

## **WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

February 6, 2014

7:00 p.m.

### **MINUTES**

The Weymouth School Committee met on February 6, 2014 in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Sean Guilfoyle with the following members present: Ms. Belmarsh, Mrs. Curran, Ms. Flemer, Mayor Kay, Mrs. Nardone, Mrs. Sheehan. Also present were Superintendent Kenneth Salim and Assistant Superintendent Garry Pelletier. Assistant Superintendent Susan Kustka, Ms. Belmarsh and Mayor Kay were not in attendance.

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 unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 12, 2013 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee with minor changes.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2013 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee.

#### **Student Advisory Committee**

Tim Cronin and Samantha DiBona, a new member of the Student Advisory Committee, came to the table. Samantha is a senior and spoke about the Capstone program and the Academy Model. She discussed a new survey using Twitter, Facebook and Survey Monkey being shared with students and hopes to have results of the survey by the next School Committee meeting. Tim spoke about the lack of emphasis on extra curricula activities and a reduction in school spirit. Most students do not check their school email and are missing out on announcements. He suggested that morning announcements be reinstated. A discussion followed about communication at the high school and the Capstone experience. Mr. Guilfoyle thanked them for their report.

At this time, Mr. Guilfoyle reported that Mayor Kay was attending to matters at Town Hall regarding Southfield.

#### **Public Comment**

There was none.

#### **Committee Announcements**

- Mrs. Curran reported that the Post Prom Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the WHS Library. Volunteers are needed to coordinate the programs and groups.
- Mrs. Sheehan reported that she attended an event at Talbot Primary School in Mrs. D'Ambra's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class where students dressed as famous Massachusetts

people. Mrs. Sheehan went to visit her friend Gregory who was dressed as John Quincy Adams.

- Mrs. Sheehan reported that Townwide Parent Council is presenting a program called "Molly, Mary Jane, and Vickie, Drugs Disguised as Friends – What Every Parent Needs to Know" on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center. Contact weymouthtwpc@ yahoo.com with any questions.

### Report of the Superintendent

- Correspondence
- Dr. Salim reported that under the Governor's budget, Chapter 70 funds increased across the state and will increase Weymouth's aid only at the minimum level. This gives a beginning picture for planning.
- Dr. Salim reported that the DESE District Review was completed last week by a six member committee. The team observed 60 classrooms, conducted multiple interviews with parents, teachers and members of the community. The overall visit was positive. One area they pointed out that needs improvement is resources to provide a high quality education.
- Dr. Salim also reported on FAFSA Day. FAFSA is the application for State and Federal college aid. It will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Information and locations can be found at [www.fafsaday.org](http://www.fafsaday.org).
- Dr. Salim gave an update on Middle school sports programs piloted last year and expanded this year. The programs include intramural track, gymnastics and basketball.
- Dr. Salim reported that nearly 30 Weymouth Public Schools students were recognized by the Bay State Conference as All Stars with some of them also chosen as All Scholastic.
- Dr. Salim also noted that Walk With A Wildcat was going on tonight and that it is a great opportunity for students and parents to see Weymouth High School and its facilities.

A brief discussion about Middle School athletics followed.

- Health Services Update – Jean Afzali  
Dr. Salim invited Jean Afzali, Coordinator of Health Services, to the table and she noted that Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> is National Wear Red Day in recognition of heart disease in women. She then gave a presentation on the Health Services Mission Statement; Essential School Health Services Grant offered through the Department of Public Health; Health Office Visits by students in 2013-2014; Health Services Nurses, and the number of health office visits and how it affects education. A discussion followed with questions from the Committee.
- Acceptable Use Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Laura Stevenson  
Dr. Salim invited Laura Stevenson, Director of Instructional Technology, to the table to discuss the updated Acceptable Use Policy. She discussed the update of grade groups due to online testing in grades PreK through 12. She also reviewed the changes in verbiage, denigration or humiliation through electronic device use, and

cyber bullying as referenced. A discussion followed with questions from the Committee. Mr. Guilfoyle asked that this be scheduled for a second reading at the next meeting of the School Committee.

- Southfield Discussion

Dr. Salim reported that they recently met with representatives from Starwood. Starwood has provided them with projections for schools and school growth numbers and is looking at actuals for next year. There are currently 23 students from Southfield enrolled in the Weymouth Public Schools and that is expected to double next year. Mr. Guilfoyle thanked Matt Barry of Starwood who met with him and Dr. Salim and provided them with all the information they requested.

### Report on Teaching and Learning

- Overview of PARCC Assessment

Dr. Salim invited Mr. Pelletier and Mrs. Stevenson to give an overview of the PARCC field test (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). PARCC consortium is made up of 20 states and chaired by Massachusetts's DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester. The purpose is to develop common, high quality ELA and math tests for grades 3-11. It is computer based and linked to what students need to know for college and careers for use starting in the 2014-2015 school year. It has not yet been approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. There are two assessment components: Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and End-of-Year Assessment (EOY). Mr. Pelletier went on to explain the field test purposes and the field test plan including the field test sample and the Massachusetts Sample. Testing will take place after MCAS is completed and will not affect students' MCAS focus. Mrs. Stevenson reviewed the technological implication and the need for an increase in infrastructure, devices, and student preparedness. A discussion followed with questions from Committee members. More information can be found on the PARCConline.org website.

- 2014-2015 Proposed Weymouth High School Program of Studies – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Dr. Salim invited Peter Haviland, Kelly Stukenborg and David Powers to the table to review a couple of additional updates to the 2014-2015 Weymouth High School Program of Studies. A discussion followed about extra curricula activities, a breakdown of the academies in music and fine arts, and successful completion of course work. Further discussion included information on student absences and infractions and daily announcements being reinstated. Mrs. Sheehan asked about an academic support class for Special Education students and the use of cell phones by students. These issues were addressed by Mr. Haviland, Mr. Powers and Ms. Stukenborg. In response to a question from Mrs. Sheehan about the possible elimination of Capstone, Mr. Haviland and Ms. Stukenborg confirmed that it is not being eliminated. A brief discussion continued. Mr. Guilfoyle then opened the discussion to public comment. Hank Goldman came to the table and expressed his disappointment that there have been no significant changes in the music program for 2014-2015. He asked if the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading could be continued until after Dr. Nicolucci presents her report at the next School Committee meeting. A motion was

then made by Mrs. Sheehan and seconded by Mrs. Curran to continue the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Program of Studies to the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the School Committee. Ms. Flemer expressed her concern on the timing and suggested that this be combined with a third reading at the next meeting. Discussion followed about not having this piece included in the Program of Studies for next year and Dr. Salim said he would investigate an accommodation perhaps by way of an addendum. Mrs. Sheehan then amended her motion to schedule a third reading at the next meeting of the School Committee and to allow Public Comment at that time. Mrs. Curran seconded the motion and it was unanimously voted by the Committee.

#### Reports of Sub-Committees

- Budget Sub-Committee  
In Ms. Belmarsh's absence, Mr. Guilfoyle reported that the Budget Sub-Committee had not met since the last School Committee meeting.
- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee  
Ms. Flemer reported that the Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee had not met since the last School Committee meeting.
- Policy Review Sub-Committee  
Mrs. Sheehan reported that there was an additional update to the Anti-Bullying Policy (JICFB) under Discussion Items.

Dr. Salim added that the Budget Sub-Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at Weymouth High School.

#### Discussion Items

- Chapman Facilities  
Dr. Salim opened the discussion by updating the School Committee about an internal feasibility study. The Committee had been provided with a list and an estimated cost of all necessary repairs in the amount of \$15,483,400.00. The cost of the feasibility study could be up to \$1,000,000.00. Discussion continued about rebuilding as opposed to repairing and the cost of bids. Mr. Guilfoyle and Dr. Salim explained the process. The conversation will be continued with the Mayor's Office regarding the School Building Authority going forward.
- Updated Anti-Bullying Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Mrs. Sheehan reported that the phrase "and notify Central Administration" should be added on page 3, third paragraph from the bottom. This is being recommended by the Policy Review Sub-Committee. Mr. Guilfoyle asked that it be scheduled for a second reading at the next meeting of the School Committee.

#### Action Items

- Bills Paid  
On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to pay the bills on Warrant #33-2014 in the amount of \$795,178.70 with money to pay.

- Field Trip Request by WHS Robotics Club to Nashua South High School  
Dr. Salim recommended a field trip request by WHS Robotics Club to Nashua South High School on February 28 through March 1, 2014. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to approve this request.

New Business

- Mrs. Sheehan asked if all schools do the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Pelletier replied yes.
- Mrs. Nardone thanked Mr. Guilfoyle for the new 7:00 p.m. start time for School Committee meetings.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on February 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

At 9:36 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  
February 6, 2014

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Minutes of December 12, 2013
- Minutes of December 19, 2013
- School Health Services Update
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Overview of PARCC Assessment
- Summary of Changes to Proposed WHS Program of Studies for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- Internal Feasibility Study Update for Chapman Facilities
- Update Anti-Bullying Policy
- Warrant #33-2014
- Field Trip Request by WHS Robotics Club to Nashua South High School