



# Weymouth

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Weymouth School Committee

Mary Jo Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

February 6, 2020

Meeting Minutes

(approved 2/27/2020)

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**Members In Attendance:** Lisa Belmarsh, Chair; Tracey Nardone, Vice-Chair; John Sullivan, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Carrie Palazzo.

**Members Absent:** Mayor Robert Hedlund

**Also Present:** Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Wargo, Assistant Superintendent.

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**The Meeting Came to Order At 7:07pm.** The chair led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence observed for Barbar 'Bobby' Shanahan.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda included:

- Warrant 33-2020 in the amount of \$994,558.87 , Dated 2/10/20 presented with an assurance there is money to pay for these items.
- Field Trip  
Grades 9-12-WHS, Music-Band/Choir, New York City, NY, April 17-18, 2020
- Field Trip  
Grades 11-12-DECA, Boston Copley Marriott, Boston, MA February 27-29, 2020
- Regular Minutes: 1/16/20
- Executive Minutes: 12/11/19, 12/12/19, 1/16/20, 1/30/20

- Budget Subcommittee: 1/15/20, 1/29/20

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda by Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

### **Student Advisory**

Katelyn Horan came to the table and reported on bathrooms and the student voice survey, VIP and Weycathalon, Best Buddies, Spirit week, and final exams. A copy of her report is attached to these notes.

The Chair also added that in addition to the vandalism in the bathforathroom that she hopes vaping and smoking is added to the conversation.

### **Public Comment**

#### **Superintendent's Evaluation**

Gail Sheehan, 559 Randolph Street

Mrs. Sheehan read the section of the Town Charter regarding the hiring and evaluation of the Superintendent. She was a member of the School Committee until December 31, 2019, and explained that the process of the evaluation began in February of 2019 and at the February 28, 2019 meeting of the whole goals and how to evaluate the Superintendent were discussed. It was placed on the agenda as New Business at the June 6 meeting and on Old Business on the June 20th meeting to publically remind members to create their own evaluation reports. Drafts were discussed at the July 25th meeting of the whole wherein the Chair advised final versions should be submitted by July 17. Documents were collected and discussed. Mrs. Sheehan was out of state at that time. Mrs. Sheehan stated that she did not meet with the Superintendent as part of completing her evaluation as she didn't think corrections should be made. Mrs. Sheehan also shared that she had asked repeatedly since September to have to Superintendent's evaluation be on the agenda. The Chair placed it on the November 14 meeting of the whole agenda. A copy of the Superintendents compiled summative evaluation was given out with comments. Ms. Sheehan said that though this did fulfill the requirement of publicly discussing the evaluation, she felt that discussion should have been televised. She felt that the public report was long overdue.

Weymouth Charter Review Process, Chair Jack Carey, Vice-Chair; Town Councilor Jane Hackett

Mr. Carey explained that the Charter was undergoing a scheduled review and outlined the process by which School Committee and members of the public could submit any concerns.

Ms. Hacket explained that they are on an expedited timeline and need to complete work by April 30, 2020. She advised that there are three meetings coming up at council chambers on: February 25, 2020; March 4, 2020; and March 10, 2020.

Mrs. Curran confirmed that you don't have to be on the agenda to speak, that the meetings would be at 6:30pm, and that there is a copy of the town charter on the town's website. Community members may also go to council chambers, town clerk or the Mayor's office for a hard copy.

Dr. Sherlock Shangraw thanked Ms. Hackett and Mr. Carey for their work and inquired who was on the committee: Cathy Torrey, Russell Drysdale, Jack Carey, Pat Fitzgerald, Mike Moody, Stacey Barber, Jane Hackett, Kellyanne Swett, Barbara Hughes, Becky Haugh.

The Chair reiterated that the School department starts at section C21 and thanked Ms. Hacket and Mr. Carey for coming.

Mrs. Curran questioned if the Superintendent's evaluation would be on an upcoming agenda. The chair responded "yes."

### **Report of the Superintendent**

The superintendent welcomed Robert Wargo, Assistant Superintendent.

On Tuesday, February 4, 2020 there was a half day PD day and ALICE training. The district is working toward an elite level of certification for organizations with the help of personnel from town departments including WPD, WFC and the school department. School staff have participated in online training as well as live drills. The Superintendent gave special thanks to Dennis Jones, Teri Fleming, and Jeremy Angelos.

There will be 2 sessions of Walk with a Wildcat. For rising 9th graders it will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 from 6:30-8pm. For rising 8th graders it will be on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 from 6:30-8pm. Both sessions will begin in the auditorium.

Johnson Early Childhood Center will be hosting an open house on Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 9-11am. The Superintendent encouraged community members to attend.

Weymouth High School Capstone Fair is seeking judges. The Fair is on March 17 and 18, 2020. It's a fun night, if interested in judging either or both nights, contact

[malissa.northup@weymouthschools.org](mailto:malissa.northup@weymouthschools.org)

The 3 student councils of Abigail Adams and Chapman Middle Schools, and Weymouth High School met and exchanged ideas on what each group is working on and collaboratively worked together.

At Abigail Adams Mr. Converse, Ms Moyce and Mr. Leahy participated in the B-Fit Challenge at the Boston Garden as part of "Team Adams". The B-Fit Challenge is a fundraiser supporting First Responders with 100% of the money raised going to The 100 Club of MA, New England Firefighter Cancer Fund, Tunnel to Towers Foundation and Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association Foundation. Team Adams ended up raising just under \$1,500 (\$1,435 in total).

Chapman conferences will be next week in addition to a Chapman Forum on February 11, 2020 from 5-6. In addition to the build, grade structure and enrollment shifts will be talked about. Dr. Curtis-Whipple reminded members to come out to the forum with questions.

The School-wide Drum Circle at Hamilton was a collaboration of STEAM, Art and Music. At the beginning of January, students created their drums in STEAM with Mrs. Dionne investigating sound energy and testing the sound quality of their drums. From there the drums went to Art where the students worked with Mrs. Pattison on designing and decorating their drums with inspiration from drums around the world. Finally the drums made it to music class where Mr. Landry taught the students proper care of their drums and what drum circles are. These lessons culminated in a school-wide assembly where everyone played their drums together and found out about the energy of the Drum Circle.

The Chair left the table at 7:27pm and returned at 7:33pm

### **New Business**

- a. Curriculum Overview - Curriculum Team: Mary Ann Bryan, Melanie Curtin, Teri Fleming, Terri Marcultis, Jeremy Angelos, Dennis Jones, Allison Mezzetti, Lauren Saracino**

The Curriculum team came to the table and gave an overview of their presentation. Topics included instruction, technology platforms, supporting all students, PBIS, strategic levers, curriculum mapping, 2019/20 timeline and goals. Next steps regarding professional learning, effective use of data, and family and community engagement were also highlighted.

presentations.

Weymouth's Got Talent and art show will be coming up at the high school. Special Thanks were expressed to Lisa Dieker and Charlie Applestein for their PD, to Diana Flemer and Janet Gallagher for their assistance with the library transition and especially to the WPD, and WFD for their instrumental help in the ALICE training.

It was reiterated that supporting students is at the core of the focus.

Mrs. Curran was reassured by the committee that the implementation of Big Idea math is going well and suggested a calendar of all school events for the community be posted.

Dr Sullivan added that he values the work of the team as a group and Weymouth is to have them and recognized Mary Ann Bryan for the extraordinary job of building a cohesive group.

Chair echoed Dr Sullivan's comments and remarked what a phenomenal group it is and also mentioned that MTSS is new this year with alternative pathways and has all the right elements for all students especially SEL in how are we supporting teachers and parents.

Thanks were expressed for the Curriculum coaches, especially Brynn Cooper who works as a wrap around service provider.

The Chair inquired as to who parents should reach out and Mr. Jones advised that the first point of contact should be the building principal. She also expressed a wish to see outcomes that have been accomplished from all their work; that it will help in budget season.

Brian left the table at 8:01pm and returned at 8:01pm

The Superintendent thanked the team saying that they are amazing and go above and beyond.

The committee thanked the team for their presentation  
All questions asked by the committee were addressed.  
A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes

**b. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Every Student Succeeds Act  
Transportation Claiming Under Title IV-E Social Security Act**

Assistant Superintendent Smith gave a summary of the MOU. Transportation costs for the district are over \$4 million. This MOU would allow a small portion to be reimbursed. If action is taken now, could get reimbursed for one quarter of FY19.

The Chair inquired as to the amount of reimbursement. Mr. Smith advised it's \$4400 for FY19, however it will be 20% in FY20.

Mrs. Nardone asked if reimbursement goes directly to the schools or to the town, and the Chair informed it does however hopefully comes back in the school budget.

Ms. Curran confirmed that the town would receive up to 20% of foster care transportation costs for FY20.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to approve Every Student Succeeds Act Transportation Claiming under Title IV-E Social Security Act. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan, Passed Unanimously

**c. Vote to approve Whitman Hanson Regional School District to be admitted  
as a member of the South Shore Educational Collaborative**

The Superintendent advised that if there is a change in membership that it must be voted on by the School Committees of member districts. Whitman Hanson is not a current member.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to approve Whitman Hanson Regional School District be admitted as a member of the South Shore Educational Collaborative. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan, Passed Unanimously

**d. Budget Sub Committee Report**

Dr. Sullivan read his notes into the record. The notes covered 3 meetings on January 15, January 29 and February 4, and 8 hours of meeting time. Topics included FY20 proposals for Primary, Johnson, WHS, IT, Curriculu, and Middle Schools. Child Care fees at WHS, increase in JECC pre K tuition. In addition

Athletics Operational, Salary and small materials budget. Gate and User fee's will be revisited in spring.

The possible process of leaving Abigail Adams closed for one year to convert it into a 9th primary school and the possibility of delaying redistricting for one year were also mentioned.

The Chair added that the proposal is for AAMS to be closed for 2022-2023 and redistricting the primary schools will hold for that year. It is on agenda tonight so parents, students, and teachers would be aware as soon as possible.

John Mcleod will provide more details and answer questions at the next School Committee meeting at the end of February.

Motion by Chair Belmarsh to approve the report of budgets sub, Seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Vote-5-1, Mrs. Curran abstained

#### **e. Review Adams Middle School Construction Timeline Proposal**

This was discussed during the budget sub-committee report above.

### **Old Business**

#### **a. Program of Studies - Second Reading**

Principal Struass, Associate Principal Monahan, and Interim Associate Principal Paulhaus came to the table and gave an overview of changes to the program of studies.

The Chair added that the principals were hoping to combine 2nd and 3rd reading to vote so it can be printed.

Ms. Curran questioned if the word 'competitive' should be taken out of 8th grade options on page 98. The Superintendent advised that 8th graders can play and pointed out that the MIAA states as long as 1 principal is overseeing all grades it is permissible to compete.

Principal Strauss reminded that the realignment wherein the 8th grade is in the high school is for 2 years and they are working diligently but not creating a structure that is long term He advised that there will be more answers during Walk with a Wildcat.

The Superintendent advised that the cost of 8th grade athletics is approximately \$50K however Chapman did have an athletics budget and the finance department is working out the details with school administration

The Chair opened for public comment

Gail Sheehan, 559 Randolph Street

Mrs. Sheehan stated that the attachments are not on-line and weren't included in her folder. She also inquired about successful completion of being set at 60%. Mr. Strauss stated that they are not ready to make a change on that yet, that the curriculum team has done remarkable work that will be the start of those conversations, and that the next step will be to bring teachers to the table to align grading practices and to continue the conversation about passing grades from that perspective. Dr. Curtis-Whipple added that changing it now without doing all the other work would be unwise.

Ms. Sheehan inquired if the district was looking to address this issue and the Superintendent assured that they are, but that overall grading needed to be addressed first.

Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw advised that the program of studies is available on-line under 'Program of Studies-full document'

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to combine 2nd and 3rd reading of the program of studies. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Unanimously passed

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to approve the program of studies. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. 5 Votes Yes, Ms. Curran voted present, saying she did so because of the 60% standard for course completion.

Principal Struass added that the vandalism in the bathroom will be addressed. The Chair inquired if the survey had already gone out. Principal Struass confirmed that it did, that they received 711 responses and that he was thrilled with the self advocacy of the students.

Chair Belmarsh shared that vandalism is not just physical but also using the bathroom for anything in violation of the handbook.

Cap and gown colors were discussed with regard to gender neutrality. Principal Strauss advised that it is driven by the students and possible future choices are Maroon with gold stripes, maroon with logo or gold with logo or maroon and gold and that students will choose.

Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw clarified that the updates to the robes were not triggered by complaints from any student groups and Principal Strauss and Superintendent Curtis-Whipple concurred.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple clarified that for this year, students could choose for any reason to choose either maroon or gold graduation gowns.



Security will be working diligently for 8th graders coming up.

**b. Chapman School Building Update**

- A Parent/Community Meeting will be February 11, 2020, 5pm - Chapman Auditorium. Please bring questions and concerns
- The next School Building Committee Meeting will be March 31, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Whipple Center. Last week's school building committee can be found on WETC, topics covered were memorial garden, playground equipment and paint colors
- More information is available at <http://anewchapman.org/>

**The Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee** will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2020, 7pm - MJL Humanities Center, WHS

**Announcements:**

Weymouth Market - March 4, 2020, 3:30pm - WHS Gold Cafeteria

Town Wide Parent Council - March 10, 2020, 7pm - MJL Humanities Center

SEPAC - March 3, 2020, 6:30 - Abigail Adams Library

WEF Night-April 3, 2020

Budget Sub-Monday at administration, 5:30-Initial level service budget

Multicultural parent council meeting, Academy Ave on February 26, 2020

**The Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm** on the motion of Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



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John P. Sullivan, Ph.D.  
Secretary

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**Documents Attached to These Minutes:**

- Minutes approved at this meeting
- Student Advisory Group Report
- Curriculum Overview
- MOU - Every Student Succeeds Act Transportation Claiming Under Title IV-E Social Security Act.
- Whitman Hanson Regional School District?
- Budget Sub Committee Report
- Program of Studies