

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES (approved 12/17/15)

Date: September 10, 2015

Location: Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center
Weymouth High School

Present: Chairman Guilfoyle, Mrs. Sheehan, Ms. Flemer, Mrs. Curran, Mrs. Nardone, Ms. Belmarsh and Mayor Kay

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

Absent: Mayor Kay

Call to Order

At 6:00 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a confidential personnel matter and strategy relative to negotiations with non- union personnel strategy.

At 6:50 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 Aimee Brewer who passed away on August 30, 2015.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to table the Minutes of the April 30, 2015 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee. So voted, 6:55 p.m.

Mrs. Flemer would like the minutes for April 9th on the next agenda.

Student Advisory

There was no update.

Public Comment

Ydanna Chella, 3rd grade teacher, WEA President and Joan Cedarholm, JECC came to the table. They wanted to take a moment to thank the Committee for good faith negotiations. Thank you for all the dedication given to the contracts as well.

Committee Announcements

Mrs. Sheehan wanted to let everyone know that the Town Wide Parent Council met on September 8th. There was a great turn out. They talked about the Lifetouch Photography. Dr. Whipple will check on the pricing. They talked about opening day, it went well. They talked about PARCC and MCAS. The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 13th. It will be a joint meeting with SEPAC and will be doing the Basic Rights workshop.

The next SEPAC meeting will be on October 6th in the Abigail Adams Library, all are welcome. This meeting will be a meet and greet with Ann Knapp.

Town Wide Parents Council will be doing a candidates forum with the School Committee on October 15th.

WEF had their first fundraiser. It was a Golf Classic. The next event will be Quiz night on April 1st.

WEF Grants are being announced in November and applications are being accepted. Be creative. All information is on the website.

Mrs. Nardone wanted to know if we have a football schedule yet? Dr. Salim discusses.

Mrs. Curran announced the first football game is tomorrow night against Natick. There is a small fee.

Mrs. Curran asks that we get the Basic Rights workshop flyer on the website, center screen, so it is easy to find.

Mrs. Curran spoke about the bus payments. Just wanted to remind everyone that families can reach out to principals to work out a payment plan.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Salim spoke to the opening of school. On September 1st we welcomed staff. All students returned to school on Wednesday, September 2nd and had a chance to visit all 12 schools. With the high temperatures we were able to make accommodations with fans and cooling machines for the primary schools with second floors. The most popular strategy was popsicles.

We received a question around the larger class sizes, particularly at the high school. Dr. Salim addressed. We will have more precise information on class sizes next week.

We received questions around transportation. Our Transportation Department is working with First Student with the delays. Anticipated changes to be made within the next week on those routes that are experiencing delays. Updated schedules are being posted on the websites as changes are made.

Mrs. Sheehan asked if Chapman is experiencing delays due to High School route/Southfield route. Dr. Salim addressed with as possible explanation.

On Saturday, September 26th there will be a district wide FACE event at Weymouth High School. The event has been planned by Weymouth Staff and Students and partners. This will take place in the high school as well as outside from 10-3.

We have been rewarded a renewal of the math and science partnership grant through Lesley College. We will continue over the course of this year.

This will be the first year WHS will offer Field Hockey. We are excited to provide this additional opportunity to the students. Lindsay Skully will be the coach and has 38 members of the team so far. Team began practice on the 27th and their first match is on the 27th.

Dr. Salim included a calendar in all folders. We had to make an adjustment to the Abigail Adams open house on September 29th. All calendars have been updated.

Staffing Update

Dr. Salim invited Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Susan Kustka and Dr. Curtis-Whipple to the table to provide a staffing update. Mrs. Kustka reviewed a powerpoint presentation with new hires. Mrs. Kustka review numbers and where the schools they were going to be working. The hiring timeline was reviewed and lists the process step by step.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple gave an overview of the new educator induction program that was held August 18-20 was provided. This included the mentoring program, responsibilities of the mentors/mentees and district role in mentoring.

Mrs. Kustka and Dr. Whipple answered questions from the Committee all questions were addressed.

Dr. Salim announced that this Monday there is an event at Chapman Middle School for parents. The author Jennifer Marshall Lippencott will be speaking, she is the author of 7 Things Your Teenager won't tell you and how to talk about them anyway.

Southfield

There was no update.

Report on Teaching and Learning

Overview of Professional Development

Dr. Salim provided an overview of the professional development 2015-2016 calendar. Dr. Salim reviewed the themes, building on previous work, instructional rounds, teacher voice, rigorous teaching practices, PARCC and Common Core. Dr. Salim reviewed full day professional development days, the first one is Trauma Sensitive Schools and mindfulness.

Dr. Salim answered questions from the Committee. All questions were answered.

Reports of Sub-Committees

- Budget Sub-Committee
- Ms. Belmarsh announced she will be stepping down as chair of the budget subcommittee and Tracey Nardone will be stepping up. Mrs. Nardone is very excited for this opportunity and looks forward to the experience. Mrs. Nardone wants everyone who wants to be heard and part of the budget process to be heard.
- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee
- There was none.
- Policy Review Sub-Committee
- There was none.

Mr. Guilfoyle left the meeting at 7:55 p.m. and returned at 8:01 p.m.

Discussion Items

Chapman Feasibility

There was no report.

Action Items

- Bills Paid
On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer it was unanimously voted to pay the bills on Warrant # 11-2016 in the amount of \$276,924.92 with money to pay. So voted, 8:00 p.m.

New Business

- Mrs. Curran would like an update on Legion Field and the revolving accounts. Dr. Salim noted that Paul Comerford will be at the next meeting and review the maintenance of Legion Field and answer questions.
- Mrs. Curran would like information on the new electives at Chapman. Dr. Salim will provide information regarding that.
- Mrs. Curran asked about the online payment system. Dr. Salim spoke to this that this is an option for families not mandatory. We are still in the pilot phase.
- Mrs. Curran asked if sports fees can be paid through this. Mr. McGonagle stated not yet.
- Mrs. Sheehan asked for a list of what sport is being offered at the middle school?
- Ms. Belmarsh wanted to let everyone know that they Mayor had a family event tonight and that is why she is not here.
- Ms. Belmarsh stated we submitted letters to our legislators as on September 3rd we received notice from MASC regarding a bill pending 350 which essentially allows and arbitrator to overrule a student discipline set by a district. School committee sent a letter saying we would oppose that bill. We will post the information on the blog.
- Dr. Salim attended the hearing as well at the State House and will provide information on the weekly meeting.

Adjourn

At 8:11 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Mrs. Sheehan removes her motion to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

An audience member asks to be recognized regarding bussing situation. Ms. Belmarsh allows.

Three parents asked to be recognized. Lisa Rachel, Christina Hessia and Pamela Flatley all come to the table. The parents are concerned that the bus is more than an hour later. Elementary age children coming home at 4:15 pm not enough time for play, snack, homework, appointments all that are essential for growth and development at this age. Describes the various incidents that have occurred since school began. Describes her interaction with the transportation department and with Mr. Burm. All parents state that this is not acceptable for elementary children. They are concerned there are four children to a seat and no monitoring. Children waiting at the school for the bus and are on the bus too long. Describes the several busses involved. They do not feel these issues are being addressed quick enough.

Chair Belmarsh thanks them for coming and we appreciate your comments. We are glad that you came here and told us about this. Please keep us informed and we hope that these issues are resolved very soon. We have noted the busses and the numbers.

Mrs. Curran asks each parent specific questions. Ms. Flemer asks who they should contact if this continues.

Dr. Salim stated that parents should contact Mr. Burm and the Transportation Department. It is being worked on and monitored very closely and we are taking it very seriously.

Mrs. Sheehan asked if this is part of the route leaving Chapman late. Dr. Salim stated this is a separate issue.

Ms. Belmarsh thanked the parents for coming forward and that we are going to solve this soon.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on September 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

Adjourn

At 8:20 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana R. Flemer – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
July 27, 2015

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- NEASC Update
- Domestic Abuse Policy
- Immediate Family Language
- 2015-2016 Calendar Adjustments
- MOA Weymouth School Committee and SEIU Local 888 Cafeteria workers
- Weycare site coordinator salary schedule