

**WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
M I N U T E S (approved 6.23.16)**

Date: April 7, 2016

Present: Chair Belmarsh, Mrs. Sheehan, Ms. Flemer, Mrs. Curran, Mrs. Nardone and Dr. Sullivan

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

Call to Order

At 7:15 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

A moment of silence was had for Patricia Hackett, Norma Oliva and Christine Melanson.

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to remove and table the minutes of the February 25, 2016 and March 10, 2016 minutes. So voted, 7:25 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Warrant 41-2016 in the amount of \$595,553.64

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to approve consent agenda with money to pay. So voted, 7:21 p.m.

Student Advisory Committee

There was none.

Public Comment

Chair Belmarsh asked that those who wish to speak to the Superintendent Search Committee wait until we reach that report. Public comment will be allowed after that report.

Chair Belmarsh opened the meeting to Public Committee.

Gus Perez came to the table. Stated he is surprised that the chair is going forward with the search committee report this evening. Chair Belmarsh stated we would address this when we get to that item on the agenda.

There was no other public comment.

Superintendent's Report

Correspondence

Last Wednesday, we held a successful STEM Expo for K-4 students at WHS. We had terrific turnout of students, parents and teachers who participated in a variety of activities. Opportunities for students to build, design, test and play with circuits, tools, slime and cricket flour cookies were led by community partners, WHS seniors with capstone projects, STEM students from Abigail Adams, WHS robotics teams, primary teachers, parents and administrators.

The event was preceded by a STEM community compact meeting which was led by Laura Stevenson. We were pleased to have parents, students and staff involved to learn about our STEM related efforts in WPS and discuss how we can continue to grow and support this important work.

Dr. Salim announced the next STEM Hotspot which will take place Saturday, April 30th 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. We ask students only come with an adult and that everyone should dress in layers. If it does rain, the event will be cancelled.

On Saturday, April 9, we will be hosting a STEM Conference for Girls at Weymouth High School. Roughly 18 Workshops will be presented by STEM professionals and students to 65+ Girls in grades 4-8 attendees. Activities involve creative problem solving and collaboration and offer students opportunities to build, create, code, plan, and design. Along with robots, attendees may choose to build egg carton helicopter, or learn how to contain an oil spill, or create a computing code using algorithms, or solve mysteries about milk and soda. 2015 Envision Girls and Team members will participate in planning the STEM Conference for Girls. Along with presenting STEM Activities, the girls will be asked to assist adult presenters with the implementation of some of the workshops they participated in as part of the 2015 Envision the Future Program.

Dr. Salim shared that Lynn Howard, fourth grade teacher at Murphy Primary School, was selected to participate in the national Teacher Leadership Initiative – a program to develop a new generation of leaders within the teaching profession. This national initiative is sponsored by the Center for Teaching Quality, the National Educators Association and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. We are proud of Lynn's accomplishment and her ongoing contributions to Weymouth.

Dr. Salim also shared that John Pinizzotto, physics teacher at WHS, was the recipient of the Partners in Excellence Award from Mass Insight Education for his work expanding the AP Physics program at the high school.

New Business

Report of the Superintendent Search Committee

Before the Chair moved on to the report of the Superintendent Search Committee she addressed a letter that was received by the full school Committee and the chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, Kate McCulley. She read a statement addressing this letter and it is attached to these minutes.

The Chair asked the Committee for comments discussion.

Ms. Flemer stated she is in support of moving forward with the report.

Mrs. Curran asked if the Chair could send the information from Mr. Koocher and asked if she had anything in writing from the Assistant Attorney General. Chair Belmarsh stated she does not have anything in writing. She also stated that it would be prudent to wait until we had a clear ruling from the Assistant Attorney General before going forward.

Chair Belmarsh asked the Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee to come to the table as well as any other member of the Committee that would like to join her.

Kate McCulley, TJ Bonner, Malissa Northup and Tracey Nardone. Ms. McCulley stated that she will read the report sent to the School Committee after outlining the process the Committee followed. Ms. McCulley read both reports into the record and both are attached to these minutes.

On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Dr. Sullivan to accept the report of the Superintendent Search Committee.

Chair Belmarsh asked if there were any comments.

Mrs. Sheehan read a statement. Discussed her concerns in detail regarding putting one candidate forward.

Mrs. Curran also has concerns about the process and concerned that we do not have a clear ruling in writing from the Assistant Attorney General before moving forward.

Dr. Sullivan disagreed with his colleagues on issues. Agrees that he would have liked more than one candidate put forward however the School Committee did not ask for more than one candidate. Discussed his concerns in details. Thanked the Search Committee and feels that the Committee can move forward.

Mayor Hedlund addressed his thoughts on his comments in the press and discussed in detail. Stated he thinks the process would have been better service if we specified to send more than one candidate when the committee was formed.

Mrs. Nardone read a statement (attached to these minutes). Details the meetings and topics discussed. Mrs. Nardone stated that we must move Dr. Curtis-Whipple forward.

Ms. Flemer congratulated the Committee, did a really good job and that the School Committee should have given a clear direction on the number of candidates to put forward. Stated there is no reason to hold this process up further. Willing to support the candidate.

Mrs. Sheehan stated the candidate is extremely qualified and supports her. She does not support the process the search committee followed.

Chair Belmarsh thanked the Search Committee. She discussed the number of candidates issue and how many topics for the search came up with the School Committee and the number of candidates was never brought up.

The Chair stated there is a motion of the table to approve the report. Mrs. Curran asked to be recognized. The Chair allowed.

Mrs. Curran stated the Chair is correct that the School Committee did not get the Search Committee a number but that the Chair and Mrs. Nardone both were on a previous committee where only one candidate was put forward. There was an assumption that they would have shared the experience with this committee. Mrs. Curran stated that she has the right to have concerns about the process.

Mrs. Curran asked to make a substitute motion to table the Search Committee's report until such time as a clear directive in writing from the Assistant Attorney General's office, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan. A roll call vote was taken, Dr. Sullivan, NO; Mrs. Nardone, NO; Ms. Flemer, NO; Mrs. Sheehan, YES; Mrs. Curran, YES; Mayor Hedlund, NO; Chair Belmarsh, NO. Motion fails. 8:16 p.m.

Mayor Hedlund put forth a motion to ask the Town Solicitor for an opinion as to whether an open meeting violation has occurred prior to the next meeting, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan.

Chair asked for discussion.

Mrs. Curran asked for clarification. The Mayor and Chair Belmarsh clarified the motion.

Mr. Sullivan asked if the motion could be amended. He believes the search committee's job is done. Asked if we should schedule a public interview of the candidate with time for the public to meet the candidate personally and for this Committee to ask questions with the recognition that if our Town Solicitor has an optioning that it was not appropriate under open meeting law that we would cancel that meeting.

Chair Belmarsh asked for Dr. Sullivan to remove his motion. Chair Belmarsh clarified and discussion ensued surrounding the motion to seek an opinion from the Town Solicitor. Chair Belmarsh will not support this motion. Ms. Flemer stated she will not support this motion and provided the reasons why.

On motion of Mayor Hedlund, seconded by Ms. Sheehan to ask the Town Solicitor for an opinion as to whether an open meeting violation has occurred prior to the next meeting. Motion fails 4-3. 8:24 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Dr. Sullivan to accept the report of the Superintendent Search Committee. Motion passes 5-2. 8:25 p.m.

Chair Belmarsh stated at this time the Committee will not vote to dissolve this search committee as the School Committee needs to consider the recommendation put forward.

The Chair opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Peter Delano came to the table. Described in detail the process that was done in public and was pleased. Stated that the Committee should move Dr. Curtis-Whipple forward as she is the best candidate and deserves to be our next Superintendent.

Mr. Gus Perez came to the table. Stated he also had a conversation with Assistant Attorney General Rush and discussed this in details. Believes it would be prudent for the Committee to hold off until the opinion of the Attorney General is clarified before you move forward.

Ms. Julie Clark came to the table. Stated she feels the Search Committee did a good job. Dr. Curtis-Whipple is very dedicated and should move her forward.

Ms. Andrea Honore came to the table. Concerned about all of the negative issues within school committee and all of the bad press. Would like school committee to move forward with Dr. Curtis-Whipple.

Ms. Sue Kelly came to the table. Decisions that you make moving forward will have a big impact and would like you to move forward with the process.

Cathy Torrey came to the table. Stated she has been a part of many previous search committees. Details her experience. Details how the charge from the school committee is key here. Committee did their job and is up to the school committee to hire the new superintendent. Discusses her concerns in the process. Wishes to move forward with the process of the superintendent search and selecting the new superintendent of schools.

Dan Daley came to the table. Discusses how disappointed this all came out. Did not need to be done in the media. Does not want to see the candidate- withdraw because of this political process.

Rebecca Haugh came to the table. Discusses her experience through this process as a member of the search committee. States that school committee should be unified and get our town re-engaged in education. Thanked Kate and members of the committee.

Chair Belmarsh closes public comment. 8:35 pm

Chair Belmarsh then discussed next steps.

On motion of Dr. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent Search Committee.

Mrs. Sheehan asked for clarification. Chair Belmarsh clarified the motion is to accept the recommendation. If the Committee chooses to accept the recommendation the Committee will then need to decide next steps.

Mrs. Curran asked for the motion to be re-read.

Mayor Hedlund asked for clarification.

Ms. Flemer asked to add to the motion that we accept the recommendation and that we have a one item agenda that would be to interview Dr. Curtis-Whipple held before our next school committee meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Nardone.

Mayor Hedlund asked if this meeting would be Executive, sub-committee, etc. Ms. Flemer clarified it would be a special public meeting at Weymouth High school with a one-item agenda.

Chair Belmarsh then clarifies the motion on the table, to accept the recommendation of the superintendent search committee and hold a public interview of Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple which would be a public meeting prior to the next school committee meeting.

Mrs. Curran discussed that we should split the motion up.

On motion of Dr. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Nardone to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent Search Committee, Mrs. Sheehan and Mrs. Curran stated will be abstaining as they do not support the report of the Superintendent Search Committee. So voted @ 8:40 p.m. 5 yes; 2 abstain

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Nardone to have a one item agenda to have a public interview of Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple to be done before the next school committee meeting. Mrs. Sheehan and Mrs. Curran stated will be abstaining as they do not support the report of the Superintendent Search Committee. So voted, 8:45 p.m. 5 yes; 2 abstain

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Nardone that prior to the public interview that we have a one hour meet and greet prior to the meeting. So voted unanimously, 8:55 p.m.

Discussion of the meet and greet will be an information meet and greet, the public can submit questions to the Chair. Discussion around the interview and the meet and greet was done. We will plan on the date of Tues April 26, 2016 with the meet and greet at 5:30, with the interview starting at here in Humanities Center.

A recap of the vote by was done by Mrs. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Nardone to have a one item agenda to interview Dr. Curtis-Whipple. After the one hour "meet & greet" for the public. So voted unanimously, 9:05 p.m.

There was no further discussion.

Mrs. Nardone left the table from 9:05 p.m. to 9:14 p.m.

Report on Teaching and Learning

English Language Learners Presentation – Mary Ann Bryan

Dr. Salim invited Mary Ann Bryan to the table. A powerpoint presentation was provided. This presentation reviewed the Weymouth ELL Program, statewide assessments: ACCESS, MCAS & PARCC, State and Federal Changes and future considerations. All questions asked by the Committee were addressed.

2016/2017 Draft School Year Calendar

Dr. Salim reviewed the 2016-2017 School Year calendar. Dr. Salim highlighted the first day of school, when the teachers will start, students and the first professional development day. Dr. Salim answered all questions addressed by the Committee and stated this is a draft and all changes will be made prior to the next meeting.

Committee Announcements

Town Wide Parent Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 12th, at 7:30 pm MJL Humanities

SEPAC, Tuesday, May 3rd at Abigail Adams.

Awareness Night, Tuesday, May 10th, Weymouth High School

Reports of Sub-Committees

- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee
- The Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee is still in mediation with Unit A and Unit B. We met on March 30th with Unit A and another meeting is scheduled on April 11th. We met with Unit B on April 5th and will meet again on April 13th.
- Policy Sub-Committee Meeting
- The April 4th meeting got cancelled due to inclement weather. A new date will be researched.

Mrs. Sheehan asked again about an Executive Session in regards to a report on Unit A with the full committee to be on the agenda. The Chair stated there is not one scheduled.

Mayor Hedlund asked to be recognized. Mayor Hedlund made comments on communicating with the press and that we should be open to diversity of the thought an opinion of the first amendment.

Also wanted to announce that the Emery Estate will be used for the junior prom will be utilized on April 29th.

Old Business

Mrs. Sheehan asked about setting dates for the School Committee workshop.

Mrs. Sheehan asked about simply having Action Items.

Mrs. Sheehan asked about the financial reports that were in the folders. Mr. McGonagle addressed the questions.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on April 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

Adjourn

At 9:51 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 7, 2016

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Warrant 41-2016 in the amount of \$595,553.64
- WHS POS – Third Reading
- ELL Presentation
- Statements made at meeting that are attached: (in order of when read)
- Lisa Belmarsh statement re: Supt Search Sub-comm
- Kate McCulley statement re: Supt Search Sub-comm
- Kate McCulley final report from the Supt Search Sub-Comm
- Gail Sheehan statement re: Supt search Sub-comm
- Tracey Nardone statement re: Supt Search Sub-comm

Lisa M. Belmarsh, Chair, Weymouth School Committee

April 7, 2016

This statement is in response to the letter received by the Weymouth School Committee on April 6th sent by Matt Bryer and signed by both Matt Bryer and Mary Ellen Devine. Since receiving this letter, I have spoken with Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee Kate McCulley, Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), Assistant Attorney General Hanne Rush, and Town Solicitor Joe Callanan on this matter. Based on these conversations, **I am satisfied there is not an open meeting law violation and recommend we move forward with our Superintendent Search Process as it is on the agenda so that we can decide after hearing the report of the Search committee how we wish to proceed.**

A letter was sent to all Weymouth School Committee members and Kate McCulley, Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, via email at 6:17pm on April 6th by Matt Bryer. In this letter, Matt Bryer indicates that he 'consulted with the Massachusetts Attorney General: Division of Open Government' and specifically with Assistant Attorney General Hanne Rush. This letter then reports that, according to his conversation with AAG Rush, that the subcommittee has 'unequivocally' committed an open meeting violation. This letter is signed by Matt Bryer and Mary Ellen Devine in their capacity as members of the Superintendent Search Committee.

At no time prior to receiving this letter at 6:17 pm on April 6th, did Mr. Bryer or Ms. Devine reach out to me, Lisa Belmarsh, as Chair of the School Committee and ex-officio member of the Search Committee, Kate McCulley, Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee or the Weymouth Town Solicitor.

Chair McCulley and I called Assistant Attorney General Hanne Rush to review her statements in this April 6, 2016 letter. After reading this letter to her, AAG Rush contradicted a number of statements in the letter indicating that she would not unequivocally deem anything an open meeting violation; she would not give definitive statements of violations or not; nor would she refute the advice given to us from the MASC. She further stated that at no time during ANY call to the hotline – including mine – could she say to a caller that if a complaint came before them would they absolutely find an open meeting law violation. This would not be possible just based on a phone conversation.

She agreed each case is based on very particular facts and circumstances which may ultimately show everything is fine. She again repeated that she could NOT say what the result would be if a complaint was filed but that their office would listen to both sides, hear what actually happened in a very fact specific way and acknowledged that a switch of the facts could change the situation in a variety of ways. She also stated that if a complaint was filed the fact we relied on advice of MASC would also be a fact in the case. She could not say definitely which way it will come out.

I stated that the Weymouth School Committee, unlike the committee in the case provided by Mr. Bryer attached to his letter, now has the ability to consider multiple options including proceeding with the Search

Committee's advisory recommendation and interview the one recommended applicant, seek to have the search committee recommend additional candidates, or repost the position. She agreed that there are decisions to be made by the school committee at this time.

Upon receiving this letter, I also reviewed it with Glenn Koocher. As this Committee knows, Mr. Koocher has been before us prior to us starting this search; met with the Search Committee in open session; and consulted with me and Ms. McCulley during this process. He read the letter by Mr. Bryer and responded with an email to me. He could not attend tonight as he is attending another meeting and was not available. Mr Koocher's statements include that he was in close contact with the Search Committee for Weymouth's new Superintendent at their request to ensure that the process proceeded smoothly and within the parameters allowed by law.

Kate McCulley – Chair, Superintendent Search Committee

STATEMENT TO BE READ AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 4/7/2016

Good evening Madame Chairwoman, Mayor Hedlund, and members of the School Committee. Thank you for inviting me to speak tonight. I'm Kate McCulley, and I served as the chair of the Superintendent Search Committee. I'm joined by (names), who also served on that committee with me. Other members of the Search Committee wanted to be here tonight but had personal conflicts that prevented them from attending. I am going to read my original report, which I submitted to all members of the School Committee on March 29th, but before I do that, I'd like to spend a few minutes talking about the instructions that we received and the process that the Search Committee went through.

We had our first meeting on Feb. 11th, and that was a public meeting attended by the press and also attended by Glenn Koocher, who is the Executive Director of the Mass Association of School Committees. School Committee Chair Lisa Belmarsh was also at that meeting, along with some members of the public. Mr. Koocher gave us a great deal of instruction that night about how to navigate through the search process. He advised us on the Open Meeting Law and the confidentiality of the applicants, about posting the meeting agendas in advance, about the process of going into executive session, about the types of interview questions we could and could not ask, and the recommended length of the interviews. He also told us that although Ms. Belmarsh was not a member of the Search Committee, she could be kept informed of all aspects of the search, and we were free to reach out to either one of them (Mr. Koocher or Ms. Belmarsh) if we had any procedural questions along the way. The committee asked Mr. Koocher specifically if there was a recommended number of candidates that we should plan to submit as finalists, and Mr. Koocher told us that we could submit any number that we thought was appropriate, including all of them or none of them. He also told us something that we repeated among ourselves many times throughout our discussions and deliberations, and it was this: "You should not put anyone forward as a finalist unless you are comfortable with that person as your next Superintendent."

After that first meeting, the remainder of our meetings were held in executive session. We reviewed applications, selected which candidates to interview, came up with interview questions, and conducted the interviews. The last 2 interviews were conducted on Wednesday, March 23rd, and we had scheduled another meeting for Monday, March 28th to vote on which candidates would be moved forward as finalists. After the interviews were concluded and the committee had had some preliminary discussions about anticipated finalists, I called Ms. Belmarsh to discuss a couple of different scenarios that I felt we needed guidance on. She said she would support any recommendation made by the Search Committee, but she suggested that we should also confer with Mr. Koocher, and so the three of us had a conference call on Friday March 25th. I can tell you that a significant part of that call revolved around the candidate who ultimately withdrew from consideration the next day. That candidate is entitled to perpetual privacy now since they did withdraw their application, however, I can tell you there was a lot of interest in that particular candidate. In that same conference call, I also asked Mr. Koocher if it would be frowned upon if the committee came up with just one finalist. His answer was NO, it would not be frowned upon, and the only reason it would be problematic would be if our sole finalist was someone that the school committee would not support. He even mentioned a few other towns who had recently submitted just one finalist, and successfully hired that finalist. He also said that it would be unfair to put someone else through as a second candidate just for the sake of having a second candidate, if there was a strong consensus that one candidate stands out above the others.

When we did have our final meeting on March 28th, I relayed to the committee the phone conversations I had with both Ms. Belmarsh and Mr. Koocher. I can tell you that there were some members of the Search Committee who felt very strongly that there should be at least two finalists put forward. We were down to 4 candidates at that point, since the afore-mentioned candidate withdrew on March 26th. We decided by consensus that any candidate who received a majority of votes (at least 6 out of 11) would move forward as a finalist. The committee members could vote for as many of the candidates as we wanted to: we could vote for all 4 or we could choose not to vote for any of them. We were all mindful of our original instructions that we should not put anyone forward as a finalist unless we were comfortable with that person as our next Superintendent. When the votes were tallied, Dr. Curtis-Whipple had 11 votes, and the other candidates each received less than 6. In fact, the next highest total was 4. Now I will mention, in case this becomes an issue, that one of the committee members, Mrs. Haugh, was not present at that final meeting and she voted by proxy through me. There has been some discussion in the last few days about whether or not state law allows proxy voting in that situation. I reached out to Mr. Koocher again this week, and he believes her vote should not have been counted. That would not have made any difference in the outcome of the voting, but I simply wanted to put that out in the open since there has been so much public scrutiny about our process. After the votes were counted, the recommendation was issued that Dr. Curtis-Whipple was our sole finalist for the position.

And now I will read my original report that I submitted to the members of the School Committee on March 29th.

To: Members of Weymouth School Committee
From: Kate McCulley, Chair of Weymouth Superintendent Search Committee
Date: 3/29/2016
Re: Recommendation of Finalist for Superintendent Position

The Search Committee has completed its search for the position of Superintendent of the Weymouth Public Schools, and we are submitting one candidate, Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, as a finalist for the position.

The Search Committee met eight times over the past seven weeks. Those meetings added up to over twenty-one hours of time spent reviewing applications, preparing questions for the interviews, interviewing the candidates and then finally deliberating on which candidates should be moved forward for consideration by the School Committee. The Search Committee was made up of eleven members who comprised a diverse representation of the Weymouth community, and we gave a great deal of thoughtful consideration to the task at hand. The members were:

T.J. Bonner – Teacher at Adams/Parent
Matt Bryer – Community Member/Former Student
Patrick Costello - Principal of the Murphy Primary School
Mary-Ellen Devine – TWPC/SEPAC/Parent
Rebecca Haugh – Town Councilor/Parent
Paul Kelly – Teacher at Adams/Parent
Kate McCulley – Community Member/Parent/Chair
Tracey Nardone – School Committee Member/Parent
Malissa Northup – Teacher at WHS/Parent
Matt Symonds – Parent/SPED/TWPC
Matt Tallon – Parent/Civic Association Leader

We reviewed the applications of twenty candidates, both internal and external, and we chose six that we wanted to interview. Of those six, one withdrew from consideration, and the other five were interviewed by the committee between the dates of 3/14 and 3/23/2016. Another candidate withdrew from consideration after the interviews were concluded. All of the candidates we interviewed displayed impressive qualifications, but Dr. Curtis-Whipple stood out as the right choice for Weymouth. It is worth noting that all eleven members of the committee voted to move Dr. Curtis-Whipple forward as a finalist.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple has spent her entire career in the Weymouth Public Schools, and currently serves as Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services and Support. She was first hired as a kindergarten teacher at the Nash Primary School in 1995. Since then, she has held several different teaching and administrative positions at various schools in the district, including Principal of the Academy Avenue Primary School. She has been involved with Special Education instruction and many STEM initiatives, and has demonstrated district-wide leadership skills. Her dedication, sincerity and ability to motivate people have earned her the respect of her colleagues. We believe that she can have a significant impact on the morale of the Weymouth school system.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple is a life-long resident of Weymouth and a product of the Weymouth Public Schools. She has a Doctoral Degree from Northeastern University, Master's Degree from Cambridge College,

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study from Fitchburg State College and Bachelor's Degree from Providence College.

It is with great enthusiasm that we recommend Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple for the position of Weymouth Superintendent.

Gail Sheehan's statement read at TH 4-7-16 School Committee meeting

Thank you to all who served on this Superintendent Search Screening Committee. I appreciate all the time these members spent. I have served on multiple screening committees myself, so I know.

One of my concerns - from the very beginning was to have an experienced person chair this important committee. One who has served and chaired previous search committees. This was denied. I have no disrespect for Ms. McCally, but this was her first search committee. My other concern is that I have respect for the public to be involved in this WHOLE process. It is their right. I was really disappointed that this search committee selected only one candidate to bring forward. Dr. Curtis-Whipple has been denied the right to be publically interviewed, with other candidates, by us. This selection SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE by us, as elected officials.

This report was not following due process and being transparent for public involvement.

I have spoken with Dr. Whipple and want to say that my concerns have NEVER been about ANY candidate; but how the process was NOT followed.

I am disappointed that:

1. This Search Screening Committee did not get proper guidance from School Committee Chair, Ms. Belmarsh.
2. I question the confidentiality as there were discussions all over multiple facebook / social media pages.
3. That they did not know to send us a number of candidates, not just one candidate.
4. That Ms. Belmarsh handpicked members, most of whom had NEVER served on a search committee before.
5. School Committee members Ms. Belmarsh and Mrs. Nardone WERE on a previous search committees that was botched and hijacked by its previous Chair and candidate. I was very disappointed that they did not use what they learned there with THIS search committee.
6. And very disappointed that Ms. Belmarsh was the lone vote against a public search and outside candidates - and that this, just one candidate, was the outcome and direction that this search committee took.

First off - want to start by congratulating Chairwoman Lisa Belmarsh for being thoughtful on the makeup of the search committee. This committee was made up of what I consider the best representation of the entire town.

We had teachers of different grade levels, administrator, business and community leaders, SPED and TWPC members, a past student and 2 elected officials of the 11 members 10 are parents with children in the town.

We are all stakeholders with special areas of interest and one common goal to see the school system succeed. We all had concerns and voiced those concerns about the direction of the STEM, music, and athletic programs, student achievement, test scores, full day K program, IT infrastructure, middle school configuration, the budget, moral, science-math- and language courses, out of district special needs and other areas of special needs, the relationship of the town side of government and much more.

We met with no time constraints, some meetings lasting over 3 hours - two times a week. I felt everyone was respectful and comfortable expressing opinions. I feel comfortable saying that these 11 members impressed me at how well the entire team worked together and how serious everyone took their responsibility.

When it came down to voting for finalists to move forward- we decided that in order to move a candidate forward there needed a majority vote (6 votes)per candidate. Everyone had equal votes to cast, we could vote for all the candidates, some of the candidate or none. It came down to just 1 candidate meeting the criteria. In fact Dr. Curtis Whipple received 11 out of 11 votes unanimously moving her forward.

That's not to say the other candidates we interviewed weren't good, because they were. And I think any school district would benefit from their leadership abilities. It's just Dr. Curtis Whipple was a more well-rounded candidate and has what we were all looking for—even though we were all looking for something different.

The search process was fair and we did our due diligent.

It is my hope that you can see through to the truth

- support the process
- move forward

so that we don't lose the highly qualified candidate to politics, and criticism on social media by the same handful of people.

Dr. Jen Curtis-Whipple is a great fit for Weymouth give her a chance to prove it, move her forward in the process.