



# Weymouth

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Weymouth School Committee

[ZOOM Meeting](#)

May 14, 2020

#### MEETING MINUTES

(approved 5/28/20)

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

**Members Absent:** None

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

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**The Meeting Came to Order At 7:00pm.**

The Chair took roll call attendance.

**Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda included:

- Warrant 47-2020 in the amount of \$682,310.56, Dated 5/18/20 presented with an assurance there is money to pay for these items.
- Regular Minutes 4/30/20
- Budget Sub Minutes 5/6/20

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

**Public Comment**

The Chair reminded everyone that public comment is for items on the agenda and that if wish to speak to add your name and address and topic. Dr. Sullivan gave an overview of using the chat feature to request an opportunity to speak.

There was no public comment.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

The Superintendent shared:

The Department of Education is starting a return to school COVID task force group and the district has started one as well to discuss what summer and the return to school will look like. Information is available on DESE website under the COVID tab as well as on the Weymouth schools website:

<https://www.weymouthschools.org/district/urgent-alerts/remote-learning-and-updates>

Budget work with Assistant Superintendent Smith continues as cost centers and budget lines are being reviewed. Funding from the CARE was mentioned. The Superintendent encouraged community members to attend the budget sub committee meeting on May 19, 2020.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple expressed her thanks and appreciation to the curriculum team, Unit A, Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Administrations Staff, and all staff for their outreach to families and going above and beyond during remote learning.

Modulars were delivered to Academy Ave. It is exciting to see the progress that is being made.

Abigail Adams' physical education staff is doing virtual cardio sport at 10am. Email [matthew.meehan@weymouthschools.org](mailto:matthew.meehan@weymouthschools.org) for more information.

Pre K registration is ongoing at the Johnson Early Childhood Center.

The Information Technology Department has been remarkable during remote learning. They have hosted over 30 professional development sessions with 1351 staff in attendance in just only 5 weeks. The Superintendent remarked that the group is small but mighty and thanked the team for ensuring equity for families to be able access chromebooks.

The Chair requested a member of the school committee be part of the return to school task force.

### **New Business**

The Superintendent shared how hard Principal Strauss and Associate Principal Monahan have worked to make certain that graduation is special and thanked them for all they have done.

**a. Weymouth High School Graduation - Alan Strauss & Karen Monahan**

Principal Strauss reiterated that the teachers across the district have been outstanding during remote learning.

If at all possible, following guidelines and being mindful of social distance, Principal Strauss shared that the seniors would be brought together in some way during the first week of August.

After many meetings and conversations it was decided that Graduation will be held virtually on June 6 and will include doing something substantial as close to a typical graduation as possible. Speeches will be made by the Superintendent, Principal, and a special guest.

June 2, 2020 there will be a virtual senior awards night for scholarships and athletic awards.

Prom has not been ruled out and potentially be held in August if it is safe.

Last day of school will be May 22. Senior students will be able to decorate their cars and visit their primary schools (keeping with tradition) in a parade like fashion to pick up caps/gowns, cords and to give textbooks back.

Every single senior will be getting a lawn sign and senior T-shirt (with every senior name on the back of it). Due to the plant being shut down, yearbooks will hopefully be arriving June 9 or 10. Distribution information will be forthcoming. There will be a senior video and Principal Strauss thanked Erin Doyle for her efforts as class historian.

Dr. Curtis Whipple restated that although not an ideal way to celebrate graduation, she thanked everyone for their ideas and thoughtful ways of how to proceed to recognize the hard work of the students.

Lt St. Croix and SRO Hamacher were consulted about a potential parade of cars, however it presents a safety issue. Banners will also be around town.

Senior students and families will be receiving an email with all pertinent details.

Thanks for the rotary and WETC were given by the committee. The Chair thanked all those involved including Ms. Palazzo for the care and thoughtfulness in making this time equitable and memorable for all families.

Mrs. Nardone expressed her thanks as well and inquired if there was a way for community members to donate to a 'senior' fund. Dr. Curtis-Whipple advised that if interested could reach out administration or WHS and checks should be made out to Weymouth High School denoting in the memo field 'Graduating Class of 2020'.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw inquired if evening high school students would be included. Principal Strauss advised that he presented that as an option when he spoke to Michele Prendergast 2 days ago.

Mrs. Curran questioned about 'adopting a senior'. Principal Strauss advised while a great idea it is not school sponsored as it might present an equity issue.

Information and how quickly it changes was discussed making it hard to make decisions and approach each day as it comes.

Associate Principal Monahan shared that underclass ceremonies such as National Honor Society, TriM (Music) and World Language will be postponed until the fall. Athletic night for 8th and 9th grade will be held virtually on June 3. Textbook drop off will be May 26-May 29, more information to come. Junior kickoff to Senior night will be postponed to the fall. Virtual unplugged will be on May 29, 2020 and on June 19-more information to come.

The committee thanked Principal Strauss and Associate Principal Monahan.

#### **b. School Handbooks - First Reading**

Chair Belmarsh explained that the 2nd and 3rd reading might be combined due to printing deadlines. If the public would like to comment on the proposed changes (posted on the website under the school committee tab) they are welcome to email the School Committee and/or Dr. Curtis-Whipple.

##### **i. Primary - Kathy Guilfooy & Richard Bransfield**

Principals Guilfooy and Branson gave an overview of the proposed changes to the handbook to encompass Prek-grade 5. Primary Principals, as well as Principals Perez and Meehan worked collaboratively on the changes.

##### **ii. Middle - Matt Meehan & Rebecca Paulhus**

Principal Meehan gave an overview of the proposed changes to the handbook reflecting changes in grade level.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw inquired if the reference to the Department of Early Education and Care on page 39 should be included in this particular handbook. Mr. Meehan will look into it.

Mrs. Curran inquired if the school day is 6 or 7 periods. Mr. Meehan explained that this year the day is 6 periods however next year will be 7 periods and thanked the School Committee and WEA for making it happen as it aligns with the high school.

Dr. Sullivan asked for more detail regarding the investigation piece. Principal Meehan explained that in regard to investigating online bullying and harassment, some students deliberately mislead administration to impede an investigation.

##### **iii. High School - Rebecca Paulhus, Karen Monahan, Karen Bonner**

Interim Principal Paulhus and Dean Bonner gave an overview of the changes to incorporate 8th grade while being mindful of balance. Security is being added to the 8th grade entrance.

Absenteeism and tardiness with relation to ISS was discussed.

Mrs. Curran clarified that the 8th grade will have their own student government. Mrs. Paulhus confirmed that the 8th grade will have their own class officers. Mrs. Curran also questioned on page 67 and 79 the redundant mention of personal listening devices. Mrs. Paulhus will look into it.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw stated that the current Physical Education Policy of allowing other activities to be substituted for P.E. is antiquated as is the grading which centers on participation and effort. She further stated physical education is a skill based academic class and the policy should be looked at and it's never too early to advocate.

Dr. Sherlock Shangraw inquired if the number of working papers might be limited to help students focus on school work during remote learning to balance work. Principal Strauss advised that there might 45-55 students who might be working during this time of pandemic stating that future conversations will need to be had. The policy has changed a bit; students can leave the last 2 periods of the day for work if they are in good standing.

Extensive discussion was had regarding chronic absenteeism and tardiness. A huge problem in the district. Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw advised that important conversations need to be had. There is a burden on parents to obtain a doctor's note, especially for chronic illness or students on 504 plans. Stating that more flexibility is needed in requiring a doctor's note. She also noted that some students may not be comfortable returning to school in September. The Superintendent advised that the handling of situations should be the same at each building and that the possibility of an 'overarching' doctor note might be an option further stating that they don't want to make it more difficult for families or for families to incur additional copays. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated that the absence letter will need to be reworked and that there is an absentee issue and that was why the truancy committee was created. Chair Belmarsh reiterating that she didn't hear anything positive regarding the attendance letter and that there is a new layer due to COVID and there needs to be specificity of language. Dr. Sullivan noted that the 2nd reading could have explicit language mentioning chronic conditions and the handbook can be used to reassure families. Talk of a COVID flier insert being added to the handbook was talked about.

Mayor Hedlund exited at some point during the meeting, but the limits of Zoom preclude a precise recording of when that occurred.

**c. Update on Modulars, Adams Renovation and Transportation Building-John Macleod**

John Macleod gave an overview of the presentation including the schools that will have modulars, schematics for new transportation building, Adams renovation and feasibility and also boiler replacement at Ralph Talbot.

Chair Belmarsh reiterated that there is measure before the Town Council now.

Modular classrooms will be placed at Murphy (2) Academy Ave (3), and at Ralph Talbot (2). Each 1000 square feet. Timeline was discussed.

3 Schematic designs were presented for a possible transportation building. A building is needed to house 34 vans, as well as perhaps office space and restrooms. CDR Maguire was contacted.

Extensive discussion was had over location (possibly Mitchel Field), use of existing buildings and cost. Traffic flow. It was mentioned that there should be restroom space for SEIU members, especially during these times of pandemic.

The Superintendent shared her concern for Scheme 3 not having bathroom facilities. Multiple members of the committee stated it's confusion on cost and on what specifically they would be voting on and invited Mr. Mcleod back to present when more details are available. The measure before town council was mentioned again.

**d. Policy Sub Committee Report**

Vice Chair Nardone gave an overview of the proposed changes for sections A-Foundations, B-School Committee, C-General School Administration, D-Fiscal Management. Meetings were held on 2/25/20, 3/11/20, 4/23/20, 4/29/20, 5/13/20. Proposed changes attached to these minutes. Mrs. Nardone thanked Assistant Superintendent Wargo and Jim Hardy from MASC for their assistance and support.

**e. Policy Section A - First Reading**

Mrs. Nardone went over individual policy changes

**f. Policy Section B - First Reading**

**g. Mrs. Nardone went over individual policy changes**

Mrs. Curran advised that BGB on the blog has Weymouth's policy crossed out. Mrs. Nardone will look at.

**h. Policy Section C - First Reading**

Mrs, Nardone went over individual policy changes

**i. Policy Section D - First Reading**

Mrs. Nardone went over individual policy changes

Motion of Mrs. Curran to move Policies A-D to a second reading. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

Mrs. Nardone pointed out that the second and third readings could potentially be combined for the interest of time.

**j. Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with WEA Unit B (action requested)**

For WEA Unit B due to remote learning, evaluation will be done differently. Modifications will be reflected with indicators and evaluation timelines.

Mrs. Curran clarified that there isn't an economic impact.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with WEA Unit B. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

**k. Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with WEA Unit D (action requested)**

For WEA Unit D due to remote learning, evaluation will be done differently. Modifications will be reflected with indicators and evaluation timelines.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with WEA Unit D. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

**l. Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with SEIU 888 Maintenance Workers (action requested)**

The contract will be reverting back to the original (CBA) contract language. Including hours and pay while also maintaining social distance while wearing masks and gloves provided by the district.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with SEIU 888 Maintenance Workers. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

**m. Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with SEIU 888 Custodians (action requested)**

The contract will be reverting back to the original (CBA) contract language. Including hours and pay while also maintaining social distance while wearing masks and gloves provided by the district.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with SEIU 888 Custodians. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

**n. Board-Certified Behavior Analysts' request to organize (action requested)**

Motion by Mrs. Nardone for the School Committee to voluntarily recognize the WEA as the exclusive bargaining representative of the BCBA's. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

**o. Refer Open Meeting Law Complaints**

- **May 6, 2020 filed by Gerard Mackin against Weymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh to Attorney Joe Emerson (action requested)**

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to refer the open meeting law complaint of May 6, 2020 filed by Gerard Mackin against Weymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh to Attorney Joe Emerson. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

- **May 7, 2020 filed by Gerard Mackin against Weymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh to Attorney Joe Emerson (action requested)**

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to refer open meeting law complaint of May 7, 2020 filed by Gerard Mackin against Weymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh to Attorney Joe Emerson. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

- **May 11, 2020 filed by Gail Sheehan against WEymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh and Superintendent Curtis-Whipple to Attorney Joe Emerson (action requested)**

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to refer open meeting law complaint of May 11, 2020 filed by Gail Sheehan against Weymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh and Superintendent Curtis-Whipple to Attorney Joe Emerson. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote. Passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Chapman School Building Update**

The Chair thanked Melanie Curtin and Becky Paulhus for their work in coordinating the schedule of the cleanout.

The project remains on time and on budget. Crews are using the fact that the school is no longer being used to get a head start on work such as the removal of asbestos containing materials.

Mrs. Curran inquired about the rodent issue due to the construction. Ted Langill is following up and Simon Tempest is reaching out to neighbors

## **Announcements:**

-Weymouth Market-June 3, 2020-NEW time-2:30pm-4:30pm-WHS Gold Cafeteria: Market will occur in a drive thru manner

-Budget Sub Committee-May 19, 2020-5:15pm, virtually

-Policy Sub-May 27 at 6:30, virtually

-School Committee Meeting-Thursday, May 28, 2020 – 7:00pm - Virtually

**The Meeting adjourned at 10:42pm** on the motion of Tracey Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll call vote - passed unanimously.

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**Documents Attached to These Minutes:**

- Primary, Middle, High School Handbook changes
- Modular, Adams Renovation, Transportation Presentation
- MOA
- BCBA request
- Open meeting law complaints

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "John" is on the left, followed by a middle initial "P", and the last name "Sullivan" is on the right.

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John Sullivan  
Secretary