

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

April 10, 2014

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Weymouth School Committee met on April 10, 2014 in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairperson Sean Guilfoyle with the following members present: Mrs. Curran, Ms. Flemer, Mrs. Nardone, and Mrs. Sheehan. Also present were Superintendent Kenneth Salim, Assistant Superintendent Garry Pelletier and Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka. Ms. Belmarsh and Mayor Kay were not present.

Dr. Salim introduced teacher Kristen Kames and her American Sign Language Class and the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Ms. Kames then introduced her students and noted that it is National Deaf History Month and they were celebrating by signing "The Pledge of Allegiance."

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 27, 2014 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the March 6, 2014 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to table the Minutes of the March 13, 2014 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee.

Student Advisory Committee

There was no report from the Student Advisory Committee.

Mr. Guilfoyle then took the opportunity to explain the School Committee's Policy on Participation at Public Meetings and Duties of the Chair in setting the School Committee Agendas.

Public Comment

Talia Stokes thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to speak and be heard at meetings. She commented that it is a great learning experience for students.

Committee Announcements

- Mr. Guilfoyle noted that Mayor Kay was attending a meeting in Boston tonight with attorneys regarding Southfield. Also, Ms. Belmarsh had to attend to a medical emergency this evening.
- Mrs. Nardone noted that the Junior Prom is Friday night and reminded students to be smart, stay safe and have fun.

- Mrs. Sheehan reported that SEPAC will meet on May 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adams Library and all are invited.
- Mrs. Sheehan reported that TWPC met on April 8th and Mrs. Stevenson presented on Aspen X2. TWPC will next meet on May 13th in the MJL Humanities Center.
- Mrs. Sheehan thanked the Parent Councils for their donations of gift baskets for the WEF Quiz Night. They were very well received and appreciated. Next year's date for Quiz Night is March 27th.
- Ms. Flemer reported that the Quiz Night was very successful and she hopes to have the figure for the amount raised at the next meeting. This is only one of the venues WEF has for raising funds. A golf tournament will be held this summer and she will have more information soon.
- Ms. Flemer also commented that she attended WHS's performance of "Cassandra" and that it was very well done.
- Mrs. Curran encouraged parents to log on and learn to use Aspen X2. There is assistance available on the website.
- Mrs. Curran also reminded parents not to plan vacations until after finals have been completed at the high school. Finals are scheduled for June 19, 20 and 23.

Report of the Superintendent

- Correspondence

- Dr. Salim reported that April 8th was a Professional Development Day. Programs were conducted at the High School and Chapman with a focus on UDL (Universal Design for Learning). Representatives from CAST also presented on UDL. At Adams, Joan Woodward and special education teachers presented on Special Education procedures and regulations. There was also a presentation by a group called "Boston vs. Bullies" for paraprofessionals on how to support students. They will be coming to classrooms at Adams and also planning an evening with parents. Dr. Salim will provide the School Committee with a copy of their presentation. A brief discussion followed
- Dr. Salim reported that the House Ways and Means Committee has increased unrestricted local State Aid by \$25,000,000, but Chapter 70 Aid will remain the same as the Governor's Budget. MASC continues to advocate for increasing Chapter 70 aid to a minimum of \$50.00 per student. In response to a question from Mrs. Curran about circuit breaker, Dr. Salim stated that the rate should remain level funded.
- Dr. Salim reported that Secretary of Education Matthew Malone recently visited Wessagusset Primary School and was hosted by Principal Jean McLean, Mary Lou Buell and himself. Secretary Malone commended our work on Instructional Rounds and Common Core. He plans to return in the Fall to visit the CTE program at Weymouth High School.
- Dr. Salim congratulated Weymouth High Senior Sam Gordon. Sam has been selected as the Valedictorian for the Class of 2014. He has been accepted to attend MIT. He is only the third student from WHS in the last 10 years to be accepted there.

- Dr. Salim reported that students recently attended an expo sponsored by the FAA and Massport at Logan Airport in the Delta Airlines Hanger. Students were given the opportunity to interact with professionals and learn about career opportunities in aviation.
- Dr. Salim congratulated students who wrote essays in the Barnes & Noble “My Favorite Teacher” essay contest.
- Massachusetts Math and Science Initiative (MMSI) – John Smolenski
Dr. Salim welcomed John Smolenski, Senior Field Director of MMSI, to the table. Mr. Smolenski presented an overview on three goals of the program which are to increase student participation in math, science and English AP courses; increase student performance on AP examinations; and increase students matriculating to and graduating from college. This program is now funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A discussion with the School Committee followed.
- McKinney-Vento Update – Joan Woodward
Dr. Salim invited Joan Woodward, WPS’s Homeless Liaison, to the table to update the Committee on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act and the services and supports in the WPS. Ms. Woodward presented an overview on the definition of Homelessness, District Homeless Statistics, Homeless Students in Massachusetts, the McKinney-Vento Grant Support, and the McKinney-Vento Service Committee. A discussion followed with Ms. Woodward answering questions from the School Committee. Mr. Guilfoyle also thanked Transportation Director Robin Howard, transportation being a key component to keeping these students in school.
- Southfield Discussion
Dr. Salim reported that on Monday he spoke with Town Councilors relative to the impact that Southfield will have on the Weymouth Public Schools over the next ten years by increasing the student population by approximately 488 students. The short term impact of Southfield is minimal, but the long term will have a larger impact. The bid process for portable classrooms should begin this Fall for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Salim also met with attorneys from Burns & Levinson to review language in the agreement related to education. They also spoke about the Feasibility Study for Chapman to include Southfield as being a possible site.

Report on Teaching and Learning

- English Language Learners (ELL) Presentation – Mary Ann Bryan
Dr. Salim invited ELL Director Mary Ann Bryan to the table to present an overview of Weymouth’s program, an update on RETELL and future considerations. There are currently 475 students in the Weymouth Public Schools whose first language is not English and 34 languages spoken. In 2014 there was a 13% increase in ELL enrollments. Mrs. Bryan reviewed the RETELL (Rethinking Equity in Teaching English Language Learners) Program which requires that all CORE teachers be SEI endorsed by 2016. She also explained Title III, which is supplemental only, with very stringent requirements. The 2015 funding for this grant will decrease by 5%. Budget considerations include a need for another ESL Teacher and additional SEI courses. A discussion followed with Ms. Bryan answering questions from the School Committee. Mr. Guilfoyle thanked Ms. Bryan for her presentation.

Reports of Sub-Committees

- Budget Sub-Committee
There was no report.
- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee
Ms. Flemer reported that the sub-committee has been meeting but there was no update for the Committee tonight and no need for Executive Session.
- Policy Review Sub-Committee
Mrs. Sheehan asked that the Student Advisory policy be scheduled for a first reading at the next School Committee meeting. The next meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for April 30th, with the location to be announced. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Nardone, it was unanimously voted to accept the report of the Policy Review Sub-Committee.

Discussion Items

- Discussion of Standards of Dress Policy
At this point, Mrs. Sheehan, read a statement regarding the Standard of Dress Policy and the issues that arose at the March 27th meeting.

There being no further comment, Mrs. Sheehan read the clarifying language to the Standards of Dress policy contained in the Student Handbooks that was agreed to at the March 19th meeting of the Policy Review Sub-Committee. She then made a motion to approve the agreed upon clarifying language of this policy made by the Policy Review Sub-Committee on March 19th. This motion was seconded by Ms. Flemer. Mr. Guilfoyle commented on the importance of the student voice, but emphasized that the School Committee also serves the entire town, and must take that into account when voting on policy. He further stated that he supports the clarifying language recommended by the Policy Review Sub-Committee. The motion was unanimously voted. Mrs. Sheehan asked that Administration enforce this policy. Mr. Guilfoyle asked that a policy number be assigned. Following a very brief discussion, Mrs. Nardone made a motion to remove flip flops from the dress code policy which was seconded by Ms. Flemer. The motion failed by a 2-3 vote. The dissenting votes were Mr. Guilfoyle, Mrs. Curran and Mrs. Sheehan.

Action Items

- Bills Paid
On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to pay the bills on Warrant #42-2014 in the amount of \$711,155.36 with money to pay.
- Fee Increases: Johnson Early Childhood Center, WeyCare, Early Childhood and Education Program
Ms. Kuska reviewed and compared the current and proposed increases for the Johnson Early Childhood Center, WHS Early Childhood Center, and the WeyCare Program. There has been no increase in four years and the rates are below average and the costs have not approached the inflation rates. On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to approve the rate increases for the Johnson Early Childhood center, WHS Early Childhood Education Center, and the WeyCare Program.

- Approval of Job Description for Manager of Data and Assessment Strategy
A detailed discussion ensued about the job description for Manager of Data and Assessment Strategy. This item had been tabled at the last meeting. Dr. Salim addressed questions from School Committee members as to degree required, salary, and responsibilities. He emphasized that this is solely a vote for approval of the job description. Discussion continued. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Nardone, it was vote 4-1 to approve this job description. Mrs. Sheehan was the dissenting vote.
- Approval of Job Description for K-12 Music Director
Dr. Salim again opened discussion about the job description for K-12 Music Director which was also tabled at the last meeting. He answered questions regarding qualifications and possibly reaching out to Dr. Nicolucci regarding the “hybrid” position. Following this discussion, on motion of Mrs. Curran, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to table any action on this item until the May 8th School Committee meeting.
- Declaration of Surplus Items
Dr. Salim reported that there is a conveyor pizza oven at Weymouth High School that is no longer working. Per policy, he asked that the School Committee declare it as surplus so that it may be disposed. On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to declare the conveyor pizza oven as a surplus item.

New Business

- Mrs. Curran asked that the residency forms for the district be reviewed and updated.
- Mrs. Sheehan reported that the first work party for the Post Prom Party is scheduled for April 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and urged parents to volunteer. There will be three more decorating weeks in May prior to the prom on May 30th.
- Mr. Guilfoyle noted that Mrs. Nardone’s son entered the Coast Guard today. There was a round of applause and best wishes for him.

Executive Session

There was none.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on May 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

At 9:27 p.m., on motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana R. Flemer – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
April 10, 2014

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Minutes of February 27, 2014
- Minutes of March 6, 2014
- Minutes of March 13, 2014
- MMSI Presentation
- McKinney-Vento Presentation
- ELL Presentation
- Standards of Dress Policy
- Warrant #42-2014
- Rationale for Rate Increases (JECC, ECEC, Weycare)
- Job Description for Manager of Data and Assessment Strategy
- Job Description for K-12 Music Director