

## WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

March 26, 2015 (approved 8.27.15)

7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

The Weymouth School Committee met on March 26, 2015 in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Sean Guilfoyle with the following members present: Ms. Belmarsh, Mrs. Curran, Mrs. Nardone, Mayor Kay, Ms. Flemer and Mrs. Sheehan. Also present were Superintendent Kenneth Salim and Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka and Business Manager, David Proule.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### Approval of Minutes

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2015 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee. So voted, 7:05 p.m.

#### Yearly Introduction for the Boy Scouts

Chairman Guilfoyle asked Assistant Scout Master Matt Martel to come to the table to introduce his troop. Mr. Martel came to the table and introduced his troop and discussed the requirement for the badges the boys are trying to achieve. Each Boy Scout introduced themselves along with the troop they are associated with.

#### Student Advisory Committee

Sharon Yanizzi, Victoria, Jonathan and Alex came to the table. Handed out student survey results to the Committee. Mrs. Yanizzi explained the survey and the use of technology in administering this survey. Mrs. Yanizzi turned the table over to the students to elaborate.

The student discussed the survey regarding the use of cell phones in schools. Discussed the use of survey money and google documents and results.

The purpose of the study was to make it possible to sue cell phones during lunch and studies. Survey shows that if they were allowed to use it during these times, then would not be so apt to use during class.

Propose that they ask if they may use the phone and be respectful it should be allowed.

Alex discussed Capstone event this past week. It was a wonderful experience and thanked all the Committee members for attending.

The Culinary Program will be providing breakfast this Saturday. There will be free lemonade.

The Weymouth Music Program will be attending a concert at Hershey Park on May 15-17. All you can eat pasta and meatballs will be on April 1<sup>st</sup>

Chairman Guilfoyle opened the floor to questions.

Mrs. Nardone asked if there could have been some overlapping of responses. The students clarified.

Mrs. Nardone asked if students are allowed to use cell phones during lunch. The students clarified that yes it happens but not in the handbook.

Ms. Flemer asked if the students are asking the policy sub-committee to look at the policy. Mrs. Flemer suggested that the group discuss with building administration. Mrs. Yanizzi stated that the students have met as a group with Dean Kelly and it may be going to the handbook. Mrs. Sheehan will add it to the agenda for the next Policy Sub-Committee meeting.

Chairman Guilfoyle asked how many came to breakfast on Saturday. The students state there was a really good turnout, ran out of home fries. Maple fudge and cookie dough fudge just introduced at the bakery.

#### Public Comment

Chairman Guilfoyle opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. John Sullivan came to the table. Thanks the Committee for all they do and has a tremendous amount of respect. Mr. Sullivan speaks to the school budget issues and reviews Chapter 70, discusses funding and its origins. Reviews comparisons to surrounding towns. Discusses MCAS, CPI and the staff. Reviewed a solution and his concern that the override will not solve the problem.

Mr. Terrance Gibbons come to the table. Discusses his concern for underfunded schools. Willing to pay more taxes to fund schools. Asked the Mayor, through the Chair to show some support for the schools.

Ms. Tara Curtis came to the table. Discussed her concerns over the school budget. Override need is clear.

Chairman Guilfoyle thanks Ms. Curtis. There was no further public comment.

#### Committee Announcements

Mrs. Nardone attended both nights of Capstone and was impressed with the professionalism of everyone. Thanked Karen Monahan and all the advisors for the great job on the Capstone event. Reviewed a few of the projects in detail. 393 students participated in the last 2 nights. All of the projects were wonderful and a great event.

Mrs. Nardone would like to see all the seniors present their projects to the underclassman at the High School.

Ms. Flemer – Attended the Capstone event. Everything was extremely well done. WEF trivia night will be on Friday evening. A table was reserved for school committee.

Mrs. Curran – Announced that there is information on the back table for the Music Booster's scholarship for seniors. The Boosters are trying to increase the endowment. On Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> there will be band and comedian to support this scholarship.

Mrs. Curran also attended Capstone event. Very impressed with 8 projects on music. Would like to find out Capstone's presented versus number going to evening school.

Mrs. Sheehan asked if the children who don't do a Capstone project or if they don't complete it do they go to evening school. Dr. Salim addressed and will provide those numbers for the committee.

Mrs. Sheehan announced that the next SEPAC meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Abigail Adams Library. The spring activity had to be cancelled due to Saturday classes. The next Town-wide Parent Council will meet on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Mary Jo Livingstone Humanities Center.

Pingree Primary School will holding their 5K walk/run on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Belmarsh gave a shout out Weymouth High School Theater Company. They are one of 12 towns at state finals in Boston this week.

Chairman Guilfoyle stated he was a judge at the Capstone Fair. He asked what they got out of the project. One student stated "should not have waited to start". There is a lot of work that goes into it.

### Report of the Superintendent

- Correspondence
- PARCC assessment started last week in the primary schools and this week in the middle schools, as well as in many states across the country. Computer based testing for grades 3-4 and paper based at the middle school level. This is the first administration of PARCC at scale we will get results from. We are finding students seem excited to take the assessments. We have received positive feedback on chrome books. We appreciate everyone's hard work. We want to thank Laura Stevenson and her team as well as the principals, teachers and students.
- Mrs. Nardone heard that some parents did not want their children to take PARCC. Dr. Salim addressed this in detail.
- Mrs. Curran asked how many parents had chosen to opt their children out as well as how long the test sessions were.
- Dr. Salim addressed and outlined the time limits for the sessions and the schedules. Dr. Whipple also addresses these questions.
- Dr. Salim shared his reflections on the Capstone Fair. Excited that we see varied interests and collaboration with each other. The quality of research and depth of

inquiries have increased each year. Dr. Salim thanked Karen Monahan and all of the Capstone advisors and students.

- Last Saturday was the second Saturday of make-up classes. Dr. Salim spoke on his experiences. The bird houses were the most popular.
- CTE will be open again this Saturday for the final make-up day. Everyone is invited.
- The spring bunny will be there!!!!
- Last week Dr. Salim attended the PD Brain Trust that the Gates Foundation hosts. There were 35 national leaders in attendance. The meeting was held in Cary, North Carolina. The session included a presentation by Wake County Schools.
- We received news about Johnson Early Childhood Center becoming one of only 8 public schools receiving level 3 distinction from the Department of Early Education and Care on their quality rating. Congratulations to Principal Maura Perez and her staff.
- Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> there will be an Open House at Johnson Early Childhood Center from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. There will be a chance to meet with staff, learn about the program. There will also be a storyteller and puppeteer.

#### 2015-2016 School Year Calendar Survey Results

- Dr. Salim presented the results for the 2015-2016 survey results. We surveyed parents, students and staff. There were 2000 responses. Dr. Salim reviewed the breakdown of each question and all options for the start of school. Comments made regarding creative ways to make up missed days and adding days to school calendar.
- Dr. Salim reviewed that if school starts after Labor Day it may be difficult to make 180 days plus five, so we are looking at options.
- We would like comments from the Committee before we share a new calendar. Mrs. Sheehan asks about why Monday August 31<sup>st</sup> was not asked as a start date. Dr. Salim addressed.
- Mrs. Curran would like the spring vacation dates to still be considered to consolidate the February and April vacations to one in March.
- Dr. Salim discussed in detail the options and rationale.
- Mrs. Nardone excited to start before Labor Day. We will be able to gain time. Agrees with Mrs. Curran that the quality of attention spans is gone in June. Dr. Salim will create a proposed calendar based upon the results and comments.
- Dr. Salim wanted to clarify some questions we received around the alternative programs that Braintree and Quincy have set up for learning and allowing to earn time and learning through various projects. Dr. Salim reviewed that we have looked into and discussed in detail.
- Ms. Belmarsh asked if other options come up that Dr. Salim would bring them to the Committee for consideration.
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#### Southfield

- No updates at this time

#### Report on Teaching and Learning

##### Mentoring and Induction

- Dr. Salim asked Dr. Whipple, Rebecca Kelly, Principal Nash Primary School and Lisa Canavan, Housemaster Chapman Middle School. Dr. Salim provided an

outline of the program. Reviewed the vision and mandates, licensure and mentoring. We tie the work to our strategic levers.

- Dr. Whipple provided an overview around the New Teacher Induction that is held over the summer. Monthly meetings are held during the school year at the district level as well as the school level.
  - Mrs. Canavan and Mrs. Balan work together on the mentoring program. They work with the second year middle school teachers to discuss their experience and use it to help develop each teacher.
  - Ms. Kelly discussed the monthly meetings with the new primary teachers. It is a time to touch base on how it is working with their mentor. It is important to check in with the new teachers and how mentors are doing with their mentees.
  - Dr. Whipple reviewed each program that is worked on with the new educators and discussed the importance of mentoring each teacher.
  - Dr. Whipple discussed the importance of mentoring leadership as well. Ms. Kelly shared her experiences as a first year principal last year.
  - Dr. Salim discussed the instructional core and how it relates to the professional development of administration and staff.
- Mrs. Nardone asked how many new teachers. Dr. Whipple stated there are 33 new teachers.
- Mrs. Sheehan thanked Dr. Whipple, Mrs. Canavan and Ms. Kelly for the presentation. Asked for information on what DSAC Collaboration is. Dr. Salim described in detail.
- Chairman Guilfoyle stated it is nice to see this program blossom. Makes it easier for our new teachers.

Chairman Guilfoyle stepped out of the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and returned at 8:26 p.m.

#### Reports of Sub-Committees

- Budget Sub-Committee
- Ms. Belmarsh stated that there is no report at this time.
- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee
- There is no report for Collective Bargaining at this time.
- Policy Review Sub-Committee
- Mrs. Sheehan stated there is no report for Policy Review at this time. The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 29, 2015 at Administration.

#### Discussion Items

#### Chapman Facilities

- Continuing to work on the MSBA Statement of Interest. We will be submitting the application in the next week or so to MSBA.

#### Action Items

- Bills Paid
- On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer it was unanimously voted to pay the bills on Warrant #330-2015 in the amount of \$1,084,799.35 with money to pay. So voted, 8:44 p.m.
- On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh to table the receipt of gifts. So voted, 8:44 p.m.

- Approval of FY16 School Department Budget. Dr. Salim reviewed slides from Monday's budget subcommittee meeting. A number of items were added. Dr. Salim reviewed each item in details. All based upon discussion at Monday's meetings where the agreement was made to add the needs list from other "lists". We have updated the numbers as well. Dr. Salim reviewed all of the numbers with the updated needs list total of \$4,173,222. The \$68,162,171.00 will be the budget request.
- Mrs. Nardone thanked Dr. Salim. Wanted to share that Braintree put forth their budget. It is a 5% increase. Ours is still below.
- Ms. Belmarsh thanked Dr. Salim for making those additions. Wanted to remind everyone that once budget goes to Town Council there will then be more work to be done.
- Mrs. Curran asked through the Chair about computer hardware replacement. What are we using the money for? What is the technology plan? Dr. Salim addressed in detail what will be replaced.
- Mrs. Sheehan clarified with the Chair what needs to be done tonight and that there is still work to be done on the needs list.
- On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to send the FY16 Weymouth School Committee Budget request for \$68,172,171 to Mayor Kay for consideration.
- Mrs. Curran asks that as we move forward to override, she strongly suggests that we get back to the old Middle School model of grades 5-8 in each building. Mrs. Sheehan concurs and thanks Mrs. Curran for bringing that up
- Chairman Guilfoyle restates the motion of sending the FY16 Weymouth School Budget for \$68,172,171 to Mayor Kay. So voted, 8:56 p.m. Mayor Kay abstains.

### New Business

Mrs. Curran asked if snow shoveling put out as an approved community service. Mrs. Kustka addressed. Dr. Salim will look into the details.

Mrs. Sheehan asked about the well-being of the crossing guard that was hit by a car. Dr. Salim stated she is doing well.

Mrs. Sheehan asked how the robotics club did this past week. Dr. Salim stated we did not hear as of yet. Mrs. Sheehan asked about the Technology Coordinator that resigned. Dr. Salim addressed.

Mrs. Nardone noticed work being done on the turf fields. How is the snow removal affecting our budget? Dr. Salim discussed. Mayor Kay also discussed and clarified where the funds are coming from.

### Executive Sessoin

On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Ms. Sheehan with the purpose of going into executive session to discuss strategy related to negotiations with union and non-union personnel. Ms. Flemer: Yes; Ms. Sheehan: Yes; Mrs. Nardone: Yes; Mrs. Curran: Yes; Ms. Belmarsh: Yes; Mayor Kay: Yes. So voted, 9:00 p.m.

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on April 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

At 10:17 p.m. on motion of Mrs. Sheehan seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diana R. Flemer – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting  
March 26, 2015

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Warrant #303-2015
- Educator Mentoring and Induction
- 2015/2016 Survey Results
- Receipt of Gifts
- FY2016 School Department Budget Presentation