for FY2014. A \$450,000.00 Supplemental Budget for the School Department is being submitted to Town Council by the Mayor for their approval on March 17<sup>th</sup>. At their February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting the Sub-Committee met with the principals of the two middle schools. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2014. A motion was made by Mrs. Sheehan to accept this report. Mrs. Curran thanked Ms. Belmarsh and added that a K-12 director would be helpful to fix the broken music program. This motion was seconded by Ms. Flemer and unanimously voted by the Committee.

#### School Choice

At 9:17 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to open the public hearing for the purpose of considering participation of the Weymouth Public Schools in the 2014-2015 School Choice Program.

Dr. Salim and Mr. Guilfoyle explained School Choice and recommended that Weymouth not participate in this program.

There being no public comment, at 9:19 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to close the public hearing on School Choice.

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted not to participate in the 2014-2015 School Choice Program.

Presentation of FY2015 Budget for the Weymouth Public Schools

At 9:20 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to open the Public Hearing on the FY2015 Weymouth Public Schools Budget.

Dr. Salim transitioned to the table and presented an overview of the FY15 Preliminary Budget Proposal: Creating the Team to Achieve Educational Excellence. This included the Vision for Educational Excellence for every Weymouth Student; Alignment with District Strategic Levers; Instructional Core; Progress with Recent Investments in Special Education support, serving our diverse student body, enhanced technology tools, supporting college and career readiness, and expanding opportunities for students at the middle school level. He also reviewed four goals for program improvement:

1) creating a team to support teachers in the classroom effectively; 2) expanding academic opportunities for students to be college and career ready; 3) improving inclusive practices for special education programs; 4) increase social, emotional, behavioral and health supports for students. His next topic was Expense and Personnel Budget Drivers, which included variables impacting budget development; sustainability-challenges for FY2015 and beyond; the FY15 budget breakdown; personnel budget drivers; expense budget drivers; FY15 proposed base budget, Net School Spending FY15; Net School Spending over time; and regional per pupil expenditure. The Budget Sub-Committee will be meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> and the School Committee will be voting on the budget proposal on March 27, 2015. A discussion followed with questions from the Committee that were addressed by the Superintendent. Transportation Director Robin Howard and Joan Woodward joined the discussion. Mayor Kay gave an overview of additional revenue the Town expected from property taxes, pensions, health insurance and Veterans benefits. The Net School Spending deficit is now wiped out by free cash to the School Department from the Town, but she cautioned the School Committee that this may not be sustainable in the future.

There being no further questions from the School Committee, Mr. Guilfoyle opened the discussion to the public.

- George Berg came to the table and thanked the School Committee, Administration and the Town for their efforts in reducing the Net School Spending deficit. The schools are directly related to maintaining a strong community.
- Chris Primiano came to the table and stated he sees a renewed energy in the community and public involvement is crucial. He strongly supported the efforts being made by the Committee.

- Hank Goldman came to the table and stated that he supported the budget and has been an advocate for many years. He also supports a K-12 music director. Additional support is needed for extracurricular for music.

At 9:48 p.m., Ms. Flemer left the table and returned at 9:55 p.m.

At 10:05 p.m. on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to close the public hearing on the budget.

At 10:06 p.m., Mayor Kay left the meeting and Mr. Guilfoyle stepped away from the table and turned the meeting over to Mrs. Sheehan.

A brief discussion followed.

#### Reports of Sub-Committees

- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee  
There was no report.
- Policy Review Sub-Committee  
There was no report.

#### Discussion Items

- Acceptable Use Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Laura Stevenson  
Mrs. Sheehan asked if there were any changes to the Acceptable Use Policy to which Mrs. Stevenson replied there were not, but she had incorporated the changes made at the prior meeting. There was no public comment and Mrs. Sheehan requested that this item be scheduled for a third reading at the next meeting of the School Committee.

At this point, 10:08 p.m., Mr. Guilfoyle resumed the chair.

- Update to Anti-Bullying Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Mrs. Sheehan asked if there was anyone who wished to speak to this policy, there being none, she asked that this item be scheduled for a third reading at the next meeting of the School Committee.
- Chapman Facilities  
Dr. Salim reported that we had an estimate of total cost of repairs in the amount \$15,000,000.00 and there has been discussion about a possible feasibility study. A brief discussion followed.

### Action Items

- Bills Paid  
On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to pay the bills on Warrant #36-2014 in the amount of \$1,001,999.33 with money to pay.
- 2014-2015 Weymouth High School Program of Studies – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading  
Following a discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belmarsh and seconded by Ms. Flemer, to approve the 2014-2015 Weymouth High School Program of Studies. The motion passed 4-2 with Mrs. Sheehan and Mrs. Curran voting No.
- Field Trip Request, Adams 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Camp Burgess, Sandwich, MA: April 7-9; April 9-11; April 15-17; April 28-30; April 30-May 2, 2014  
Dr. Salim recommended the field trip request of Adams 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes to Camp Burgess on April 7-9; April 9-11; April 15-17; April 28-30; and April 30-May 2, 2014. On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to approve this request.
- Field Trip Request, WHS DECA Club to State Competition in Boston, March 6-8, 2014  
Dr. Salim recommended the field trip request of WHS DECA Club to State Competition in Boston, March 6-8, 2014. On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to approve this request.
- Field Trip Request, WHS Best Buddies to Dunkin Donuts Center, Providence, RI, March 7, 2014  
Dr. Salim recommended the field trip request of WHS Best Buddies to Dunkin Donuts Center, Providence, RI, on March 7, 2014. On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to approve this request.

### New Business

- Mrs. Curran reported there was a winter percussion and color guard performance this evening and that it was well attended.
- Mrs. Sheehan asked about the Legislative update regarding retired teachers' health care costs counting towards Net School Spending. Mr. Guilfoyle explained the status of this proposed legislation.
- Mrs. Sheehan asked Dr. Salim about discipline data for the middle schools and high school that she had previously asked for.

### Executive Session

Executive Session was cancelled.

### Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on March 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

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At 10:26 p.m., on motion of Ms. Belmarsh, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diana R. Flemer – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting  
February 27, 2014

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Minutes of January 9, 2014
- Minutes of January 23, 2014
- Minutes of February 6, 2014
- Weymouth Public Schools Music Review Presentation
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Update of Anti-Bullying Policy
- Warrant #36-2014
- 2014-2015 Weymouth High School Program of Studies
- Field Trip Request, Adams 5<sup>th</sup> grad to Camp Burgess, Sandwich, MA
- Field Trip Request by WHS DECA Club to State Competition in Boston
- Field Trip Request WHS Best Buddies to Dunkin Donuts Center, Providence, RI