

**WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
M I N U T E S
(Approved 2/2/17)**

Date: April 28, 2016

Present: Chair Belmarsh, Mrs. Sheehan, Ms. Flemer, Mrs. Curran, Mrs. Nardone. Dr. Sullivan, Mayor Hedlund (arrived at 7:16 p.m.)

Also present: Superintendent Salim, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Assistant Superintendent Kustka and Business Manager Mickey McGonagle;

Call to Order

At 7:14 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to remove and table the February 24, 2016 minutes from the consent agenda. So voted, 7:03 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Warrant 44-2016 in the amount of \$1,550,850.68

Minutes:

February 25, 2016 & March 10, 2016

Field Trip Requests:

Confirmation of Field Trip Request; WHS, grades 10, 11 & 12 Skills USA State Competition, Marlboro, MA 4/28/16-4/30/16

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to approve consent agenda with money to pay. So voted, 7:04 p.m.

Student Advisory Committee

Student Advisory Committee Simi, Joe, Nick and Robert came to the table. Reviewed a survey that was conducted before the student voice summit. Reviewed what is going well at WHS. Reviewed the cell phone policy again with Mr. Haviland.

The Student Advisory Committee reviewed their survey results "What students think needs work at WHS":

- Social media used extensively to boost morale at WHS- some students feel they are not updated enough. It is important to students.
- Opinions and ideas are easily shared between staff and student body.
- Some students are afraid to speak up so they don't get in trouble or cause trouble...

- Student voice trying to work on improving the communication and allowing for students to speak up when they feel they need to be heard on an important issue.

Thanked the School Committee for approval for WHS EEF to travel to Europe. It is a great way for students to get out and see the world. The students and chaperones really enjoy it and learn a lot.

Joe reviewed questions for a future survey:

What do students want to see happen in school?

Support a creation of a WPS student government association

Student activity announcements – needs improvement

Should have a chance to speak for themselves when it comes to issues that involve them.

The committee reported there will be a Dance Marathon fund raiser and all proceeds will go to build solar panels and use money to spend on text books and technology.

Student Advisory believe that the consideration of Dr. Curtis-Whipple for superintendent is something they would like to see move forward. They support her being a candidate and support her being voted as our new superintendent.

Mrs. Sheehan asked for a full report typed and given to the School Committee. Students agreed to doing this.

A blood drive was held at WHS today sponsored by the National Honor Society. It was reported that it went very well.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Superintendent's Report

Correspondence

FY 17 Budget Measures

A week ago Tuesday, Mayor Hedlund presented measures for the FY17 budget to Town Council. This will be followed up with Budget Management committee presentations with each department. The school department will be meeting with the Budget Management committee on May 25.

The Mayor's proposal includes \$61.5M for the FY17 operating budget for schools. In addition to the operating budget proposal which will meet our level service and a few additional needs, there will be measures for capital investment for IT infrastructure and curriculum. \$150K for curriculum materials and \$900K for technology infrastructure

Town Council members spoke favorably about this budget proposal, particularly around the IT support that councilors know are desperately needed in the school department as detailed in Gail Callahan's technology review.

STEM Hot Spot – Old Wessagusset Beach

We are excited for the next STEM Hotspot which will take place Saturday, April 30 at Old Wessagusset Beach. This Hotspot will focus on hands-on exploration of the beach habitat and provide opportunities for students to learn about tide pools, marine life & beach safety. The event will take place 10am-12:30pm to coincide with the low tide and the forecast looks great. We ask students only come with an adult and that everyone should dress in Layers. If it does rain, the event will be cancelled.

For those who like to plan ahead, we are also looking forward to our June STEM Hotspot which will take place on Wednesday, June 8. This will be a different kind of Hotspot in that it will take place on a weekday at 5:30pm at the Chapman cafeteria and will be a Weymouth Family game night. There is interesting research showing how different types of board games can support student understanding of number sense and mathematical concepts. So while we often think of STEM has a high tech area – our June Hotspot will be a more old-fashioned, but still exciting way of developing interest in STEM.

There will be over 20 different board games that will be presented and available for students and families to play that night. There will also be raffles and other activities related to mathematics and problem solving.

Special Olympics

This morning, we had the 2016 Weymouth Special Olympics at Weymouth High School's Mullin field. It was a great day to celebrate excellence, effort and community. The stands were filled with primary students cheering on their peers and student leaders from Adams, Chapman and the high school helped to facilitate different stations around the field along with teachers and staff. Thank you to all of our sponsors, to Special Olympics Massachusetts, Ann Knapp, Betsy Harris, Patty Hayes, Alyssa Bosse and the entire Special Olympics committee for putting on a great event.

Barnes and Noble My Favorite Teacher Essay Contest

Dr. Salim shared that this year's "My favorite teacher" essay contest yielded over 100 essays, letters and poems about teachers in the region. Author Monica Tesler, author Roy Harris Jr and Kathryn Collins Outreach coordinator for Hingham Community Access Media served as judges for the essays and we are proud to share that the first place winner for this year's My Favorite Teacher award is WHS teacher Justin Galusha. Also congratulations to the other two top candidates Jared Converse at Abigail Adams and Joe Wilkins at WHS.

Junior Prom

As many folks know, tomorrow night, Weymouth High School will be holding its junior prom at the Emery Estate..

New Business

Report on Teaching and Learning

McKinney Vento Update

Dr. Salim invited Patricia Hayes, Assistant Director for Special Education and Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka here tonight to share an update on our work to support homeless students in our schools and in the Weymouth community. Assistant Superintendent Kustka and Assistant Director for Special Education Patti Hayes presented a powerpoint presentation and provided an update on the following: Key Components of McKinney-Vento; Homeless Students in Massachusetts; District Homeless Statistics; McKinney-Vento Transportation; McKinney-Vento Grant Support; Outreach; Advocacy and Amendments. Ms. Hayes reviewed the purpose of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, her role as the homeless liaison in Weymouth, definition of homeless and residence. She provided examples of homelessness, reviewed transportation and our outreach efforts. A robust question and answer period was had. All questions were answered.

Report of the Policy Sub-Committee

Mrs. Curran read into the record the report of the Policy Sub-Committee attached to these minutes. It was a one item agenda Posthumous Diplomas.

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to approve the report of the Policy Sub-Committee. So voted 8:10 p.m.

Proposed Policy JRE: Death of a Weymouth High School Student – First Reading

Mrs. Curran read a brief statement regarding the process the committee has taken to create this new policy. Mrs. Curran read proposed policy JRE: Death of a Weymouth High School Student into the record.

Discussion was had by the Committee. Dr. Sullivan asked if there are any terms that we need to avoid regarding state law. Mrs. Curran stated it will have to read Posthumous Diploma.

Chair Belmarsh moves to second reading at the next School Committee Meeting.

Mrs. Sheehan asked Dr. Salim to have the policy posted on the School Website.

MASC – Day on the Hill

Mrs. Sheehan and Mrs. Curran both attended MASC day on the hill. Mrs. Curran read a brief report of the visit into the record.

Old Business

Proposed 2016-2017 School Year Calendar – Revised

Dr. Salim reviewed the proposed 2016-17 calendar before the committee. Since our last meeting, a couple of professional development days were shifted based on the MCAS schedule that has been released from DESE – the new dates are March 14 and June 13.

Administration reviewed this calendar with our principals at our last Academic Leadership Team meeting and there was consensus around keeping Tuesday at the professional development days for staff. Ability to have follow-up with staff meetings and discussions on professional learning topics immediately following these important days.

Mrs. Nardone disagrees with the number of PD days, losing valuable time in the classroom.

Mayor Hedlund asked if he has an issue to raise, would it be under new or old business? Chair Belmarsh explains the process.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to approve the 2016-2017 school year calendar. So voted, 8:18 p.m.

Mayor Hedlund through the Chair spoke about attending Special Olympics today. It was a great event. He shared that he had encountered two parents who were upset that they did not have access to the field. They were told it was a liability issue. Chair Belmarsh stated we would look into and get a response. Dr. Salim stated the procedures are based upon MA state Special Olympics regulations and he will look into it.

Superintendent Search

Consideration of appointment of Superintendent of Weymouth Public Schools

Chair Belmarsh reported there was a public interview and meet and greet this past Tuesday evening, April 26, 2016 for consideration of Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple for Superintendent.

A motion to appoint Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple as Superintendent of Weymouth Public Schools by Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan. The Chair opened for discussion.

Mrs. Sheehan stated she was not pleased with the process of putting one candidate forth. However she supports Dr. Curtis-Whipple wholeheartedly, this will be fantastic for the district.

Mrs. Nardone respectfully disagreed with Mrs. Sheehan's concern in the process and will support moving Dr. Curtis-Whipple forward.

Chair Belmarsh stated she could not be more pleased and satisfied with our applicant and will fully support her as the next superintendent.

Mayor Hedlund also thought the process could have been better, but the candidate before could not have been any better, he will support this candidate.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple thanked the committee stating she could not be happier.

Chair Belmarsh will reach out to the Committee's labor attorney to start contract negotiations.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan it was voted to appoint Jennifer Curtis-Whipple as Superintendent of Weymouth Public Schools starting July 1, 2016 based on successful contract negotiations. So voted, 8:25 p.m.

Executive Session

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy relative to negotiations with union personnel: Unit A only to return to open session for the purpose of adjournment. [JS: Do we need to cite law here] A roll call vote was taken: Dr. Sullivan: YES; Ms. Nardone: YES; Ms. Flemer: YES; Mrs. Sheehan: YES; Mrs. Curran: YES; Mayor Hedlund: YES; Chair Belmarsh: Abstains, So voted, 8:27 p.m.

Mrs. Sheehan stated for the record that this is the first time that the full school committee is meeting on Unit A and has not received an update since 2015.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on May 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

Adjourn

At 10:05 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Sheehan – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
April 28, 2016

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Warrant 44-2016 in the amount of \$1,550,850.68
- Minutes:
February 24, 2016, February 25, 2016 & March 10, 2016
- Field Trip Requests:
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Marlboro, MA 4/28/16-4/30/16
- McKinney Vento presentation
- Policy JRE