



Weymouth

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Weymouth School Committee

Humanities Center & Zoom

March 24, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

(approved 4/7/22)

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

Members Absent: Kathy Curran; Mayor Hedlund

Also Present: Robert Wargo, Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Melanie Curtin, Assistant Superintendent

The Meeting Began at 6:30pm.

Mrs. Nardone moved to enter into executive session: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2): To conduct strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel: Executive Director of Student Services; Executive Director of Human Resources. Motion seconded by Ms. Palazzo. Motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

The chair informed that the meeting is being recorded and available on WETC.

Chair Sullivan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

The Consent agenda included:

- Warrant 38-2022 in the amount of \$1,093,399.23. Dated 3/21/22
- Regular Minutes: 3/10/22
- Executive Session: 2/17/22
- Budget Sub-Committee Minutes: 3/9/22

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Motion passed unanimously.

Student Advisory

Student Josephine Burke shared an update (attached to this minutes) on school wide happenings, athletics, and activities/clubs.

Public Comment

The Chair reminded that public comment be in accordance with Policy BEDH, items on the agenda and kept to 3 minutes and gave instructions if members wish to speak; name and address should be added in the chat.

There was none.

Report of the Superintendent:

The Superintendent gave an update. Topics included:

- Covid numbers are down and are lower than the state average.
- Opt in testing
- Communication plan update
- Tech instructional strategy from staff
- Crossing guard appreciation day breakfast
- Developmental awareness month-March
- Capstone at WHS
- WHS continues to evaluate end of day dismissal-amending to get busses off campus first. It was mentioned that the traffic pattern has been looked at for years.
- Academy Ave Panda day on Channel 5 Wake up call
- PBIS Hamilton School Hero Song emphasizing treating people fairly and with kindness

It was requested to talk about a cap on athletic fees at a future meeting. There was a pilot program in 2015 for a family cap.

Principal Strauss will present at the April 7 meeting about the Diversity Summit.

Field trips are on hold until the end of the year due to transportation, nurse and substitute coverage. It was requested that clarification be sent out to families.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to take Acceptance of Gifts (j.) out of order. Seconded by Mr. Buccigross. Motion passed.

a. Acceptance of Gifts (action requested)-Betsy Harris

Mrs. Harris reviewed the donation summary report (attached to these minutes). Total donations received from 7/1/21-12/31/21 is \$55,337.80 (\$36,418.99-monetary, \$18,918.81-in kind). Hamilton School received a \$10,000 donation from the O'Connell foundation for library materials. The textile bins have earned since inception \$68,555.50 and saved 68+ tons in landfills. CPR offered by WFD is also being held monthly during school months.

Thanks was expressed to Ms. Harris and Ms. Pitts for revamping fundraising approvals. The committee thanked Mrs. Harris for her report and attending the meeting.

b. Weymouth Public Schools Website Update-Alyssa Haggerty & Kelly Powers

The Superintendent introduced Ms.Haggerty, former Taunton Chief of Staff and communications director and Ms. Powers, former web site manager and digital communications prior director to working for WPS.

The presentation topics included rebranding, website progress updates and redesign. Effective and consistent communication as well as uniformity was emphasized. Engaging stakeholders and digital immersion, website evolution, and site analytics were discussed. Managing calendars, content-with town information and maintenance was talked about.

The committee expressed their thanks and appreciation for the work already done. It was requested that a point person for affiliated groups be added.

c. Student Opportunity Act - Assistant Superintendent Smith

Assistant Superintendent Smith advised that this is the third year of seven and that the district is not receiving funding. All reporting is up to date and the short form will be submitted.

d. Submission to Office of the Mayor of Proposed FY23 Level Service Operating Budget of \$81,169,277.00 (action requested)

Assistant Superintendent Smith shared that after meeting with Assistant Superintendent Curtin and Principal Meehan that the needs list has been updated and includes 129 positions totaling \$7,076,933. The needs list is supplemental to the level service budget of \$81,169,277 which is a 3.88% increase over FY22. The budget book will be available by May 1, 2022. Items in green are funded by zero based budgeting and yellow are funded by ESSER III.

The school budget will be submitted to the Mayor's office to consider who will in turn present the Town's budget to the Town Council in May to vote. It was advised that the items may be cut or rejected but not added.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the proposed FY23 Level Service Operating Budget of \$81,169,277.00. Seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Motion carried.

e. Approval of Contract for Executive Director of Student Services (action requested)

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to approve the contract and accept the appointment of Dr. Margaret Verlicco for the Executive Director of Student Services. Seconded by Mr. Buccigross. Motion passed.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw thanked Assistant Superintendent Curtin for her work in heading the screening committee and shared what a great experience it was to be a part of.

f. Report of the Policy Sub Committee - 3/21/22

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw reviewed the meeting of 3/21/22. After recommendation by Jim Hardy from MASC due to changes in Title IX policies AC/AC-R/ACAB/JICK (attached to these minutes) regarding non-discrimination and harassment and retaliation were discussed. HR Director Foley and Assistant Superintendent Curtin were consulted on the policies concerning staff and students. Section D regarding financial policies will be reviewed at the meeting in May.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone and seconded by Mr. Buccigross to accept the report of the policy sub committee. Motion passed.

g. Policy AC - Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation-First Reading

h. Policy AC-R-Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation-First Reading

i. Policy ACAB-Sexual Harassment-First Reading

j. Policy JICK-Harassment of Students-First Reading

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw shared that due to federal legislation the policies were evaluated. The only change recommended by the committee is adding Weymouth Public Schools. Policies will be posted and available on the blog.

The Chair advised that policies AC/AC-R/ACAB/JICK will be moved to a second reading.

As a vote was not taken after the gift report there was a motion by Mrs. Nardone and seconded by Mr. Buccigross to approve the acceptance of the gift report. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Future of Pre-K Reutilization of Abigail Adams Building

The Superintendent summarized the presentation (attached to these minutes). Topics included the background and timeline of the building usage. Options A (9th elementary), B (relocate JECC), C (centralized Prek and K) were reviewed. Community forums and information sessions with staff and principals were had. Staffing, special education programs, outdoor spaces, transitions, school hours, etc. were considered for each of the options.

The recommendation is for Option B, relocating Johnson to Abigail Adams. It is the hope that it will be voted on at the April 7 meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Smith gave an overview of the renovations already done and to be done at Adams. He reviewed funding measures and next steps.

Much discussion was had of a feasibility study, design and engineering, cost analysis, long term operating impact, building closure cost savings/expenditure. It was requested to hold off voting and to see the financial impact of all 3 options as well as a better understanding of the vision for the district.

The Superintendent advised that the committee can email him with questions and emphasized by reutilizing Adams that there are still district issues that need to be addressed, such as overcrowded classrooms and that he stands by doing what is best for students. Assistant Superintendent Smith shared that a conceptual plan may be created; it is not as detailed or as costly.

A suggestion was made that choosing option B now would leave flexibility down the road to add option C.

The reutilization will be on the April 7 school committee agenda.

b. Updates and Status of Chapman Middle School Opening 2022-Assistant Superintendent Curtin

Assistant Superintendent Curtin advised that bids are being finalized for moving from Adams (6th grade) and from WHS (8th grade). Exterior and interior shades are being installed. Landscaping and Chard St loop will begin next week. Pictures of a classroom, and kitchen were shared.

Chapman Project Updates

Announcements:

-Weymouth Market-April 6, 2022-3:30pm-WHS, Gold Cafeteria-Market will return to pre-Covid model of in person pick up

-Budget Sub-Committee Meeting-April 6, 2021, Administration Building/Virtual

Next School Committee Meeting:

Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2022 - 7:00pm

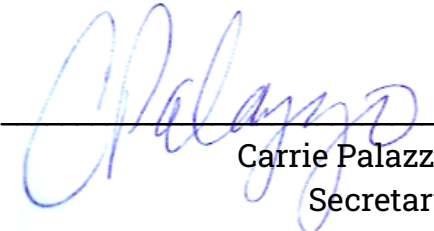
The Meeting adjourned at 9:28pm on the motion of Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Motion passed.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

- Student Advisory Report
- Superintendent Update
- WPS Summary Gift report
- Website progress presentation

- Policies AC/AC-R/ACAB/JICK
- Adams Reutilization presentation

Respectfully Submitted,


 Carrie Palazzo
 Secretary

School Committee Update 3/23

Thank you for the opportunity to report out. As always our report is organized into three sections

1. School-wide happenings 2. Athletics 3. and Activities/Clubs

1. Under School-wide happenings

- Capstone** - Our seniors presented their capstone projects Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Congratulations to all of our seniors for their academic accomplishments and many thanks to Mrs. Northup and all the capstone advisers for mentoring the seniors along the way.
- Diversity Summit 2022** -The **WHS Human Rights Council** is set to host its first regional Diversity Summit. Districts from around the region will be attending WHS on April 30th for a day of workshops and collaboration. This year's theme is "Empowering Voices for an Equitable Tomorrow."
- Leadership Wall** - You may have seen the newly painted wall in the maroon lobby. This is the companion wall to the scholar wall. This will be the Leadership Wall. Students will be inducted onto this wall for leadership in our affinity and service clubs, community service, class councils or via the recommendation of their Post grad, Life Skills, IRC, or TLC teacher. The induction ceremony will happen along with the Scholar Wall on May 25th.

2. For WHS Athletics

- a. Congratulations to WHS Girls Hockey for winning the James F Mulloy Team Sportsmanship Award for changing the culture of their program in recent years.
- b. Congratulations to the Dance Team for finishing 4th in Pom and 4th in Jazz at the New England Championships.
- c. In winter track, congratulations to David Manfredi who finished 6th in the 1k at the New England Championship, and to the girls 4x800 (Emma Daley, Alison Glavin, Emma Doran and Gracie Richard) who finished 3rd in their event.

3. Now onto clubs and activities

- a. **Skills USA** - WHS CTE students recently participated in the SkillsUSA district competition and the winners were notified this week. All Silver and Gold medalists will go on to state competition in April.
 - i. Basic Healthcare Skills Bronze medal Sophia Scalisi
 - ii. Nurse Assisting Bronze medal Carly Cooper
 - iii. Graphic Communication Silver medal Natalie Fromm
 - iv. Culinary Arts Silver medal Allison Wilt
 - v. Medical Terminology Gold medal Larissa Gilbenrto
- b. Weymouth High School is the reigning National Champions in Health Knowledge Bowl and our Students swept the district competition
 - i. Bronze medals the team of Kylee Fennelly, Abby Larkin, Ava Frasca & Alexis Alessi
 - ii. Silver medals the team of Katreena Stanley, Hannah Maling, Emily Nicholas & Mackenzie Raymond
 - iii. Gold medalists the team of Molly Higgins, Samantha Fitzgerald, Emma Litwinczuk & Alicia Principe
- c. Congratulations to all these competitors moving on in these categories as well as those who will be competing in leadership categories at the state competition.
- d. **Module UN** - Weymouth High's Model United Nations Team, attended the 20th annual Boston Invitational UN Nations Conference for 2021 with 13 delegates. Students participated in thought provoking discussions, exhilarating debates, and utilized problem-solving strategies throughout the two days. The conference was able to exercise the skills of experienced delegates, while still being a fun-learning experience for newer delegates. It was an enjoyable, social, and educational opportunity. Students could not stop expressing their excitement for the next conference, and we have plans on attending the Boston College High School Conference in March. But on behalf of the Model UN club and team, we extend our gratitude to the teachers and staff involved in

making BOSmun possible and the school committee for the chance to experience something so spectacular.

- e. Congrats to WHTC for winning round 1 of Festival. Congratulations to Sean Lally, Jamie Murphy, Ollie Dunn, Daniel Dow, Mia Carini, Audrey Quinlan, Samuel Riley, Samantha Cassidy, and Keira Jipson for winning awards.