



Weymouth

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Weymouth School Committee

Mary Jo Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

February 27, 2020

Meeting Minutes

(approved 3/12/20)

Members In Attendance: Tracey Nardone, Vice-Chair; John Sullivan, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Carrie Palazzo.

Members Absent: Lisa Belmarsh, Mayor Robert Hedlund

Also Present: Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Wargo, Assistant Superintendent.

The Meeting Came to Order At 7:00pm. The vice chair led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for Joyce McDonough and the Josephine Fay and Smith Family.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Warrant 36-2020 in the amount of \$1,075,548.31 , Dated 3/2/20 presented with an assurance there is money to pay for these items.
- Field Trip
 - Grades 9-12-WHS, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, March 14, 2020
- Regular Minutes: 2/6/20
- Executive Minutes: 2/6/20
- Budget Subcommittee: 2/4/20, 2/10/20

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda by Dr. Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Vote 4 Yes - 1 No . Ms. Curran voted no because she abstained from

2/4/20 budget sub notes and disagrees with the meeting of the whole minutes of 11/4/19 which she has already spoken to Dr. Sullivan about.

Mrs. Curran asked that individuals and the committee write letters to the Memorial community to name the performing arts center at the New Chapman after Joyce McDonough.

Public Comment

Rachel Collins, 23 Bengel Road

In regard to the 2020/2021 school calendar, Ms. Collins made a suggestion that the primary open houses not be on the same night to allow staff who live in the town to attend their own children's open house.

Report of the Superintendent

Walk with a Wildcat and Weymouth High School Open House for 8th grade students entering 9th grade is on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, and for 7th grade students entering 8th grade in on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. Both evenings will begin in the High School Auditorium at 6:30pm.

Weymouth's Got Talent will be on March 3, 2020. Doors open at 5pm for visual arts show and the concert begins at 6pm and will encompass all schools in collaboration.

The Johnson Early Childhood Center will host an open house on Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 9-11am.

The Weymouth High School Robotics Team will be competing in the Southeastern MA Event on March 7-8, 2020 at Bridgewater-Raynham High School. Admission is free and the event is 10am-6pm on both days.

The next SEPAC meeting is on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in the Abigail Adams Library at 6:30pm. The presenter will be Beth Arthur concerning Assistive Technology.

Kindergarten Registration is underway, February 28 is the last day to register. The Superintendent expressed her excitement over the enrollment numbers.

Kindergarten Parent Orientation Night is on March 25 from 6:30-7:30, sponsored

by the CFCE grant. Guest speaker Social and Emotional (S/E) Coach Lindsey Jacobs. Focus: to provide support for families guiding students through transitions with a S/E lens. Families will meet WPS primary principals, leave with many handouts including a free book and have a chance to inquire about registration. There will also be an opportunity to register for our next event - Shadow a Kindergartener on June 2.

At Weymouth High School, Capstone presentations will be on March 17-18, 2020. The WHTC festival will be competing in Hanover on Saturday, February 29, 2020 and will have an open rehearsal on Friday night and the AP parent student information night is on Monday, March 2, 2020.

The Superintendent expressed her sympathies, thoughts and prayers for both the Fay and Smith Families along with Joyce McDonough's family.

The Superintendent honored former Assistant Superintendent Bryan with a willow tree as Friday, February 28, 2020 is her last day in the district. The committee presented gifts as well. Mrs. Bryan expressed her joy and thanks for the opportunity of serving the community.

Mr. Smith left at 7:15 and returned at 7:18

New Business

a. Special Education Presentation - Allyson Bell, Special Education Director
Allyson Bell, Administrator of Special Education and Dr. Meg Verlicco, Assistant Administrator of Special Education came to the table and gave an overview of their presentation. Topics included strategic plan, student enrollment, Programs, Teacher and Provider Staff, Inclusive practices, Training and Task Forces, Processes and Procedures, and budget impact.
There are currently 1247 students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw asked for clarification on inclusion definitions. Ms. Bell advised that it is a mathematical equation and that full immersion means 20% or less of the day is spent in special education-only classes, partial is 21-60% spent in special education classroom and sub separate is more than 60% in special education classroom.

Mrs. Curran clarified that the next SEPAC meeting is March 10, 2020 not March 3.

Citizen Maryellen Devine inquired if parents/guardians are on any of the task forces. The Superintendent commented that while they are not currently, in the future the committee could be expanded upon especially considering the homeschool component.

All questions asked by the committee were addressed.
A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes

b. FY21 Level Service Budget and Needs List Presentation - Superintendent Curtis-Whipple and Assistant Superintendent Brian Smith

Superintendent Curtis-Whipple and Assistant Superintendent Smith came to the table and gave an overview of their presentation. Topics included Level Service Budget, FY20 Needs List Accomplishments, FY21 Needs List, Updated Full Day Kindergarten Projections and Cost, and Proposed Budget Cost.

The proposed FY21 Budget Total is \$76,119,856 which is a 3.47% increase from FY20. 90% of the budget is Personnel. The Superintendent gave a summary of the positions on the needs list, clarifying that positions in yellow are a compliance need. The Needs list totals \$2,545,541 of which \$706,922 is compliance. Dr. Curtis-Whipple emphasized that this was an early look at the budget, and things could change.

Mrs. Curran clarified the number of Special Education Teachers on the Needs List.

For Full Day Kindergarten projections staff numbers have changed since the original proposal, since the district is now able to make a more precise estimate of students to be enrolled. The number of teachers needed is now 3, paraprofessionals is now 6, and specialists are now 4. The full day Kindergarten program will be fully funded.

Dr. Sullivan applauded Mr. Smith for all of his hard work and the number of tasks he is taking on, like full day kindergarten, systematic audit, and Chapman and expressed his heartfelt thanks. Mr. Smith thanked Alyssa Bosse, Finance Manager and Mary Ann Foley, Human Resources Director for all of their hard work and assistance.

Ms. Palazzo commented on the small enrollment at the Nash School and how cuts might be felt. The Superintendent advised redistricting may help.

All questions asked by the committee were addressed.
A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes

c. 2020-2021 School Calendar (action requested)

Motion by Dr. Sullivan to accept the 2020-2021 calendar. Seconded by Dr Sherlock-Shangraw and Mrs. Nardone opened up for discussion

Mrs. Curran stated that the ending date of Ramadan is incorrect and that Eid al Fitr is misspelled. May 11 is not an election day but an in service day. She also expressed concerns for traffic at WHS for conferences with the addition of the 8th grade.

Dr. Sherlock Shangraw requested a quick discussion on primary open house dates. The Superintendent shared that in the contract staff is required to attend an open house on 1 night. For staff that is shared between the buildings that would mean they would be at 8 different open houses across different nights and it wouldn't be equitable for staff at JECC, the middle or high school levels.

Dr. Sullivan clarified that those staff can't be at all the buildings in the current system and that it might be helpful to carefully consider the impact with an eye toward having open houses on different nights. He also stated the last day to do the calendar is May 15 according to the contract.

The Superintendent suggested soliciting Primary Principal input as well and holding off voting the calendar until that input had been received.

Ms. Palazzo stated she understood trying to be fair and equitable to staff who are parents in the district and expressed a desire to try and find a way to make the accommodation. She also suggested that maybe specialists could be at an advertised building during open house.

Allyson Bell added that for shared staff, there aren't currently any related service providers who work in all buildings except for the O&M specialist and that the Special Education Department could potentially make something work by being creative.

Mrs. Nardone pointed out that the discussion is for open house dates and not a conference time

The Superintendent advised that the contract language will have to be looked at.

Public Comment

Ms. Collins spoke again and reiterated that there are a lot of staff who live in Weymouth and stated that it's difficult to miss open house. She further stated that related service and specialist staff pick a school to attend open house, usually determined by the day the open house falls on.

Dr. Sullivan made a subsequent motion to table the WPS 2020/21 calendar to appear on the agenda of the the next School Committee meeting, seconded by Mrs. Curran and Passed Unanimously.

Mrs. Nardone turned the floor over to Dr. Sullivan and left the table at 8:17pm and returned at 8:19pm.

d. Approval of transfer funds from Weymouth High School (031) to District Wide Exp (200) for legal settlement purposes regarding Settlement of WEA Arbitration (action requested)

Motion by Ms. Sherlock Shangraw to approve transfer of funds from Weymouth High School (031) to District Wide Expenses (200) for legal settlement purposes regarding Settlement of a WEA Arbitration, Seconded by Ms. Curran. Passed 4-1 Mrs. Nardone recused herself and was not present at the table.

Old Business

a. Chapman School Building Update

- School Building Committee Meeting will be on March 31, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Whipple Center.
- More information is available at <http://anewchapman.org/>

The Superintendent stated that talks are ongoing with Town Hall regarding Abigail Adams and its renovation and that John McLeod will speak at the second March School Committee meeting.

Moving boxes were delivered February 26, 2020 and everything is moving forward.

Mrs. Nardone made a motion to take adjournment out of order. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan and passed unanimously

The Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, 7pm - MJL Humanities Center, WHS

Announcements:

SEPAC - March 10, 2020, 6:30pm - Abigail Adams Library

Weymouth Market - March 4, 2020, 3:30pm - WHS Gold Cafeteria

Town Wide Parent Council - March 10, 2020, 7pm - MJL Humanities Center

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Orientation - March 25, 2020, 6:30pm-Whipple Center

WEF Quiz Night-April 3, 2020, 7-11pm, Weymouth-Braintree Elks

Are you Smarter than a 5th grader table has opened up, in interested please call Abigail Adams

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 pm on the motion of Dr Sullivan seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Passed unanimously.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

- Special Education Presentation
- FY21 Level Service Budget and Needs List
- 2020-2021 School Calendar

Respectfully Submitted,



John P. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Secretary