

**WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
M I N U T E S (approved 5.12.16)**

Date: February 25, 2016

Present: Chair Belmarsh, Mrs. Sheehan, Ms. Flemer, Mrs. Curran, Mrs. Nardone and Dr. Sullivan, Mayor Hedlund (arrived 7:06 p.m.)

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

Absent: Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka

Call to Order

At 6:59 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 held for James McLaughlin, father-in-law of Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka, Donna Cummings, WeyCare Employee who passed away recently.

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

Consent Agenda

Warrant 35-2016 in the amount of \$513,931.64 with funds to pay

Minutes

- November 12, 2015
- December 3, 2015
- December 17, 2015
- January 12, 2016

Field Trip Request; WHS, grades 11-12 Business Electives, DECA State Competition, Marriott, Quincy, March 10-12, 2016.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to approve consent agenda. So voted, 7:02pm

Student Advisory Committee

The Student Advisory Committee came to the table. The Student Advisory Committee discussed the upcoming Student Voice Summit and the bills to be discussed and voted on. A packet was handed out to the Committee with the student government organizational chart and description of subgroups. 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.

The 9th and 10th Grade semi-formal will be on March 18th at Weymouth High School.

Public Comment

MaryEllen Devine came to the table to announce that the kick off for the Post-Prom Committee was this past week. The event will be on June 4th, this is the 19th year. Announced that the Weymouth High School parent council had a meeting last night. There was a guest speaker Joni Siani who wrote Celling your Soul. The next meeting will be the last Wednesday of the month.

Superintendent's Report

Correspondence

Dr. Salim provided an update on the facilities emergency we faced at Abigail Adams and Weymouth High School over the vacation week. Following the extreme cold weather, several pipes at Adams burst and one pipe at Weymouth High School. Flooding occurred in three areas of Adams affecting the fitness center, main office and basement level classrooms and the Gold office of WHS. Maintenance and custodial staff, central administration, administration and several restoration contractors worked last week then to repair and clean all of the damaged areas. Repairs and cleanup were completed at WHS, but due to the extensive damage additional time was needed at Adams to restore classrooms and ensure rooms are safe and ready for student use at Abigail Adams. This resulted in the school being closed on Monday. Further testing of the facility was conducted and a review by the Weymouth Health Department on Monday cleared the building for opening. Given the scope of the damage, the school department has worked with the Town insurance company MIIA. An insurance company adjustor has made several visits to the site to assess damage and is working closely with the lead contractor. Estimated costs of damage are not available yet.

During the repair and cleanup:

- Contractors have removed and replaced all of the ceilings in the affected areas (16,000 square feet of ceiling tile); all of the lower level rooms, admin area, and fitness.
- All light fixtures were checked, repaired and, in many cases, replaced in the affected areas.
- Flood cuts and holes were drilled in all of the walls, shelving and cabinetry in each of affected areas to increase the rate of water removal and drying.

- Nine additional custodial staff were brought in to contain and clean dust and debris in all secondary areas adjacent to the work zone.
- Industrial dehumidifiers, air movers and hepa scrubbers have been running continuously since early Tuesday morning (about 60 pieces of equipment).
- All of the rugs have been replaced in the areas affected. New rug was installed in the teachers room as the vinyl tile is damaged.
- Two new copiers are being delivered on Monday morning. The copiers may not be ready for use in the morning - please plan accordingly.
- Detailed cleaning crews have cleaned the entire building including floors, walls, desks, chairs and individual items in the areas affected. Four rounds of cleaning have been conducted.

We thank all students, staff and families for their patience and understanding this week. Closing school is always a very difficult decision, but we needed to make this decision to ensure a safe environment for students and staff.

Related to Abigail Adams, we received a memo from Town Council President Patrick O'Connor regarding communication about the emergency at Abigail Adams. In the memo, President O'Connor requested that the Council be officially informed in a more timely manner of this type of emergency so that they might communicate with their constituency. We are reviewing our communications procedures to include the Town Council office, particularly when emergencies take place that have an impact on school closures.

We have set the date for the next STEM Hotspot which will be on Saturday, February 27, at 10am. The next Hotspot will take place at the New England Wildlife Center on Columbian Street. We are excited to have the Wildlife Center open for activities related to animal behavior, environmental science and veterinary medicine as part of this Hotspot.

Before the February vacation we had our early release PD session with teachers and paraprofessionals. Teachers continued in the rotation of trauma-sensitive support led by our adjustment counselors, data analysis supported by Dr. Stazesky and SRSD writing approaches facilitated by Hill for Literacy partners. The high school engaged in professional learning on Accountable Talk Strategies led by Mr. Haviland and Mrs. Stukenborg. The faculty had an opportunity to explore approaches related to accountable talk and model this type of discourse themselves. Paraprofessionals also engaged in the rotation of learning sessions on this day.

Next week, we will have our professional development "choice day" on March 1. This will be an opportunity for our educators to select from learning sessions that will be held at WHS or develop a learning experience for themselves and colleagues. We will also be holding an "un-conference" at the high school which will also provide for teacher led collaborative learning.

Dr. Salim reported at the last school committee meeting, the House 2 Governor's budget has been submitted. The following timeline gives approximate dates when the next stages of the state budget process will take place:

- In April, the House will debate and approve its FY 2017 budget proposal.
- In May, the Senate does the same.
- In June, a joint House/Senate conference committee will reconcile differences between these two budgets.
- The final budget plan, which requires the Governor's signature, will ideally be completed by July 1st, the beginning of FY 2017.

Of course, later in the meeting, I will speak more specifically about the school district proposal for the FY17 budget as an opening to the public hearing.

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

New Business

Report on Teaching and Learning

NEASC Accreditation Site Visit

Dr. Salim invited Associate Principal Stukenborg and Principal Haviland to the table to provide an overview of NEASC. The overview will focus on the accreditation process and site visit. The meeting will also include a presentation on the high school School Improvement Plan and the first reading of the Program of Studies. February 25 will also be the public hearing for the FY17 budget and school choice. Some documents have listed the auditorium as the location for this meeting, but are planning to hold this meeting in the Humanities Center.

Due to technical difficulties with the High School Improvement Plan, Dr. Salim asks that the meeting continue with the Program of Studies. Chair Belmarsh allows.

Weymouth High School Program of Studies – First Reading

Associate Principal Stukenborg reviewed the changes to the Program of Studies. Mrs. Stukenborg stated that they have held off to make any major changes in program on studies due to the upcoming NEASC site visit.

Mrs. Stukenborg reviews in detail the individual changes made on each page.

One change introducing a college prep calculus course to allow for more students to access calculus in the curriculum.

Questions were asked by the School Committee, Mrs. Stukenborg addresses.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to approve the Program of Studies to move to second reading. So voted, 7:49 p.m.

School Improvements Plan Overview: Weymouth High School

Principal Haviland outlined Weymouth School's Improvement Plan and outlines all of the key points covered within the plan. Four performance challenges are outlined. Accomplishments and key initiatives are discussed. Resource priorities are presented to the Committee.

All questions posed by the Committee were addressed.

Technology Review

Dr. Salim invited Director of Technology, Laura Stevenson and Consultant, Gail Callahan to the table. Ms. Callahan begins her presentation. Introduces herself to the Committee, describes her professional experiences. Ms. Callahan provides a powerpoint presentation, reviews the organizational structure, technology resources, devices that are used. Presents a five-year plan for infrastructure and resources. Summarizes the technology plan going forward.

Chair Belmarsh thanked Ms. Callahan. Stated there was a more detailed discussion at the Budget Sub-Committee. Great place to start.

All questions were addressed.

Reports of Sub-Committees

- Budget Sub-Committee
- At Tuesday night's budget sub-committee meeting, we shared an update related to the Town of Weymouth and Weymouth Public Schools' compliance with the state Net School Spending (NSS) requirement. We received a letter from DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester that there is a NSS deficit of \$155,331 for the FY15 school year based on the end of year report that was submitted. In addition, there is a projected deficit for FY16 of \$755,520. The reason for the deficit is due to how costs are reported by the Town side of government. Specifically, benefits for school department employees were budgeted at a higher amount than the actual costs were. When the original FY15 budget was submitted to the state, it was anticipated that the NSS requirement would be met. The actual costs were less than originally projected by the Town which resulted in the deficit. The FY15 NSS deficit was then carried over to FY16 and the budgeted amount submitted by the

Town to the DESE forecasts the NSS deficit for FY16. It is important to note that the recent \$350K free cash allocation and the \$120K supplemental budget from the fall will reduce a portion of the NSS deficit. We will share an update on this as part of the Budget Sub-committee report at the next school committee meeting. A copy of the Budget Sub-Committee report is attached to the minutes.

- Dr. Sullivan left the table at 9:18 and returned at 9:22 p.m.
- The next meeting will be on March 8th at 6:15 p.m. at the School Administration Building.
- On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, to approve the report of the Budget Sub-Committee. So voted, 9:23 p.m.
- Policy Sub-Committee Meeting
- First reading of the proposed changes to Policy GBEBBC – gifts to and Solicitations by staff.
- Mrs. Sheehan reads the additions to Policy GBEBBC, attached to these minutes.
- On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan it was voted to move the additions to Policy GBEBBC to second reading. So voted, 9:44 p.m.

Committee Announcements

The next TWPC meeting will be on March 8, 2016 in the MJL Humanities Center at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

The next SEPAC Meeting will be meeting on Wednesday March 2 in the Adams Library.

Weymouth's Got Talent, Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 p.m., WHS Auditorium

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.

Public Hearing – Budget

At 9:24 p.m., on motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to leave the regular agenda and open the meeting for the Public Hearing on Budget.

The first item is on the FY2017 Weymouth Public Schools Budget.

Chair Belmarsh officially opens public hearing. Chairman Belmarsh described in detail the budget process and submission of the budget to Town Council.

Mrs. Curran leaves meeting at 9:25pm, returns at 9:28 pm

Dr. Salim outlines the process going forward this evening for the presentation of the FY17 Budget. Dr. Salim reviewed the budget breakdown, proposed budget of \$70,692,291 (including all requests). Dr. Salim reviewed the Needs List summary and additions for FY17. Dr. Salim reviewed the following; technology needs, special education program needs,

curriculum leadership/teacher support, free cash allocations, expense budget drivers and per pupil expenditure.

Mayor Hedlund leaves the meeting at 9:27 p.m., returns at 9:32 p.m.

Dr. Salim hopes that we make progress this year in our needs list. Many positions represent restoration of previous positions and the Committee needs to look seriously at the needs.

Chair Belmarsh asked if the Committee had any questions.

Dr. Sullivan is hoping to address questions from our constituents. Dr. Sullivan addresses some of the questions he has been hearing. Feels we need to provide the town with a road map of how we are going to make improvements in our school system this year and years ahead.

Chair Belmarsh wanted to recognize that Town Council members, Jane Hackett, Mike Smart and Becky Haugh are here attending the meeting. Becky Haugh is the new education sub-chair. The Chair reminded everyone that all of our materials are either on the website or you can call Administration to get the materials.

Ydana Chella, President WEA, Donna Beath, WEA Vice President, Cheryl Taylor, WEA SPED representative and on the negotiating team, Matt Porro, ELA teacher at WHS. Ms. Chella came to the table to speak to teacher contracts and the urgency for the contracts to be settled.

Ms. Chella extended an invitation to the Committee to participate in Dr. Seuss day at one of our schools.

Andrea Honore came to the table. Thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak tonight. Here on behalf as herself and the Citizen's for a Better Weymouth Advocacy Group. Presented a report of parent council expenditures that show how much parent councils provide to students that schools should be providing.

Laurie Delano came to the table. Read a statement to the Committee. Highlights Science instruction in WPS and the lack of primary science instruction, impacting students in middle and high school.

Peter Delano reads a statement on behalf of Matt Symonds who could not be at the meeting. Mr. Delano read a statement discusses the technology and the serious deficiency that Weymouth faces.

Mrs. Sheehan asks Ms. Honore if she can give copies of these statements read to the Committee.

Carrie Palatzo spoke regarding Nash Parent council and how the Parent Council supplements the needs at Nash. Discusses expenditures from last year.

Debbie Bukus discusses parent council fund raising at Wessagusset and what they have purchased for their students.

Andrea Honore speaks for several other primary schools and their expenditure reports. Ms. Honore encourages all parents' councils to breakout their expenses and organize them by categories.

Mary Ellen Devine came to the table. Thanked all of the parent councils for everything they do. Thanked the Committee for the bold budget number. Carry it forward and hold onto it and advocate for our kids.

Kerry Sullivan comes to the table and gave a list of examples of what the parent councils do (specifically at Talbot).

Donna Peavey Johnson Early Childhood Center parent council president. Discusses the fundraisers as well as the fact that parents pay tuition for going to Johnson.

Mrs. Nardone leaves the meeting at 10:25 p.m. returns at 10:29 p.m.

Gus Perez comes to the table. Thanks the Weymouth Town Council and President O'Connor for allowing Mr. Perez the presentation on net school spending. Thanks the Town Council for actions during the meeting, voted on a motion to provide a measure to fund net school spending for FY15 and FY16. Weymouth is still in the bottom third across the Commonwealth, and is still 21% behind the state average.

Mr. Perez applauds the School Committee for the budget request. Mr. Perez discusses net school spending for FY17.

Wayne Matthews comes to the table. Thanks the Parent Councils for everything they do. Suggested to hold a budget hearing on a separate night from other business. Reads a statement regarding his concerns for underfunded schools.

Chris Primiano comes to the table. Discusses his concerns for school budgeting and how process should be handled going forward. Discusses strategy.

Becky Haugh discusses and summarizes comments this evening. Momentum in Town Council is “extreme”. This is a great time to get forward.

Chair Belmarsh reminded everyone that we are looking to review and discuss in the next meeting. On March 24th we will have to vote a budget number.

Chair Belmarsh calls for a motion to close the public hearing

On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Mrs. Sheehan it was voted to close the Public Hearing on the 2015-2016 School Budget. So Voted 10:45 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, voted to open the meeting for the Public Hearing on School Choice.

School Choice is something that we have to vote on every year. This relates to a provision in the Education Reform Act as stipulated by MGL Chapter 76 section 12B. Under this program non-resident students can attend schools in the community without paying tuition on a space available basis. There is an element of the law that makes community participation in school choice mandatory unless a vote is taken not to participate.

Due to the lack of space, it is my recommendation that Weymouth Public Schools withdraw from the obligation of enrolling non-residential students referred to as School Choice for the school year beginning 2016.

There was no public comment on School Choice.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to close Public Comment on School Choice. So voted, 10:47 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously not to participate in School Choice. So voted, 10:48 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to close Public Hearing and return to the regular agenda. So voted, 10:48 p.m.

Old Business

Proposed Changes to Policy GBEB – Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff – Second Reading

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan it was voted to move Policy GBEB to third reading. So voted, 10:49 p.m.

Superintendent Search

Chair Belmarsh reported that there has been one meeting of the Superintendent Search Committee. Kate McCulley was appointed as Chair. Glenn Koocher attended the meeting to answer questions around process and rules. The next meeting will be on February 29th. The Committee will review applications to move forward. Will update as the process progresses.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on March 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

Adjourn

At 10:50 p.m., on motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Sheehan – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
February 25, 2016

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Warrant 35-2016 in the amount of \$513,931.64
- Minutes
 1. November 12, 2015
 2. December 3, 2015
 3. December 17, 2015
 4. January 12, 2016
 5. January 21, 2016
 6. February 4, 2016
- Field Trip Request; WHS, grades 11-12 Business Electives, DECA State Competition, Marriott, Quincy, March 10-12, 2016. School Improvement Plan presentation – Middle Schools
- WHS – School Improvement Plan
- WHS Program of Studies – First Reading
- Policy GBEBBC – Second Reading