

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of the Whole
MEETING NOTES
Approved 10/18/18

Date: October 4, 2018

Present: Chair Belmarsh Dr. Sullivan, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw, Mrs. Nardone, Mrs. Sheehan,
Mrs. Sheehan, Superintendent Curtis-Whipple

Absent: Mayor Hedlund

Call to Order

At 6:00 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order.

School Committee Goals

Chair Belmarsh shared that at the last meeting of the whole Committee members created an idea board of goals that she incorporated into the current goals. The document is attached to these minutes. Chair Belmarsh asked the Committee members if there was anything they would like to add or if there was anything they felt that was missing.

Mrs. Sheehan stated she would like to add “to show respect for all school committee members and to keep school committee members informed.”

Chair Belmarsh asked Mrs. Sheehan to be more specific with this item.

Mrs. Sheehan shared that she has a list of things that would point out ways others are being disrespectful. She also stated that members should be informed of any investigations. Chair Belmarsh asked to see the list. Mrs. Sheehan stated it was at home.

Dr. Sullivan spoke about what information can be shared and what cannot, specifically that by law anything regarding personnel cannot be shared especially in a public forum. He was concerned that sharing of information about personnel matters could compromise the committee’s ability to impartially judge matters that come to them on appeal.

Mrs. Curran spoke about her concerns around requiring one on one conversations between the superintendent and each member, and that is how information can be misinterpreted. She feels that this group is an elected public body and have a responsibility to know what is going on. She personally does not feel as informed as other members. She also feels that the committee should be meeting in executive session to talk amongst themselves. Mrs. Nardone pointed out that that would violate open meeting law.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple clarified that she cannot share details with anyone regarding personnel issues. It was also her understanding that when the previous superintendent was here and Committee members had concerns they would call him directly.

Mrs. Nardone shared that whenever she has concerns she calls the Chair directly or the Superintendent as that has always been the practice. Mrs. Curran shared her thoughts that she feels that everyone is getting snippets of information and feels that everyone should be getting information at the same time in executive session if necessary. Dr. Curtis-Whipple asked about what topics in particular Mrs. Curran is asking about. She stated it was an in general comment.

Mrs. Nardone reminded the committee that information is frequently on the blog. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated that we have been updating the blog with whether a topic is an emergency or a non-emergency.

Mrs. Sheehan stated that the Committee should have been informed that there was an investigation going on. That the Committee needs to be informed of investigations.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple reminded Mrs. Sheehan and the Committee that she cannot discuss personnel matters that it should not be discussed in this open forum. Mrs. Sheehan stated that she is not asking for confidentiality to be broken but should have been informed of investigation.

Mrs. Nardone said she was uncomfortable with this conversation and suggested that if it continued, she would have to recuse herself.

Chair Belmarsh clarified that anytime there are questions that any Committee member can call the Superintendent or the Town Solicitor.

Mrs. Curran stated that it should be talked about in Executive Session.

Mrs. Nardone went back to the goals request for respect. She stated that the Committee should have respect for each others different opinions. Feels that things have changed for the better over the past year and that sometimes the Chair has to hold the line, however anyone in that position needs to do that. Mrs. Nardone stated that she calls everyone separately when needed.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple suggested that respect might be better framed as a meeting norm than a goal. She explained at administrative meetings there are a list of norms that are followed. Chair Belmarsh reminded the Committee of the norms that had already been established for school committee.

Mrs. Curran spoke to Mrs. Nardone's point about calling members individually. She thinks that getting information needs to be handled differently she is not going to call each member for a one on one discussion when they should be meeting as a board.

Mrs. Curran again stated she wanted an executive session called under open meeting law. Dr. Curtis-Whipple reiterated that anyone that wants information should call Attorney Callanan.

Chair Belmars pulled the meeting back to discussing the draft School Committee goals that are attached to these minutes. She reviewed each goal and the importance of the additions (in red).

Highlights of the additions are:

Full day Kindergarten

Budget process for next year (FY20)

Creating a budget book that is more user friendly - easier to read

Dr. Sullivan discussed several versions of budget books he has seen that are comprehensive and shorter. (Plymouth/Stoughton/ Cambridge)

Chair Belmarsh would like to work with Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations on this, Brian Smith.

Mrs. Nardone shared that she is watching all the new construction at Union Point and we need to keep an eye on the numbers. Mrs. Curran shared that she read they are looking into putting in more low income housing there as well. Mrs. Sheehan requested an update report on Union Point numbers.

A discussion was had around budgeting for coaches and the assistant curriculum directors. Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that it has been hard to fill the Math and Science positions. Conversation was had around accountability and graduation rates.

A discussion was had around the goal of increasing school committee stipend. Mrs. Curran shared that the process to do this is in the charter. Discussion around the rationale for this was had - longer hours more meetings etc.

Chair Belmarsh wants this item on the list to be transparent.

A discussion was had around addressing the problem of administrator retention in the district. Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that Brian Smith has set up a committee to review non-union salary scales.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that everyone should have received a survey from the SRO's. The survey is to gather information to make sure that everyone understands what the role of the SRO is and how we utilize then.

Chair Belmarsh discussed the goal "Superintendent Evaluation." It is a responsibility of the Committee to evaluate the superintendent. It is time to start a new cycle and look at dates, do a mid year check-in in February and the final evaluation in June. The Superintendent will finish her goals and the Committee will pick items to focus on.

Under the Communication goal, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw would like to see a better web page and asked about funding. It would be great to have a place to show school committee topics.

Chair Belmarsh asked that this be on the next meeting of the whole to review again.

Superintendent Goals - Draft

Dr. Curtis-Whipple handed out her draft updated goals and reviewed with the Committee.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple highlighted Full day Kindergarten to align with the February 2019 dates. Mrs. Curran shared her concern that it seems a little fast for hard numbers. The Chair shared that there is a plan and we are working on the cost. There is also a plan to incorporate into the budget.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that the timeline is actually in line for our March Kindergarten open house registrations.

Dr. Sullivan stated that the heaviest lifting is curriculum, which can continue past the initial February deadline.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that enrollment varies by building, for example there are schools that don't have enough students to have a full class and over the past few years have had to combine students from 3 schools to make one class. The reality is we need to get this done by February so that we are ready for March Kindergarten open house. Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw also reminded the Committee that there was a lot of planning already done for full day K through Budget Sub-Committee with Mickey McGonagle.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared she is in year 3 of the new Superintendent program, she is waiting to hear who her new mentor is. Mrs. Curran asked if the mentor evaluates her, Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that they give her assignments and will frequently do surveys like the ones she has shared with the Committee in the past and will continue to do so.

MASC Joint Conference

Chair Belmarsh shared that we have 3 spots for Committee members to attend the joint conference in November. Mrs. Curran and Mrs. Sheehan will attend. Mrs. Nardone is checking her schedule. We will put the resolutions on the next agenda for school committee.

MOU with SRO'S

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared the DRAFT MOU with the Weymouth Police Department. She shared that due to new laws and regulations there are a lot of changes to the MOU, changes are beyond our control. Dr. Curtis-Whipple reviewed the changes with the Committee. The Chief is currently reviewing and then will go to the Mayor.

The Principals have shared openly they would like the SRO's at late afternoon and evening events and we are trying to work with them on this. The WPD are adding some components to work with our at risk students. Mrs. Sheehan likes the duties and responsibilities spelled out. Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw asked if there is a female SRO. Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that we did have a female SRO but she retired. The community outreach officer is a female J. Pompeo.

The SRO's are running everyday:

Joe Favreau covers all 8 primaries and JECC

Jim Flanagan covers middle schools, mostly at Chapman

Ryan Hamacher is at WHS

On a motion by Dr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Nardone the Weymouth School Committee Meeting of the Whole was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sullivan – Secretary

Documents related to Meeting of the Whole:

Draft School Committee Goals

Draft Superintendent Goals

Draft MOU WPD/SCHOOLS