

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

June 6, 2013

7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Weymouth School Committee met on June 6, 2013 in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Chairperson Sean Guilfoyle with the following members present: Ms. Belmarsh, Ms. Flemer, Mrs. Nardone, Mrs. Sheehan and Mr. Ford. Also present were Superintendent Kenneth Salim, Assistant Superintendent Garry Pelletier, and Business Manager Maria Hortaridis. Mayor Susan Kay was not in attendance. Assistant Superintendent Matthew Ferron arrived at 9:08 p.m.

At 7:34 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Sheehan and seconded by Ms. Flemer to take an item out of order. A roll call vote was taken by Mr. Guilfoyle with the following results: Mrs. Nardone, YES; Ms. Belmarsh, YES; Mrs. Sheehan, YES; Ms. Flemer, YES; and Mr. Ford, YES.

At 7:34 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Flemer and seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel. A roll call vote was taken by Mr. Guilfoyle with the following results: Mrs. Nardone, YES; Ms. Belmarsh, YES; Mrs. Sheehan, YES; Ms. Flemer, YES; and Mr. Ford, YES.

At 8:14 p.m., the School Committee returned to open session.

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

Mr. Guilfoyle asked for a moment of silence in memory of Melton Howard, husband of Transportation Direction Robin Howard, who passed away during the week.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to table the Minutes of May 16, 2013.

Student Advisory Committee

Student Advisory member Samantha Beaton came to the table and updated the School Committee on several events at Weymouth High School including the Prom, Girls Softball, Lacrosse and Spring Track. Graduation is scheduled for June 8th. She would like to see flip flops approved. She thanked the School Committee for the opportunity of serving on the Student Advisory Committee. The School Committee thanked her for a job well done and wished her well in the future.

Public Comment

There was none.

Committee Announcements

- Mrs. Sheehan reported that Townwide Parent Council will hold its last meeting of the year on June 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center.
- Mrs. Sheehan reported that the Post Prom was outstanding and the students were wonderful.
- Ms. Belmarsh congratulated all the undergraduate students who received awards in the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony earlier this evening.

Report of the Superintendent

- Correspondence
 - Dr. Salim reported on the Seach School Walk-a-Thon that raised \$8275.00 for Mery Daniels, daughter of a Seach School bus driver, who lost her leg in the Boston Marathon bombing. He congratulated the school and principal, Deborah St. Ives.
 - Dr. Salim reported that a decision should be made by tomorrow afternoon on whether or not Saturday's graduation ceremony will be held inside or outside due to weather conditions.
 - Dr. Salim also reported that funds have been allocated from the administrative gift account to reduce the fee for students from \$150.00 to \$50.00 to attend the Summer Music Camp. Mr. Guilfoyle asked that a motion be placed on the next agenda to approve this allocation.
 - Dr. Salim reported that with the help of the Harvard doctoral students who worked in Weymouth for six weeks, there is now a Parent and Family Engagement program that held its first Parent University this year. As a result of this work, an action team has been formed to assess current strategies and will meet in June.
- Presentation by Members of WHS Robotics Team

Advisors Dan Eggers and Brandon DuFresne came to the table accompanied by three members of the Robotics Team: Katie Lovett, Team Captain; Colleen West, Captain of Team Relations; and Brianna Hogan, Metal Fabrication Captain. There are 27 members on the Robotics Team. Mr. Eggers and Mr. DuFresne explained the program and the competition. This year's competition robot was Entry #4151. A discussion followed between the School Committee and the advisors including the cost to participate in competitions.

Report on Teaching and Learning

- Special Education Program Update
 - Dr. Salim reported that Francesco Hladysz, who audited courses at Bridgewater State University as a Life Skills student, presented at the Joint Education Committee at the State House today. He did an excellent job was very proud of him.
 - Director of Special Education Theresa Skinner came to the table and thanked Dr. Salim for attending the State House event this morning on Bill 481, which provides access for students with Special Needs to attend college programs.

- Mrs. Skinner then presented an update on Special Education by reviewing the five district programs: Life Skills-Intellectual Impairments, Communication Enhancement Programs (CEP)-Autism Spectrum Disorders, Therapeutic Learning Centers (TLC)- Emotional Disabilities, Intensive Resource Centers (IRC)-Cognitive Deficits, and Language Based Learning Disabilities (LBLD)- Reading and Writing Deficits. She also reviewed enrollment statistics, in district vs. out of district percentages, local vs. State statistics, improving IEP meetings with a summary of responses to a parent survey, and initiatives supporting inclusion. A discussion followed regarding the data, goals, how the survey was distributed, and how the doctoral students work supported inclusion initiatives.

At 9:02 p.m., Mr. Guilfoyle stepped out of the meeting, returning at 9:06 p.m. Ms. Flemer was Acting Chair in his absence.

- Overview of Instructional Rounds (Primary School Principals)
Dr. Salim invited the Primary School Principals to the table. They introduced themselves and Michael Oates (Talbot) led with describing Instructional Rounds, followed by Jeremy Burm (Hamilton) describing the concept and its origins. Jean McLean (Wessagusset) reported on the purpose of Instructional Rounds; Jennifer Whipple-Curtis (Academy Avenue) reported on the preparation; Deborah St. Ives (Seach) reported on what the day looks like; Susan Nutting (Nash) reported on the debriefing process; Ann Barry (Murphy) reported on what they have learned; Marianne Weiner (Pingree) reported on vertical articulation and transitioning between grades and schools; and Victoria Silberstein (Johnson) reported on moving forward "Learning the Work." Dr. Salim followed with an overview of the process to date and going forward. Feedback from teachers and principals has been very positive. School leadership has been strengthened, great work has been done. A discussion followed with questions from the School Committee.

At 9:08 p.m., during this discussion, Mr. Ferron arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Guilfoyle thanked the Principals for their collaboration and all the wonderful work they do at their schools. He also took the opportunity to congratulate and thank Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Nutting on their retirements and for all the good work they have done for their schools and students for so many years.

Reports of Sub-Committees

- Budget Sub-Committee
Ms. Belmarsh reported that the Budget Sub-Committee met on May 28th and May 30th with the Town Council. She gave an overview of funds available due to updated budget details from the meetings with Town Council. Mayor Kay introduced an additional measure to Town Council in the amount of \$377,409.00 which was voted 11-1 by Town Council to refer to the Town's Budget Management Committee. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mr. Ford, it was unanimously voted to accept the report of the Budget Sub-Committee. Mr. Guilfoyle thanked Town Council for their diligent efforts in identifying funds, especially Town

Councilors Matthews, O'Connor and Hackett. Ms. Flemer asked for a copy of Ms. Belmarsh's report with support documents and minutes.

- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee

There was no report.

- Policy Review Sub-Committee

There was no report. They will meet on June 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the School Administration Building.

Discussion Items

- Discussion of User Fees for 2013-2014

Dr. Salim referred to a summary of school fees and lunch prices that had been distributed to the School Committee and briefly reviewed some of the key items. Mr. Guilfoyle asked that this document be posted on the website and that Mr. Slattery, Director of Maintenance, and Cathy Torrey, Hall Rental Coordinator, attend the next School Committee meeting to discuss fees associated with Hall Rentals. Dr. Salim did not recommend any increases at this time. Ms. Belmarsh discussed her concerns about athletic fees. Mr. Guilfoyle invited Mr. Perez of WABA to the table to discuss his concerns relative to athletics. Mr. Perez expressed his concerns and discussion continued.

- Update to Non-discrimination Policy

Dr. Salim advised the School Committee of updated language to the Gender Identity Anti-Discrimination Statute and recommended that the School Committee adopt the policy based on MASC's recommendation. Mr. Guilfoyle asked that this be placed on the next agenda for a formal vote by the Committee.

Action Items

- Bills Paid

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mr. Ford, it was unanimously voted to pay the bills on Warrant #50-2013 in the amount of \$415,916.60.

- Approval of Proposed Increase to School Lunch Fees

Food Service Director David Zeoli came to the table and recommended a .25 cent increase to school lunches across the board. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mr. Ford, it was unanimously voted to approve this recommendation. Mr. Guilfoyle reported that all School Committee members who were affected by this had filed an ethics report with the Town. Mr. Pelletier thanked Mr. Zeoli for always providing wonderful refreshments whenever asked.

- Approval for Superintendent Salim to Participate on the Board of South Shore Educational Collaborative effective July 1, 2013

Dr. Salim explained that this was a new policy of South Shore Educational Collaborative for district schools that have students there. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mr. Ford, it was unanimously voted to approve request.

New Business

- Mr. Guilfoyle reported that the Town of Hingham is restricting buses from the South Shore Educational Collaborative from turning into a Hingham neighborhood and requiring that they turn into a Weymouth neighborhood. He asked for the School

Committee's support for Administration to send a letter to the Chief of Police and the Mayor to inquire about the validity of this restriction. He then made a motion to have a letter sent from the School Committee to the Mayor's office and Chief of Police inquiring about traffic restrictions for buses from South Shore Educational Collaborative to only turn into Weymouth neighborhoods. This motion was seconded by Ms. Flemer, and unanimously voted by the Committee.

Executive Session

This item was held at the beginning of the meeting.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on June 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

At 10:04 p.m., on motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana R. Flemer – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
June 6, 2013

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Minutes of May 16, 2013
- Special Education Program Update
- Overview of Instructional Rounds (Primary School Principals)
- User Fee List
- Warrant #20-2013