

# WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

May 16, 2013

7:30 p.m.

## MINUTES

The Weymouth School Committee met on May 16, 2013 in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 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 Matthew Ferron and Assistant Superintendent Garry Pelletier. Mayor Kay and Business Manager Maria Hortaridis were not in attendance.

### Executive Session

At 7:32 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Flemer and seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with union personnel and to return to open session for the purpose of continuing with the agenda. A roll call vote was taken by Mr. Guilfoyle with the following results: Ms. Belmarsh, YES; Ms. Flemer, YES; Mrs. Nardone, YES; Mrs. Sheehan, YES; and Mr. Ford, YES.

At 8:08 p.m., the School Committee returned to open session and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### Approval of Minutes

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted 5-0-1 to approve the Minutes of the April 4, 2013 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee. Mrs. Sheehan abstained.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted 5-0-1 to approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2013 meeting of the Weymouth School Committee. Mrs. Sheehan abstained.

### Student Advisory Committee

There was no report.

### Discussion Item

#### - Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Guilfoyle reviewed a portion of the Open Meeting Law as it pertains to adding items to the agenda within the 48 hour time frame and having checked it again, it was allowable to add this item.

Mr. Guilfoyle then referred to an incident at the Annual Town Meeting and reported that the Mayor had sent a press letter to the Patriot Ledger and the Superintendent of Schools, but not to the School Committee. (Attached)

He then turned the gavel over to Vice-Chair Gail Sheehan and read a prepared statement into the record. (Attached) He requested that the Mayor apologize to Mr. Perez and that he would contact the Boy Scouts who innocently participated in the video presented by the Town's CFO.

Ms. Belmarsh followed with prepared remarks and discussed the budget process and the serious occurrence at the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Guilfoyle then opened the item to the public for comment. The following people spoke:

Maryellen Devine voiced her concerns about "doing what is right" and that this incident ridiculed the democratic process.

Sandy Tobin acknowledged the diligence and transparency the School Administration and School Committee has demonstrated through the budget process. She thanked Mr. Perez for all he has done and expressed her distain for the ridicule and disrespect demonstrated at the Annual Town Meeting.

Lori Finnell spoke about her 8 year old son who has attended School Committee and Town meetings and his passion for politics. She admonished the Town Council for this abomination of the democratic process.

Kathy Curran said she accepted Mr. McKinney's apology and that he is an honorable man. More importantly, it was the mockery that bothered her. Funding the school budget is a necessity for the Town and the chronic underfunding is hurting the Weymouth Public Schools.

Christopher Primiano said the video was appalling. He started to address budget issues and was asked by Mr. Guilfoyle if he could hold his comments until the Public Comment item on the agenda.

Gus Perez spoke about the democratic process at the Town level and was saddened by the lack of it at the Annual Town Meeting. He appreciated all the support he had received from the School Committee and the community. Mr. Perez said the Mayor owes the public an apology and an explanation of how this was allowed to happen. Corrective actions need to be taken to prevent this from happening again.

Councilor Frank Burke thanked Mr. Perez and asked him to stay involved. He felt that the School Committee should have stayed and expressed their outrage. The video was outrageous. The Mayor does need to apologize. Mr. McKinney is a gentleman who made a mistake and owned up to it. We need to put this behind us and get back to the budget. Mr. Guilfoyle agreed that Mr. McKinney is a good and honorable man, but this is not about Mr. McKinney. The School Committee and Administration never present anything without reviewing it first. Ms. Belmarsh

thanked Mr. Burke and clarified that the School Committee did return to the meeting. Mr. Burke concluded by stating that he respected the Committee and all they do for the kids. He also thanked Dr. Salim and Mr. Pelletier for being there.

#### Public Comment

Lisa Thompson expressed her concerns about Nash students going to all day kindergarten at Murphy next year. Mr. Guilfoyle said her concerns would be looked into.

Kathy Curran also expressed her concerns about full day kindergarten. She also asked about the School Committee using iPads and not seeing what the School Committee is discussing. Mr. Guilfoyle explained that the iPads had most of what was provided in paper files. She was looking for clarification on electronic communication at meetings.

Pam Oliver asked about texting at meetings and Mr. Guilfoyle clarified that it was relative to School Committee members only, not people in the audience.

#### Committee Announcements

- Ms. Flemer reported that she attended the National Honor Society Induction and Townwide Parent Council meeting on Tuesday. It was great to see the students and their families on this accomplishment and equally wonderful to see the involvement of parents at the Townwide Parent Council meeting.
- Ms. Belmarsh reported that the Post Prom Work Party will be on Saturday morning in the Dungeon at WHS from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The theme this year is "Mardi Gras." Volunteers are still needed and students will receive community service hours for volunteering.
- Ms. Belmarsh also spoke about the CFCEG Literacy event to be held at the Tufts Library for ages 7-10 on Mondays in June from 4:40-5:30 p.m. It is a free workshop called "Building Stories." Call 781-340-6098 for more information.

#### Report of the Superintendent

- Correspondence
  1. Dr. Salim reported that two full day kindergarten classes are being added for the 2013-2014 school year, one at Academy Avenue School and one at the Nash School. The half day kindergarten class at Nash School will be transported to Murphy School. The cohort of students from Nash will be kept together and return to Nash for the first grade. Dr. Salim discussed the future of universal full day kindergarten and that it is an area that should be explored. Chapter 70 reimbursement does apply to full day kindergarten classrooms in the first year of operations. Planning and discussion is required. A detailed discussion followed between Committee members and administrators about the logistics of the situation.
  2. Dr. Salim reported that the Senate Ways & Means released their version of the budget. There is currently no change from the Governor's in the Chapter 70 allocation to Weymouth at this time. Changes are expected in Circuit Breaker and Special Education.

3. Dr. Salim reported on Learning Forward Conference he attended in Washington, D.C. and the national models of assessments he learned about. He also met with staff from the US Department of Education.
4. Dr. Salim reported that he, Garry Pelletier and Betsy Harris met with Massasoit Community College's President Charles Wall and his leadership team relative to developing a Weymouth based STEM Compact, raising awareness about education.
5. Dr. Salim reported that DESE was conducting a statewide meeting relative to the new Educator Evaluation about the new regulations and asked for a vote from the School Committee to designate him as their representative in discussions with the Weymouth Teachers Association regarding the new Educator Evaluation. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to designate Dr. Salim as the School Committee representative in discussions with the Weymouth Teachers Association regarding the new Educator Evaluation.

#### Report on Teaching and Learning

##### - Weymouth Middle School: NELMS Report

Dr. Salim reported that the middle school model was a work in progress this year by Principals Daniel Birolini and Kathleen Sheridan, as well as Assistant Superintendent Garry Pelletier. He introduced Bill Downey from the NELMS (New England League of Middle Schools) and invited him to the table. Mr. Downey discussed the process of the two campus/ one school model. He said he found a real dedication and commitment from the staff to provide middle level education. Mr. Birolini focused on seven points and reviewed a report on Weymouth Middle School, Adams Campus and Chapman Campus. Common themes in this report were professional development needs, the need for more support, communication improvement, and looking at and using data. Great things are happening at the middle schools. Mr. Pelletier then led a discussion with members of the School Committee and Mr. Downey.

#### Reports of Sub-Committees

##### - Budget Sub-Committee

Ms. Belmarsh reported that the sub-committee met on May 8 to discuss the budget and the number needed to make WPS meet Net School Spending. She emphasized that the "needs list" is not a "wish list." Four must have items are: 1. two math teachers to cover MA Core minimum; 2. a Special Education teacher at WHS to remain compliant; 3. Special Education teacher for the TLC and CEP programs at WHS; 4. ELL teacher added to meet State requirements. She requested Dr. Salim write a letter to the Mayor requesting that she fund a budget that meets all mandatory requirements. The sub-committee will meet again on May 28<sup>th</sup> with focus on additional budget questions and encouraged all to attend. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mr. Ford it was unanimously voted to move the report of the Budget Sub-Committee. On motion of Ms. Belmarsh, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to send a letter to the Mayor and Town Council

on behalf of the School Committee stating that the School Committee supports a school budget for FY14 that meets all mandatory requirements.

Public Comment on the Budget

Chris Primiano asked what the difference is between Net School Spending, Wish List, Needs List and what will be the consequence of the failure to properly fund the schools.

Gus Perez discussed the school budget and Net School Spending.

Ms. Flemer addressed Mr. Primiano's questions and stated when teachers and programs are cut, it takes 10 to 12 years to get them back.

Frank Burke stated that the letter to the Mayor needed to outline what happens if the School Department is not funded properly.

Mrs. Nardone thanked Mr. Burke and emphasized that Net School Spending is the law and the law has to be followed.

Lori Finnell commended the staff and students in the Weymouth Public Schools who have provided a great education for the children even though Net School Spending has not been met.

- Collective Bargaining Sub-Committee

There was no report.

- Policy Review Sub-Committee

There was no report.

Discussion Items

- Proposed Changes to Weymouth High School Student Handbook (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

Mrs. Stevenson reviewed a minor revision from the first reading and a brief discussion followed. Mr. Guilfoyle asked a few questions Mrs. Sheehan had given him about parking and payment plans. Mr. Guilfoyle asked Dr. Salim to schedule a third reading for the next School Committee meeting. He stated that the public will also be able to comment at that time. Mrs. Curran voiced her concerns about payment plans for parking which Mrs. Stevenson addressed. Mrs. Curran also asked for a copy of the final proposal.

Mrs. Stevenson added that 32 seniors had not completed their 10 hour community service obligation.

- Electronic Communication During Meetings

Mr. Guilfoyle then spoke about the Open Meeting law and how it applies to texting during a meeting to another Committee member, except in the case of an emergency. Ms. Flemer clarified that she only uses her iPhone and iPad for School Committee business. Mr. Guilfoyle restated that text messages are subject to review by the Open Meeting Law.

Action Items

- Bills Paid

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Ms. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to pay the bills on Warrant #47-2013 in the amount of \$1,017,045.28.

- Approval of 2013-2014 WPS School Calendar

There being no questions or comments, on motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mr. Ford, it was unanimously voted to approve the 2013-2014 WPS School Calendar.

- Field Trip Request by Chapman Middle School, Grade 8, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH, June 20, 2013  
On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mr. Ford, it was unanimously voted to approve the field trip request by Chapman Middle School, Grade 8, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH, on June 20, 2013.

#### New Business

- Ms. Belmarsh reported that there is an event scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Weymouth High School in honor of Reverend Terry Martinson, in Celebration of the Youth Group that he has led. All are welcome to attend. She then moved that the School Committee approve her as their representative to speak and honor Rev. Martinson at this event and also to request the Town's Memorial Committee for recognition in his honor. This motion was seconded by Mr. Ford and unanimously approved.
- Mr. Ford commented on the Annual Town Meeting and stated the fact that it was not a School Committee meeting and that the Committee acted in an appropriate way.

#### Executive Session

The meeting began with executive session.

Mr. Guilfoyle took a comment from the public at this time from Cathy Wetherbee who complimented the Committee about the way they handled the disrespect that was demonstrated at the Annual Town Meeting. She quoted John F. Kennedy by stating it is time to cross the aisle and move forward.

#### Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on May 23, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

At 11:00 p.m., on motion of Mr. Ford, seconded by Mrs. Nardone, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diana R. Flemer – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting  
May 16, 2013

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Minutes of April 4, 2013
- Minutes of April 11, 2013
- Statement written by Sean Guilfoyle
- Weymouth Middle School NELMS Report
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Changes to WHS Student Handbook
- Warrant #47-2013
- 2013-2014 WPS School Calendar
- Chapman Field Trip Request to Canobie Lake Park