

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

April 4, 2013

7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Weymouth School Committee met on April 4, 2013 in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 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. Business Manager Maria Hortaridis, Mrs. Sheehan, and Mayor Kay were not present.

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

Discussion Items

- FY14 Budget Proposal

Mr. Guilfoyle explained the purpose of the meeting which is the budget that the School Committee voted to send to the Mayor at the March 28th meeting of the School Committee.

Dr. Salim presented slides with additional detail from the Needs List. He highlighted four areas of critical needs which included Math teachers, Special Education Staff, Science Specialists and curriculum leadership. He explained by comparison to nearby communities that Weymouth is “woefully” understaffed. Ms. Belmarsh thanked everyone for their support and attendance and reviewed a breakdown of the budget, explaining Net School Spending and the difference between level funding and level service. Currently, the Net School Spending deficiency is \$1,023,050.00 and will increase to \$2,700,000.00 with the current FY14 Budget proposal.

Mr. Guilfoyle then opened the meeting to public comment.

Public Comment

Sethany Griffin the parent of two students urged the School Committee not to vote for a budget that does not meet Net School Spending.

Judy Geagan, a board member of SEPAC, and vice president of TWPC, read a statement asking the Mayor and Town Council to support education in Weymouth.

Rebecca Crystal, a 6th grade student at Adams, and Bella Crystal, a 3rd grade student at Pingree, hoped that the schools will be funded and to “think about how many dreams have been crushed” by not funding the schools properly. Their mother, Linda Crystal, asked that the right thing be done for the children. Mr. Guilfoyle invited them to the School Committee table and shook their hands.

Rory Tobin, a 6th grade student, asked that the right thing be done and his mother Sandy Tobin, Co-Chair of WHS parent Council, stated that the budget is an outrage.

She thanked the School Committee for job they have done and asked the Mayor to do the right thing and allocate appropriately to the Weymouth Public Schools.

Lori and Gregory Fennell asked that this be fixed by next year and thanked the School Committee for “sticking to their guns.” Mrs. Fennell also talked about Weymouth being at the bottom of the education chain.

Regina Barton, a 25 year resident with three sons in the Weymouth Public Schools, discussed class sizes; student to teacher ratios; and aides in the classrooms. She expressed her disappointment in the budget figure from the Mayor.

Jessica Noone, a teacher in a neighboring town and a parent, discussed class size and its effect on students.

Mary Ellen Devine expressed her support for the budget presented by the School Committee and encouraged the Town to do the right thing for Weymouth students.

Kathy Curran thanked the School Committee for having this meeting and Town Council member Jane Hackett for attending. She read a statement and encouraged the Town Council and Mayor to properly fund the Weymouth Public Schools.

Jill Berry, the parent of two children in the Weymouth Public Schools and a teacher at the Johnson Early Childhood Center, spoke for her children and asked the Mayor to make the right decision.

George Berg supported the budget presented by the Weymouth School Committee and quoted Commissioner Chester’s letter stating that Net School Spending must be met. He further noted that Weymouth needs to find a way to increase revenue and Town Council needs to send the Mayor’s proposed budget back until it meets Net School Spending. He encouraged Weymouth citizens to get a message to the Town Council and Mayor to fund the schools.

At this point, Mr. Guilfoyle explained the budget process, including timelines, content, mandates, and budget drivers. He then opened public comment to those who did not sign up to speak.

Mena McCabe, a Weymouth Public Schools teacher and Weymouth resident, spoke as a parent, stated she is not just asking for adequate education, but for an outstanding education.

Richard Duseau, a Weymouth teacher, discussed the new Math requirements for State college entrance and the need for additional teachers in the classrooms. As Vice President of the Weymouth Teachers Association, he addressed needs in the

classrooms and competitive coursework; as a homeowner, he wants property values maintained; as a parent, he wants a fantastic education for his children. Finally, as a graduate of Weymouth schools, he wants his children to receive the same quality education he received. He implored Town Council to fund the Weymouth Public Schools.

Jane Hackett, a Councilor at Large, thanked everyone for being there and for their commitment to Weymouth children. She stated that the Town needs vision and leadership and hopes that the State budget will provide additional funds for schools. She further stated that she will not support a school budget that does not meet Net School Spending.

Christian Kobe, a Weymouth High School student and athlete, stated that 21st Century Skills are needed to compete with other schools. Schools need to be funded.

Bruce Crystal, a member of Abigail Adams Middle School Council discussed Net School Spending and the consequences of not properly funding the schools.

Nicole Ferrara, a resident, stated that we need to get creative, raise taxes, whatever it takes. "Our kids need schools."

Ken Karlberg addressed the Net School Spending issue and questioned why it hasn't been figured out after six years

Belinda Maguire also referred to Commissioner Chester's letter and asked the Chair about meeting the Net School Spending requirements.

Jeannie Murphy thanked the School Committee for the budget it presented and encouraged the Mayor and Town Council to do their part for the children of Weymouth.

Heather Girard, a realtor, stated that Weymouth is a great town but property values will decrease if schools are not funded properly.

Don Whitaker, a resident who also grew up in Weymouth, talked about the other communities Weymouth is now compared to. He discussed the Town's failure to fund the schools.

Gus Perez expressed his gratification that there was standing room only at this meeting relative to the FY14 budget discussion. He sent invitations to members of the Town Council to attend this meeting. Councilors Harrington, McDonald, Matthews responded that they could not attend. He thanked Councilors Hackett and Burke for taking the time to attend and applauded Councilor Hackett for her courage in stating she would not support a budget that does not meet Net School Spending. The future of the Town depends on how the Town chooses to educate the children of the Town. He then read a letter from Patrick O'Connor to the Mayor regarding the FY14 Budget which outlined a plan to fund the schools.

Frank Burke spoke as a Town Council member and noted that he met with Mr. Perez today to review the budget. He said he would need a very good reason to vote for a budget that did not meet Net School Spending.

Mr. Guilfoyle noted that the Mayor is fully involved in the budget process and that the School Committee has been very transparent in the process, which has become a year round process. He addressed issues raised by Mr. Perez and thanked everyone for their input and asked that it continue. He also explained the financial contributions from Southfield moving forward.

Mr. Ford congratulated Mr. Ferron on his appointment as the future Superintendent of the Town of Hanover noting that Hanover's gain will be Weymouth's loss.

Mr. Ford then thanked the audience for their input and stated that the Town needs to improve the way its budgets are managed. As a graduate of Weymouth schools, he stated that Weymouth has a great education system and it needs to be funded.

Ms. Flemer noted how proud she was to see so many people in attendance this evening and asked them to stay involved.

Ms. Belmarsh added how struck she was by so many different comments made tonight and asked everyone to keep the communication open and thanked everyone for coming.

Mrs. Nardone noted how good it was to also see teachers and administrators in the audience tonight and thanked everyone for coming and to keep the communication open.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on April 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

At 10:03 p.m., on motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Belmarsh, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana R. Flemer – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
April 4, 2012

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda