

**WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
M I N U T E S (approved 2/25/16)**

Date: December 17, 2015

Location: Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center  
Weymouth High School

Present: Chair Belmarsh, Mrs. Sheehan, Ms. Flemer, Mrs. Curran, Mrs. Nardone,  
and Mr. Guilfoyle.

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

Absent: Mayor Kay

**Executive Session**

At 6:17 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called for a motion. Ms. Flemer makes a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a confidential personnel matter, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Guilfoyle: YES Ms. Flemer, YES; Mrs. Sheehan, YES; Mrs. Nardone, YES; Mrs. Curran, Yes; Chair Belmarsh, YES.

**Call to Order**

At 7:19 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Consent Agenda**

Warrant 23-2016 in the amount of \$667,157.78

**Minutes**

August 27, 2015

September 10, 2015

Field trip request by WHS Business Electives, DECA District Competition, Quincy Marriott, Quincy, MA January 7-8, 2016.

Field Trip Request; WHS, grades 9-12 Weymouth High Theater Co., Broadway, NYC, January 16-17, 2016

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer it was voted to approve consent agenda. So voted, 7:23 p.m.

### **Student Advisory Committee**

Student Advisory comes to the table. Discusses the “Principals Corner” initiative. Video was unable to be shown at this time.

The Student Voice Summit video was shown. This provided an overview of the student summit held at Weymouth High School.

A presentation was given based upon how to prepare for Capstone in middle school. This will provide a better transitioning experience.

The Student Advisory Committee brought a concern to the School Committee regarding the late check in at the High School in the morning. There are long lines, brought the idea of having students going straight to class and teacher marks the student late. They spoke about technology and also their concerns with only being able to get library passes in the afternoon.

Chair Belmarsh Asked if the concerns have been brought to Administration at the High School. The Advisory Committee will bring to Principal’s Corner.

Mrs. Curran asks about the freshman transition to High School and should bring to parent council. Mrs. Sheehan asked if the Committee has talked with Mr. Haviland about the cell phone issues. The Advisory Committee has not addressed that yet with Mr. Haviland. They also informed the Committee they are working on long term goals.

### **Public Comment**

Andrea Honore comes to the table. Discussed the Superintendent Search process. Comments on discussions with other parents. Asked for clarification around the external and internal search.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

#### **Correspondence**

Dr. Salim provided an update on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind Act). Last week, the Senate passed and the President signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law. Dr. Salim had the opportunity to participate in a session with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan who provided an overview of the ESSA law. WE will share updates with you as regulations are written

and as we learn more information from the state level on how they will be making changes based on the new law.

This past Tuesday we held our December early release PD Day. Four of our schools focused on how to continue developing as communities that can support students with histories of trauma. These sessions were led by our won adjustment counselors including Katie White, Virginia Hirshman, Lisa Langone and John Brown. Another four schools worked on the self-regulated strategy development writing strategy led by our partners Hill for Literacy. The last group engaged in data analysis and inquiry in grade level teams. Also, our paraprofessional's engaged in learning sessions as well which will detail at a future presentation for the committee.

Last Saturday, we held our third STEM Hot Spot at Weymouth High School. The learning experience for students and parents focused on an introduction to coding. The event took place in the Robert West Library. We had over 75 students and family members learn some of the concepts and ideas behind computers. Thank you to Laura Stevenson and staff who came to help with the day including Ann Marie O'Neill, Lynn Howard and Cheryl Taylor . We also had a number of WHS students help with the event.

Our next STEM Hot Spot is "Whales in Your Backyard" and will take place on January 9, 2016 from 10:00-12:00 p.m. at Weymouth Middle School Chapman Campus. This event will feature "Salt" a life size 43 foot inflatable Humpback Whale. Programming is offered by the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center and NOAA Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

On January 20, 2016 we will be hosting a career showcase for our early childhood and primary students at Chapman's cafeteria. This will be a an opportunity for students and families to participate in activity stations, participate in demonstrations related to different careers.

Dr. Salim shared that Weymouth Public Schools has earned a Certificate of Recognition from the MassRecycle Southeast Municipal Recycling Council for the textile recycling efforts of the district. The district recycled the most tons of clothing at curbside recycling locations than other communities in 2014.

### **New Business**

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer it was voted to move the Envision Program out of order on the agenda. So voted, 7:45 p.m.

Envision the Future Program Report – Brittany Wilt; Callie Whitaker; Christelle Joseph; Ellie Coven; Sarah Looney

Dr. Salim invited teacher Lynn Howard and students to the table to share a report on their experience at the Envision the Future summer STEM program at BSU. The students came to the table and spoke to their experiences and how they are applying this learning to support STEM education in Weymouth at student leaders.

Recognition of Sean Guilfoyle and Mayor Kay

WEA President Ydana Chella and Donna Beath came to the table to thank Mr. Guilfoyle and Mayor Kay for their service. Cahir Belmarsh and the Committee also took a moment to thank Mr. Guilfoyle for his years on School Committee and the impact on Weymouth Public Schools.

Chair Belmarsh thanked Mr. Guilfoyle for his years of service and the legacy he is leaving behind. Thanks him for his dedication, service and passion for Weymouth.

Mr. Guilfoyle took a moment to make comments about his time as Chair and on the School Committee.

DESE Accountability Data –Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple and Dr. Pamela Stazesky

Dr. Salim invited Dr. Curtis-Whipple and Dr. Stazesky to the table to provide a report on the DESE Accountability Data which was released last week by DESE. This report is a preview of the School Improvement Plan presentations that you will hear in late January and February from our building principals based on the most recent PARCC results. This presentation provided a district overview of our accountability data with some specifics about how ratings are determined. Dr. Stazesky and Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared an overview of these results. All questions asked by the School Committee were addressed.

Mr. Guilfoyle left the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and returned at 8:13 p.m.

Chair Belmarsh recognized community member Gus Perez. Mr. Perez came to the table and reiterated that we have been underfunded since FY08. Gave kudos to the staff and administration for bringing numbers up. Discussed where we could be now if we didn't have to recover from the "funding cliff" in 2008.

Mr. Guilfoyle left the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and returned at 8:28 p.m.

## **Reports of Sub-Committees**

- Budget Sub-Committee
- Mrs. Nardone stated there was a Budget Sub-Committee meeting on December 14th at 6:15 p.m. at the School Administration Building. Mrs. Nardone reviewed the meeting and the agenda. Dr. Salim spoke about the measure that Mayor Kay would be presenting to Town Council with two items related to schools. The first is the \$350K that would be for the level services gap that we identified for FY16. The second is for the cost of vans that were purchased with mitigation funds from the Southfield development. We have been in touch with Mayor-Elect Hedlund and his Chief of Staff on the homeless transportation reimbursement funds and will be having a follow-up meeting in January about this and other one-time needs that we have discussed.
- The next meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting will be on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. at the School Administration Building.
- On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to approve the report of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting. So voted, 9:02 p.m.
- Chair Belmarsh recognizes Mr. Gus Perez. Mr. Perez comes to the table and encourages Town Council to approve the funding that was promised in the FY16 budget. They need to approve that measure to get the additional \$350K as promised at their meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Perez asked for clarification around the question of homeless reimbursement at the budget subcommittee meeting, Chair Belmarsh addressed.

Mr. Guilfoyle leaves the meeting at 9:00 p.m., returns at 9:03 p.m.

## **Committee Announcements**

The Weymouth High School Holiday/Alumni Concert will be on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The next TWPC meeting will be on January 12, 2016 in the MJL Humanities Center at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

The next SEPAC meeting will be on February 2, 2016 in the Abigail Adams Library at 7:00 p.m.

## **Old Business**

### **Policy Sub-Committee**

- Proposed Addition to Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students - Second Reading
- On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to combine the second and third reading of the proposed addition to Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students. So voted, 9:06 p.m.

- On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer it was unanimously voted to approve the proposed addition to policy JKAA. So voted, 9:07 p.m.
- Policy GBEBBC – Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff – Second Reading
- Mrs. Sheehan proposes we send back to Policy Sub-Committee and review again at the January meeting due to needing more clarification.
- On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to send Policy GBEBBC – Gifts and Solicitations by Staff back to Policy Sub-Committee Meeting. So voted, 9:09 p.m.

### Superintendent Search

Chair Belmarsh presented a powerpoint presentation with the results of the Superintendent Search Survey that was sent out. Chair Belmarsh reviewed the results we had 884 responses to the survey with 342 comments. Quality of responses was very clear and thoughtful with many different points of view.

Chair Belmarsh reviewed next steps. Should we conduct an internal or external search? We need to complete the job description and posting.

Chair Belmarsh stated that Dr. Salim did receive a unanimous approval of his contract with the current school committee in Cambridge. The contract will be ratified at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Cambridge School Committee. We cannot post until that happens.

Chair Belmarsh opened for comments. Mr. Guilfoyle stated he would support an internal search. If it does not prove to be successful, and then do an external search. Mrs. Curran thanked everyone for their thoughtful responses. Mrs. Curran would be in support of an external search at this time. Mrs. Sheehan stated that it is important to do an external and internal search at the same time. This type of search will allow the internal candidate to shine. Mrs. Sheehan then reviewed the changes she would like to the job description. Ms. Flemer in favor of an internal search with an external search if the internal search is not successful. Mrs. Nardone agrees that we have a lot of talent in Weymouth. Would like to encourage candidates to continue working with Weymouth.

Chair Belmarsh recognizes John Sullivan who is the school committee member-elect. Mr. Sullivan comes to the table, discusses his position and thoughts.

Chair Belmarsh recognizes Mr. Perez. Mr. Perez comes to the table and asks if the Committee is intending to vote this evening. Chair Belmarsh stated that this is our first round of discussion. We will see how the Committee feels as we move on. Mr. Perez feels that the School Committee should wait until the new committee is in place in a few weeks. Feels that a Search Committee should be put in place to look at both internal

and external candidates. It will show that the decision is made not just by the School Committee but from a formal Committee who then sends their candidate(s) to School Committee for approval.

Chair Belmarsh stated she would prefer to do an internal search first then go to external search if we don't find anyone. We have very qualified candidates here in Weymouth. Discusses Search Committee versus School Committee decision around the advantages and disadvantages.

Mrs. Nardone requests clarification around what we need to do going forward. Chair Belmarsh stated we need Dr. Salim's resignation to post the position and we can begin the search process then.

Mr. Guilfoyle left the meeting at 9:50 p.m. and returned at 9:55 p.m.

Chair Belmarsh discussed the job description and changes that were discussed.

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Mrs. Nardone to table all Superintendent Search discussion until we have the new committee in place. So voted, 9:53 p.m.

Dr. Salim took a moment to publically thank Mr. Guilfoyle for his service to the schools. Thanks him for his help and working with him when he came on board as Superintendent.

**Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee**

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

**Adjourn**

At 10:00 p.m., on motion of Mr. Guilfoyle, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diana R. Flemer – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting  
December 17, 2015

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Warrant 23-2016 in the amount of \$667,157.78
- Minutes: August 27, 2015; September 10, 2015
- Field trip requests
- DESE Accountability Data
- Budget Sub-Committee Report 12/14/15