

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of the Whole
MEETING NOTES
Approved 4/6/17

Date: March 23, 2017

Present: Chair Belmarsh Mrs. Sheehan, Mrs. Curran Mrs. Nardone (arrived 6:31p.m.) and Dr. Sullivan, Superintendent Curtis Whipple

Absent: Mayor Hedlund, Ms. Flemer

At 6:08 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order.

Chair Belmarsh opened the meeting calling for the first item on the agenda to be discussed. She referred the discussion to Superintendent Curtis Whipple. Superintendent Curtis-Whipple opened the agenda with the Goal Review – Superintendent Goals. She stated that she would “walk through them” one by one.

GOAL 1–Effective Entry and Direction Setting

Superintendent Curtis-Whipple explained that the administration had met with several groups during the fall and winter. She is still seeking time with some town departments. She is aware that the deadline is approaching and would like to change the deadline to report on key strategies to improve student learning and district systems of support from March to the end of April in order to connect with all of the stakeholders. At that time, she will report on reviewed strategies for student learning and updated Accelerated Improvement Plan to allow current administration the opportunity to discuss.

A revised District Vision Statement was proposed and discussed. The Social-Emotional Learning component was embedded into the process going forward. Superintendent Whipple felt that a “visual vision” was needed to communicate the future goals of the Weymouth Schools. She proposed that a new document be created for the School Department Website including hyperlinks, color coding, etc. A New School Improvement Plan will be updated over the summer of 2017 and presented in the fall 2017.

GOAL 2-Maintaining Momentum During the Transition

Superintendent Curtis-Whipple discussed an update on the use of Baseline Edge (Teacher Evaluation Software). She has met with all Administrators regarding the evaluation piece and is confident all agree to current process. Mrs. Curran asked who Superintendent Whipple evaluates. Superintendent Whipple evaluates Matt Meehan, Susan Kustka, Ann Knapp, Mary Lee, Paul Duprey, Eileen Pitts and Pete Haviland. Superintendent Whipple stated school and classroom visits are also a key component of Goal 2 and that she has a less formal process and does more of dropping into a classroom than appointments. Mrs. Curran inquired if Instructional Rounds are still occurring. Superintendent Whipple stated yes but groups are split up into smaller groups and are scheduled at several sites in one day to make them more efficient.

GOAL 3-New Superintendent Induction Program

Superintendent Curtis-Whipple reported to the Committee that she is moving through the Induction Program, is doing all of the work and progressing.

Committee continued with agenda and moved to the Superintendent Evaluation discussion. Chair Belmarsh referred to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Superintendent Evaluation Plan in the committee's packets. Committee reviewed the steps in the MASC process including reviewing the Superintendent's contract for a mutually agreeable schedule and goals using the MASC chart school committee and district goals. Chair Belmarsh suggested a possible two year cycle for the first evaluation. Mrs. Curran stated that a different evaluation topics and timeline would be appropriate for a first year Superintendent. Dr. Sullivan asked for clarification on the term "different". Mrs. Curran responded that she believed the evaluation grading and rubrics were different from a standard Superintendent Evaluation. She also wanted to review the webinar on the MASC site.

Mrs. T. Nardone arrived at the meeting at 6:31PM.

Dr. Sullivan suggested that members determine what should be expected from a Superintendent during their first year and differentiate it from long-term expectations. General discussion and review from the Committee and Superintendent Whipple on including district goals with the MASC's goals to ensure not too many goals, aligning them with current district goals, prior evaluation process with Dr. Salim, and how to proceed. Mrs. Sheehan stated School Committee members should select the criteria, not the Superintendent being evaluated. Superintendent Curtis-Whipple suggested that a list of evaluation criteria be reviewed by the School Committee members and that they are ranked in order of importance. Superintendent Whipple agreed to step away from the table at some point so that Committee Members could discuss the actual evaluation criteria. Chair Belmarsh requested that she be part of the first discussions and selection. Chair Belmarsh asked the Committee Members to bring a ranked ordered list of criteria and to have a timeline ready for the discussion for the April 6, 2017 Meeting of the Whole.

A discussion by Committee Members and the Chair commenced regarding the current process of reviewing and approving minutes. Dr. Sullivan proposed that the person taking the notes should be the person who is transcribes them. All agreed. Chair Belmarsh and Dr. Curtis-Whipple are discussing how to make this happen. Chair Belmarsh reviewed the process being followed over the last month. Process includes draft minutes posted by Eileen by Friday before the next meeting. Members then had Friday-Monday to review and submit changes by 5:00 pm Monday. Eileen would repost changes by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday before the meeting. Mrs. Sheehan expressed a concern about finding agendas on Tuesday on the website. She stated that it would be helpful if we could post the agenda on our site as well. Members agreed to this process going forward.

Chair Belmarsh introduced the Day on the Hill agenda item. She said that due to construction at the State House, the Day on the Hill will be held at the nearby Masonic Lodge. Mrs. Curran stated that she is unable to attend this year. No other member indicated an interest at this time.

Open Forum discussion. A question was raised concerning the "banned book at the High School" that was discussed on Facebook. Superintendent Whipple stated that there was a pause in classroom

discussions to allow some students to voice concerns over the material. She stated the book is back in each classroom and students are preparing to complete the text this week.

Mrs. Curran asked to speak about Committee Members texting at meetings. She requests the Town Solicitor Callahan weigh in on texting at public meetings. She believes it is not legal to text. Chair Belmarsh stated the committee discussed this issue at a workshop with Dorothy Presser. The committee discussed leaving the table if texting or calling was necessary. Chair Belmarsh stated that she and other members do text at times. For a short text it seems less disruptive to answer a quick text to her home/child than to leave the table. Mrs. Sheehan stated that it was at a workshop with Dorothy Presser, from MASC, that she had stated and we had all agreed that a School Committee member should, and we would, leave the table if we needed to send or respond to a text.

On motion of Dr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan it was voted to close the meeting of the whole. So voted at 7:03 p.m.

Next Meeting of the Whole: April 6, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Sheehan – Secretary

Documents Related to March 23, 2017 Meeting of the Whole:

- Agenda
- Superintendent Goals
- School Committee Goals
- MASC Superintendent Criteria

DRAFT