

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
MJL Humanities Center
September 19, 2019
Minutes

<p>CALL TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE MOMENT OF SILENCE</p>	<p>7:01PM The regular meeting was called to order. All that were present stood for the pledge. Chair Belmarsh shared that Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw is receiving an award this evening at Boston University for Distinguished Alumni. Mayor Hedlund is also absent.</p>	
<p>MEMBERS Strike out = absent</p>	<p>Lisa Belmarsh, Chair Tracey Nardone, Vice Chair John Sullivan, Secretary Gail Sheehan Kathy Curran Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw Robert Hedlund, Mayor</p>	<p>Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Superintendent Mary Ann Bryan, Assistant Superintendent Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent</p>
<p>CONSENT AGENDA * Items = tabled</p>	<p>Payment of Bills Warrant 13-2020, in the amount of \$2,172,025.02 Approval of Minutes: Regular Minutes: 7/25/19, 8/22/19 Executive Session Minutes: 7/25/19 MOTION: by Vice Chair Nadone to accept the consent agenda with approval of minutes; regular 7/25/19, 8/22/19 and executive 7/25/19 SECOND: by Dr. Sullivan UNANIMOUSLY VOTED</p>	
<p>STUDENT ADVISORY Bold = speaker</p>	<p>Chair Belmarsh opened public comment. Students Abigail Huard (senior) and Lauren Criselio (junior) came to the table and shared the following: The students spoke with Principal Strauss about juniors and finals requesting that if a junior has a course average of 90 or above they wouldn't have to take a final exam. Advisory will talk more about it with ILT. Damage in the bathroom has significantly reduced as has the hallway noise during class time. Looking into reopening bathrooms without sign in/out sheets. Talked to Chartwells about maybe having a grab and go breakfast cart on the maroon side in the mornings so students wouldn't have to go to the gold cafeteria. Talking about getting blinking signage for crosswalk by the baseball field as it's difficult to cross the street there.</p>	

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	<p>Also talking about ideas on how to reduce the student parking pass of \$100.</p> <p>New morning announcements are going well, new information like games, scores, etc. is shared</p> <p>Also working on the Sandy Hook Promise and Say Hello Campaign. A t-shirt design contest will begin next week and information will be included in the morning announcements. The campaigns promote social influence to be more interconnected and inclusive.</p> <p>Ms. Curran and Mrs. Sheehan congratulated the students on writing a proposal to re-open the bathrooms and Mrs. Nardone advised that at the next safety and security meeting on October 8, she would bring up the information regarding the crosswalk.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENT Bold = Speaker	<p>Chair Belmarsh invited Dr. Michael Murphy and Joni Cederholm of the Weymouth Educators Association to the table.</p> <p>Dr. Murphy and Ms. Cederholm shared that they were able to donate \$1500 in school supplies this year. Supplies were delivered in backpacks by the WEA to each school.</p>
REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT	<p>The Superintendent reported out on the following:</p> <p>Many open houses coming up for neighborhood schools.</p> <p>Thanks to the Recreation Department for donating two basketball hoops.</p> <p>Academy Ave had its first school council meeting and they are already talking about school improvement plans. This is happening across the district.</p> <p>Adams Advisory kicked off this week on Wednesday. Advisory is a small group where a student is connected to a staff member for SEL and connective activities all year long. The goal is to make every child feel connected to the middle school community.</p> <p>The Hamilton school had a positive and upbeat start to the school year from families, students and staff. Opening Day, Parent Council made a display of positive messages using sidewalk chalk to welcome students.</p> <p>Principal Gover at the Nash school used Morning Announcements, to introduce</p>

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students how to breathe, purpose behind intentional breathing and the benefits breathing has to help self-regulate themselves during transitions, test taking and stressful times.

The Seach School thanks their community partners: Walmart for their shopping spree where they purchased school supplies and flexible seating for their students. And the Relate Church for donating a fruit basket to staff as well as school supplies for students.

It has been a great start to a new school year at Ralph Talbot where parent council started off with a meet and greet that included beautifying the grounds of the school. Mulch was donated by JF Price making the school look great.

Wessagusset is looking forward to working with the Holly Hill Farm and Jon Belber through the addition of 5 more garden beds as they expand their outdoor classroom.

The High School has begun the Say Hello and Sandy Hook Promise campaigns which are with the support of the DA's office. The CTE department will be getting a donation from MilwaukeeTools. The donation will consist of many non powers tools. Superintendent Curtis Whipple thanked Julieann Gamache for having the foresight for submitting the application. Weymouth High School had 62 students who received AP recognition from the college board including 34 AP Scholars (3 or higher on 3 or more tests) 12 AP Scholars with Honors (3.25 or higher on at least 4 tests) 12 AP Scholars with Distinction (average 3.5 on all tests and at least a 3 or higher on 5 tests) and for the first time in many years Weymouth had 3 National AP Scholars (Ryan Delano, Lauren Salmans and Matt Prescott who each received a 4 or higher on every test and had to have taken at least 8 AP classes). The Weymouth High theater Company has started rehearsals for Matilda which will be performed in November and all excited about it.

The Superintendent touched base on the T shirt situation and made some clarifications regarding misinformation that created buzz that was very unfortunate. She also emphasized the goal is to educate students and allow them to participate in extracurriculars, athletics and be kids. Superintendent Curtis-Whipple met with the girls last Friday and will continue to meet in the future. The Booster club was approved to sell white t shirts with the words "Weymouth Wildcats." They did not ask nor were they approved to sell t-shirts that said "White Out." As a result of social media messaging and comments from concerned parents and citizens to School Committee and Town Officials, The Superintendent and administrators made the decision to cancel the sale of the t shirts on school grounds. Had the form been filled out correctly a discussion could've been had how to follow the proper

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policies. The Superintendent apologized again for the miscommunication and is hopeful that with the clarification of why the event was canceled will help all move forward and the conversation will cease. In meeting with the girls, the Superintendent shared they want to make the team whole again and they thought it would be around \$3000-\$3500. Dr. Curtis-Whipple also reached out to the booster Moms but has not heard back yet. Vice Chair Nardone donated \$1000 in funds to the team and the Superintendent is reaching out to the community for more donations. Another meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 20, 2019.

Mrs. Nardone shared that the fundraising form was the initial cause of the miscommunication. She suggested that maybe the form be changed to eliminate further issues. The Superintendent advised that Principal Strauss and AD Muzzio were in talks of putting together a roll out for coaches and parents. The Superintendent's office heard from the coach who agreed that the form that was completed was not the final product and that hopefully could move forward. It was reiterated that there has to be clarification for booster groups and the form.

Mrs. Curran inquired how to get technology help for her school committee computer. She also shared that there is a bill in the house-House 3911-to ensure a SEPAC member on school committee (a non voting member). Also suggested maybe a school council member could serve as part of the committee. Mrs. Curran requested an invoice for the 2nd apology letter by the Guilfoil Public Relation Firm (used by surround school communities). Assistant Superintendent Smith advised that the firm is under contract and was the lowest out of the 4 bids attained. Clarification was made that no banning of any color outs or rallies has been talked about and if so it would have funnel through policy sub. Mrs. Curran stated for the record: wanted to make clarification that her name was mentioned on the blog and she did write to you on 9/11 to send out an apology in response to the September 6th letter sent to the district regarding the cancellation of the sale of the White out T's. She knows there was no malicious intent but in her opinion, the language used in that first letter was a mistake. We have always discussed ways to improve student involvement and participation at home games. Whites outs, black outs, pink outs signify solidarity and strength and unity for our home teams and to get more students and parents at our games. Even though the School Committee name was on the Friday the 13th letter, which was put out by the PR company which signified a committee policy and committee vote, She said she had no knowledge or input and it did not reflect the apology she believed needed to be sent. The superintendent clarified the names that were included on the communication were, The Superintendent, Lisa Belmarsh, Alan Strauss and Mia Muzzio. Chair Belmarsh cleared up that her name was listed however not on behalf of the school committee.

Mrs. Sheehan asked that the matter of the pledge and announcements being said on Wednesday at Abigail Adams be looked into. An updated administrator list and org

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chart was asked for. Dr. Sullivan shared that the org chart was emailed in the colloquium powerpoint.

Superintendent Curtis-Whipple shared that the full day professional day was a success and thanked all staff and presenters. Key Charlie Applestein, author of There's no such thing as a bad kid. Mr. Applestein stayed ½ a day and only charged for an hour and ½. Staff may watch in house video from the presentation.

Mrs. Sheehan stated for the record: As one School Committee Member, I want to say that I was shocked by some of the language in your (Dr. Curtis-Whipple's) original letter about the booster fundraiser and how this was all handled. I cannot believe that the booster group was not contacted before that letter was sent out to the entire district. The parent meeting invitation was restricted and wasn't open to the same people that got the letter in the entire district. After the parent meeting, I had asked you for an apology to go out to everyone who received your original letter. In my opinion, what you sent out was not an apology to the girls and the parents. Mrs. Sheehan shared a point of information for the Chair into the record: Lisa, you as Chair, acted independently in this matter by interviewing 3 booster parents with Dr. Curtis-Whipple, prior to the parent meeting. Why were you there? It wasn't a school committee matter. You pretty much ran the parent meeting on Monday, September 9 and again was not a school committee matter, this was a Superintendent's meeting even though our members were present. Then your name as Chair was on the second parent letter in the header of the Superintendent's statement regarding the fundraising controversy. This all implies that you were representing the full School Committee, which is not a fact. I want to make abundantly clear to the school community and residents of our town that the full committee did not have any discussion, legal meeting, request for input or opinion or an official vote as a School Committee in this matter for you to represent us, as a whole. Mrs. Sheehan cited policy school committee policy BBAA. Dr. Curtis-Whipple responded that she invited Chair Belmarsh to the meeting to help facilitate. The Superintendent also stated that even though the language of the letter may have been too pointed she stands by it and will rise above the comments made about her and her family.

Dr. Sullivan stated that he also didn't agree with the wording of the letter and that the Superintendent has acknowledged it was not what it could have been. He expressed the opinion that the reaction has not been what would best serve the kids. Dr. Sullivan shared his belief that the Booster group was trying to build school spirit and help the school financially however didn't show excellent judgement with respect to the wording of the t-shirts especially at this time in our history. Secretary Sullivan stated that educational administrators often have to choose between competing good intention, and given the circumstances of this case, he would always err on the side of making people feel welcome in their own communities

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	<p>over allowing a particular group to show school spirit in precisely the way they wanted. He supports the Superintendent's decision. He also shared that he knows that the chair and Superintendent work closely together and had no confusion about the chair representing the whole committee.</p> <p>Chair Belmarsh informed that she did not violate any school committee policy and stated that the soccer team wished to put this behind them and she is hopeful in support of that. Chair Belmarsh also stated for the record: I appreciate both letters sent by the Superintendent and thank her for her professionalism she has shown over the past week and thank her for her support of the students and families and the extra support she has given to the team. She is hoping to continue the conversation - not on the shoulders of the the girls soccer team - but in a place where we can be reasonable, professional, and understanding of each others opinions and words that we use and I look forward to having a conversation with the entire community and would love school committee to be a part of that.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p><u>Review Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Mr. Gerard Mackin against Chair Lisa Belmarsh and Weymouth School Committee</u></p> <p>MOTION: by Vice Chair Nardone for the town Solicitor to look into and respond to the complaint SECOND: by Dr. Sullivan UNANIMOUSLY VOTED</p> <p>Chair Belmarsh left the table at 7:50pm and returned 7:52 Mary Ann Bryan left at 7:51pm and returned at 7:52</p> <p><u>Maintenance and Facilities Update - Assistant Superintendent Brian Smith & Deputy Director of Maintenance, John Barker</u></p> <p>Assistant Superintendent Smith and Mr. Barker came to the table and gave an overview of their presentation: Custodial and Maintenance staff did extensive work on all floors including the WHS gym, security alarm replacement at the Seach School, Cleaned bathrooms and fixtures, maintained grounds, security entrances at Murphy, Pingree, Nash, and Ralph Talbot. Extensive work was completed at the Chard Street building as well. A copy of the presentation is attached to these notes. Mr. Barker and Assistant Superintendent Smith thanked Senator O'connor for help with grants and also Mr. Smith thanked Mike Pace, Mike Manning and John Barker.</p>

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	<p>The committee thanked the custodial and maintenance staff for all of their dedication and hard work in jobs completed and gave big thanks to Louise Andrewzusky. Over 1800 work orders were completed in the last year by only 7 or 8 workers.</p> <p><u>Professional Development Overview - Assistant Superintendent Mary Ann Bryan</u> Assistant Superintendent Bryan came to the table and gave an overview of the presentation. Topics included completed ELA/Math Curriculum Maps, Differentiated Professional Development, Collective efficacy opportunities and Curriculum Maps in all content areas. An overview of the first all day PD on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 was given. It was a successful day kicked off by the Superintendent and Charlie Applestein. The amount of staff and presenters for PD is unbelievable. A copy of the presentation is attached to these notes. The Assistant Superintendent commented that Weymouth is trying to stay ahead of legislation. Weymouth is also attracting OG and Wilson teachers as well as more robust experienced teachers. Lisa Dieker will be back in the district. Safety Training, called ALICE will be coming up. Training team is made up of 50 town employees.</p> <p>Dr. Sullivan thanked Assistant Superintendent Bryan for all of the hard work and communication and comprehensive offerings. Vice Chair Nardone suggested maybe doing full day professional development in October as opposed to September next year. Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that she would also like to have had it later to provide continuity for the beginning of the year, but that the professional development day was scheduled to correspond to a scheduled preliminary election for town offices.</p>
OLD BUSINESS	<p><u>Chapman School Building Update</u></p> <p>All presentations, minutes and other information regarding the School Building can be found at: www.anewchapman.org</p>
Announcements	<p>Weymouth Market, Tuesday, October 2, 2019 at Weymouth High School Cafeteria SEPAC-Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 6:30pm at Abigail Adams Library Budget-September 23, 2019 at 6pm at the Administration building TWPC-October 9, 2019 in the Teachers room across from the Humanities Center Policy Sub Committee-September 30, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Administration building School Committee Candidate Forum-More details to come</p>
NEXT MEETING	Meeting of the WSC

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	Thursday, October 10, 2019 - 7pm - MJL Humanities Center, WHS
ADJOURNMENT	MOTION: by Vice Chair Nardone at 8:38pm SECOND: by Dr. Sullivan UNANIMOUSLY VOTED
ATTACHED DOCUMENTS	Payment of Bills Warrant 13-2020, in the amount of \$2,172,025.02 Regular Minutes: 7/25/19, 8/22/19 Executive Session Minutes: 7/25/19 Review of Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Gerard Mackin against Lisa Belmarsh and Weymouth School Committee Maintenance and Facilities Update Professional Development Overview

Submitted by:

John Sullivan, Secretary