

**WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
M I N U T E S**

Date: March 10, 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.

Absent: Mayor Hedlund & Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Consent Agenda

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was voted to remove the minutes dated 1/21/16 and 2/4/16 from the consent agenda. So voted, 7:01pm

Warrant 37-2016 in the amount of \$811,991.47

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to approve consent agenda with money to pay. So voted, 7:05pm

Student Advisory Committee

The Student Advisory Committee came to the table. Reported out on the latest Student Voice Summit. Fifty students attended the summit. On Tuesday, March 8th three new bills were presented to Principal Haviland. The first is Student Government; second improve communications throughout the school, both of these bills were passed. The third bill was the WHS launch of the Wildcat Connect App. The Committee will provide more details on this at the March 24th meeting. The Committee announced that ticket sales will begin tomorrow for the Semi-formal.

A report was given for Skills USA, Robert Parker won Silver for Culinary Arts, Donald Stevenson Won Gold for IT and Matt Mece won Bronze for IT, Shawn Fleming won Gold for Automotive. Robert, Donald and Shawn will be moving onto the State competition at the end of April. The GSA Club will be having an event on March 17th, wear green socks day.

Junior Doug Nally announced that for his Capstone Project he will be doing a Yankee Candle fundraiser to raise funds for a smartboard donation to the Childcare Center at Weymouth High School.

Students spoke about doing cell phone survey, working on pre-prom (which is new this year). They also spoke about a graduation gala - doing a survey so kids have a say.

Capstone Presentation: Abigail Hart: The Need for vegetarian Options in School Cafeterias. Ms. Hart came to the table and provided a powerpoint presentation with her Capstone Project on the needs for vegetarian items on the school cafeteria menu. Ms. Hart reviewed the current school menus, growing trends, her proposal and why vegetarian options are better for students. When asked, Abigail stated she had not had any conversation or discussion with Chartwell staff about the food served in cafeterias."

Public Comment

Chair Belmarsh asked for public comment. Ydana Chella, President of the WEA is scheduled to speak.

Ms. Chella, President and Mrs. Beath, Vice President of the WEA came to the table. Ms. Chella thanked the Committee for allowing her to speak this evening. Over 100 members of the WEA have come to the meeting this evening to show support. Ms. Chella assures the School Committee that lines of communication will remain open as we go forward and is asking for a fair, reasonable and timely settlement of contract.

Chair Belmarsh stated that there will be report on collective bargaining this evening if you would like to stay.

There was no other Public Comment.

Ms. Flemer left the meeting at 7:20 and returned at 7:25 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Correspondence

Dr. Salim reported that the decision was made last week to reschedule the NEASC site visit that was originally scheduled for this week. Due to concerns around teacher participation outside of the regular school day, it was determined to be in the best interests of Weymouth High School to reschedule the NEASC site visit until a time when teachers will be able to fully participate in the site visit process.

The WHS faculty is a critical piece of the NEASC accreditation process. As you know, our entire community has served on the standards committees, contributed to writing the self-study and gathered student work, among other activities. We believe it is critical that teachers be fully involved in a NEASC site visit so that they can effectively represent the strengths and challenges of Weymouth High School. As a result, in consultation with NEASC, we have rescheduled the site visit to a date later this fall. The self-study that was completed by the faculty will still be utilized as the foundation for the site visit.

We believe that a later visit which fully involves teachers will have more value to the school and district community.

Last Tuesday was the PD Day “Choice Day” for our teachers and staff. Our paraprofessionals will be engaged in professional learning on how to support students in their role. Our learning sessions for teachers include sessions led by external partners including Lyn Frano who will be running a session on addiction and risky behaviors, Pearson consultants on the envision math program and partners from Lexia on the online reading support tool, and resources from the Weymouth Public Library. We also have a number of our own staff leading sessions including session on how to de-escalate difficult student behaviors, how to support English language learners, how to effectively prepare for IEP meetings, and anxiety at the middle school level. This was the last full day PD for teachers and staff this school year.

On a related note, we received a question related to the upcoming State Senate elections on April 12. This is an early release PD day and we have planned for adjustments to accommodate voting at our schools which serve as polling stations.

Our next STEP Hotspot will take place in conjunction with a STEM Community Compact meeting here in the Mary Jo Livingstone Humanities Center at WHS. The STEM Compact meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 30, at 4pm where parents and community members can engage in discussions about the direction and priorities for STEM work in Weymouth Public Schools.

This will be followed by a STEM Hotspot event at 5:30pm led by five of our schools – Johnson, Pingree, Seach, Hamilton and Talbot. There will be stations for student’s preK-4 to engage in hands on STEM activities, demonstrations and give-aways. The Hotspot will take place at 5:30pm at Weymouth High School Maroon Lobby until 7pm. We had a tremendous turnout of over 200 people participate in the Wildlife Center Hotspot last month and hope to have a great turnout here at the high school in a few weeks.

Also related to STEM, Dr. Salim shared that Weymouth High School hosted Nobel laureate Dr. Richard Roberts who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for the discovery of split genes. He spoke with WHS students about GMOs or genetically modified organisms.

Students from AP Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science and the Culinary program participated in the talk along with school and community guests. It was a terrific event that was possible due to the Nobel Laureates School Visits organization based in Quincy and planning by our own Betsy Harris.

Also related to STEM, our Robotics team at Weymouth High School will be starting their First Stronghold competition at Reading Memorial High School this weekend as part of the North Shore District Competition Event. They will follow this up with a competition at UMass Dartmouth March 19 and 20.

As you heard from the Student Advisory Committee our CTE students participated in the Skills USA competition and want to share that have four WHS students who were recognized at the recent regional competition:

Robert Parker won silver for Culinary Arts

Donald Stevenson won gold for IT

Matt Mece won bronze for IT

Sean Fleming won gold for automotive

Robert, Sean and Donald will be moving onto the state competition at the end of April.

Also related to student leadership – Dr. Salim shared an update related to the Student Voice Summit held here at WHS:

“Weymouth High School is happy to report that on Tuesday March 8, student representatives met with Principal Haviland to propose three new bills. These bills were created via the Student Voice Summit meetings held during the course of this school year. Specifically, the bills focused on student government and school wide communication. The first bill related to student government called for an enhancement of the process of student governance that provides a more inclusive representative form of government where the product of student work would be the presentation of bills to the school administration for approval. It maintains our strong class council and student advisory models while adding a legislative branch called Student Voice and creating mechanisms to ensure that all three branches of student government communicate. The second bill was based on the need to improve communication within the school. Leveraging the recent launch of the WildcatConnect app made available to the high school through the Capstone Project, students proposed the plan to install student run bulletin boards to be strategically placed throughout the school. These boards would be managed by students and would directly connect to the information found on the WildcatConnect App. Principal Haviland signed both of these bills and through this signing granted permission for students to begin their work on creating the constitution of the Weymouth High School Student Government and to commission the work on the creation and installation of the bulletin boards.

Finally, as it relates to Wildcat Connect, WHS is pleased to announce the launch of a revolutionary mode of communication for their school community. Through research about how students obtain information, WHS students Kevin Lyons and Rohith Parvathaneni learned that students do not use traditional modes of communication to learn more about life at WHS. This research also revealed that 81% of the school community uses iPhones for their communication purposes. As a result, Kevin and Rohith created an iOS App called WildcatConnect. In the past few months, the students, staff, and some parents have participated in a test process to phase in the app as a standard mode of communication in the school. It is student created but the content is approved by selected school staff members. The official launch of this app will occur during homeroom on Monday and to parents in the following days. “

Dr. Salim shared that the second Johnson Early Childhood Center Open House will be taking place on Saturday, March 19 at 9am. This is a great opportunity for parents of pre-school children to learn about our fantastic pre-school program, meet staff, visit classrooms and learn about brain building activities. There will be a story teller and other activities for children as well.

A motion made by Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, to approve the minutes of 1-21-16 and 2-4-16. GS publically clarified the Superintendent Salary vote in the 1-21-16 minutes that it was 4-2 with GS voting against, along with Mrs. Curran. And, there was one name incorrect in the 2-5 minutes that was corrected. So voted.

New Business

Report on Teaching and Learning

Transportation Update – Robin Howard & Mickey McGonagle

Dr. Salim invited Robin Howard, Director of Transportation and Mickey McGonagle, Interim Business Manager to the table to provide an overview of our Transportation.

Mrs. Howard and Mr. McGonagle came to the table. Mrs. Howard presented a powerpoint presentation and reviewed Weymouth Public Schools and First Student's the goals and vision for transportation. Mrs. Howard reviewed the vans, busses and McKinney-Vento transportation. Mr. McGonagle reviewed the First Student contract information. Mrs. Howard reviewed how we will work with First Student going forward.

Questions asked by School Committee members were addressed by Mrs. Howard, Mr. McGonagle and Dr. Salim.

Reports of Sub-Committees

- Collective Bargaining

- Chair Belmarsh asked Ms. Flemer to give a report on Collective Bargaining even though not on the agenda. Ms. Flemer read from statement. Ms. Flemer reported that since April 2015 there have been more than 20 meetings with the Unit A. Since January of 2016 there have been 3. Feels that there is a need for a mediator to move these meetings forward. Ms. Flemer read the statute on initiation for a mediator. The School Committee has field unilaterally for mediation to keep the process moving forward. The next meeting will be with the Arbitrator on March 22nd. Ms. Flemer commented on Unit A members picketing at this evenings meeting. A copy of Ms. Flemer's statement is attached.
- On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Mrs. Curran to accept the report of the Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee. So voted 7:56 p.m.
- Mrs. Sheehan asked again for an Executive Session to update the full committee on the Collective Bargaining Sub-Committing meeting with Unit A, had asked for it to be on this agenda - but it isn't , stated that we have not had any updates on Unit A since 10-18-15. Especially since DF just stated that the Sub-Committee filed for mediation. Ms. Flemer and Ms. Belmarsh stated there was not a need for one this evening.
- Cheryl Taylor asked to be recognized. The Chair allows. Ms. Taylor comes to the table. Ms. Taylor wanted to clarify that the Unit A members were not picketing. Feels that picketing is a strong word. They were just showing the strong feeling the union has to have fair contract settlement.
- Budget Sub-Committee
- The Budget Sub-Committee met on March 8, 2016 at the School Administration Building. The budget sub-committee focused on highlighting budget issues we have been focusing on over the past 6 months. Specially, we reviewed the FY17 proposed budget from the Public Hearing on February 25th, updates to the IT Recommendations; and specific items on our FY17 needs list. Our discussion began with Mickey McGonagle, the School Department's Interim part time Business Manager, explaining the FY17 Budget Breakdown. Some of the highlights of the discussion were around the breakdown of what is included in the level service FY17 budget request including free cash amounts and what free cash went towards; , variables such as enrollment and medical cost as well as unsettled contracts. We emphasized the hope that in coming budgets we will not have to use free cash as a budget mechanism for basic school services as has been the practice with the prior administration. We acknowledged this is a transition year and hope to continue the excellent dialogue occurring between schools, the town, parents and the community. Next we heard from Laura Stevenson, the School Department's IT director, following up on the IT Review that was just completed. She discussed the game plan to move us forward that included, Network infrastructure, server storage and device replacements. She indicated the schools and the town IT departments along with the Mayor's office have already met to discuss next steps. She also indicated it was a very positive and productive meeting and she is looking forward to further discussions with them on this proposal.

- We then heard from Ann Knapp, the School's SPED Director. Discussion was around out of district placement and the social/emotional support instruction that needs to be addressed in the school district. We have had specific social/emotional support instructional needs on our needs list for the last 3 years. We discussed that 50% of our students with SPED services have a need for these services specifically. Ms. Knapp emphasized that many of our out of district placements and those trying to return to our district have a need for these services. In addition, these positions would offer support to other students. Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Curtis-Whipple reminded us that at one time we did have adjustment counselors in every school adding to a fuller supportive environment for all students. These positions would assist at restoring these services. Administration will review any additional savings that the schools may recoup from adding these positions and ultimately keeping students in district and report this back to us.
- The last guest was Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple the school's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. Dr. Whipple discussed the need for Curriculum Leadership support in the district as well as Instructional coaches in ELA. She also discussed the need for textbooks and curriculum materials and a replacement cycle that must to be developed. These positions and needs have been on our lists for a number of years. The Curriculum leadership positions and instructional coaches were a part of the school department staff prior to the 2008-2009 cuts. She emphasized that these positions and essential support to the system by ensuring curriculum is being followed between classes and grades; analyzing data from assessments back to individual students.
- Dr. Curtis-Whipple emphasized, as have the parent speakers at our public hearing and with town council, the need for curriculum materials, science equipment with a plan for a replacement cycle.
- Our next steps are to hear from members on anything else about the budget so that we can vote a number to send to the Mayor's office at the next meeting.
- On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, to approve the report of the Budget Sub-Committee. So voted, 8:05 p.m.
- Policy Sub-Committee Meeting
- The Policy Sub-Committee met on March 3, 2016 at the Abigail Adams Library. There were two items on the agenda; we discussed changes to policy-GBEBC Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff. We discussed the policy will remain as written. The second item was posthumous diploma; there was guest speaker, Maria Trozzi. The next meeting of the Policy Sub-Committee will be on April 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the School Administration Building.
- On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan it was voted to move Policy GBEBC to second reading. So voted, 8:13 p.m.

Committee Announcements

Ms. Belmarsh reported that there was a finding of No State Ethics Violation against Kathy Curran. Mrs. Curran read a statement regarding this.

Chair Belmarsh reported School Committee had a Workshop on February 24, 2016. The Committee will be continuing discussion on School Committee Procedures and Protocols.

The next Town Wide Parent Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12th, at 7:30 pm MJL Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. Mrs. Sheehan reported that May 10th will be with just LifeTouch location TBD.

The next SEPAC Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5th, at 7:00 p.m. Abigail Adams Library. This meeting's workshop will answer questions parents may have about transitioning from Adams Middle School to Chapman Middle School.

Save-the-date: Weymouth Educators foundation Annual "Who Wants to be a Know-It-All" will be on Friday, April 1st. School Committee will have a team in this event.

WHS Theatre Company Festival, State Semi Finals, March 19th, Norwell High School, 9:30 a.m.

MASC workshop "The Opiate Crisis in MA - Are your students at risk?"

Mrs. Sheehan and Mrs. Curran attended this workshop this past Saturday. Mrs. Sheehan reviewed the workshop for the Committee. Mrs. Curran also stated it was a great seminar. Mrs. Curran has a copy of the DVD's and will try to get this on Channel 9 for public viewing. Ms. Belmarsh suggested to Mrs. Curran to talk to Administration about specific policy recommendations.

Mrs. Sheehan reported on the Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting she attended. Discussed the various activities available to South Shore Communities. Discusses a medication safety program being presented in 2nd grade and in Adams Middle School in Weymouth.

Old Business

Proposed Changes to Policy GBEBBC – Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff – Third Reading

Mrs. Sheehan read the additions to Policy GBEBBC, attached to these minutes.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan it was voted to approve Policy GBEBBC. So voted, 8:38 p.m.

Weymouth High School Program of Studies – Second Reading

Principal Peter Haviland and Associate Principal Kelly Stukenborg came to the table and reviewed the changes made with input from Ann Knapp, Director of Special Education.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Nardone it was voted to move the Weymouth High School Program of Studies to the third reading with the opportunity for Public Comment. So voted, 8:40 p.m.

Vote to approve Weymouth High School, School Improvement Plan

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to approve the Weymouth High School Improvement Plan. So voted, 8:40 p.m.

Superintendent Search Process

The Superintendent Search Committee continues to meet and is continuing with the process.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on March 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

Adjourn

At 8:41 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
March 10, 2016

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Warrant 32-2016 in the amount of \$891,196.22
- Policy GBEBBC – Third reading
- WHS POS – Second Reading
- Transportation Presentation
- Ms. Flemer’s statement on Collective Bargaining
- Policy Sub-Committee Report 3.3.16