



Weymouth

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Weymouth School Committee

Mary Jo Livingstone Humanities Center

Weymouth High School

March 12, 2020

Meeting Minutes

(approved 5/28/20)

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.

The Meeting Came to Order At 7:05pm. The chair led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Warrant 38-2020 in the amount of \$1,101,847.23 , Dated 3/16/20 presented with an assurance there is money to pay for these items.
- Regular Minutes: 2/27/20
- Policy Subcommittee: 2/25/20
- Budget Subcommittee: 3/4/20

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

Student Advisory

Katelyn Horan and Lauren Crisileo came to the table and gave a summary of their update. Topics included bathrooms, breakfast carts, eliminating finals/midterms, and traffic concerns.

A copy of their update is attached to these minutes.

The committee thanked that advisory group and the administration for their efforts in working together.

Public Comment

There was none.

Report of the Superintendent

Reading Across America kicked off on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2, 2020. Guest readers from the town and school department including the Superintendent read to classes across the district.

To celebrate literacy 13 students at Abigail Adams traveled to the Johnson preschool and read to 2 classes modeling fluent reading and expression. They also created a Book Buddy Project.

The Superintendent gave a synopsis of how to get up to date information on COVID19-Coronavirus. The Weymouth Public Schools website homepage: <https://www.weymouthschools.org/> has a link to the updates:

<https://www.weymouthschools.org/district/news/coronavirus-covid-19-updates-0>

Helpful resources and links may be found here. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stressed the importance of handwashing. Health and nursing staff are visiting primary schools to teach handwashing and the Middle and High School students watched a handwashing video in homeroom.

There will be a call with Commissioner Riley at 8:30am, Friday, March 13, 2020 to discuss the ever changing information and the possibility of e-learning.. If schools are closed for a long period of time, as long as the 5 snow days are used and the June 30 mark is met, days missed will be waived.

Cleaning protocols have increased with deep cleanings and the Superintendent thanked the maintenance and custodial staff. Bathrooms are sufficiently stocked.

Safety of students and staff is of the utmost importance and the Superintendent asked for patience as information is being received rapidly and ever changing and reiterated that it is business as usual. Change may happen at a moment's notice and Dr. Curtis advised that the district would opt for full day closure rather than early dismissal.

Large functions are being evaluated for cancellations, postponement/suspended or a change. The Theatre Guild canceled the 2nd round of the festival that WHTC was competing in.

MIAA advised that spring sports are postponed until March 30, 2020 and that championship games through the MIAA have been canceled. Dr. Curtis-Whipple advised that any form of practices are not to be held.

The attendance policy has been lifted and there will not be attendance fail at WHS. If students are out sick, parents/guardians will still need to call the appropriate school office to report the absence.

The Superintendent stressed that if staff, students or families who have had personal contact with someone truly diagnosed with COVID-coronavirus to share that with the health office so safety can be assured. Dr. Curtis-Whipple advised that everything is being done to be proactive and not reactive and to keep everyone healthy.

The Chair and committee thanked The Superintendent for her leadership and the clear and concise way that the information was explained. She also reminded if there are questions, to check the website before calling and/or emailing.

The Superintendent thanked Paula Magnasco and the nursing team, Rob Wargo, Brian Smith, Mary Ann Foley and all of the administration staff for the hard work and efforts.

Dr. Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw shared that she has received numerous texts with questions from community members and that she will get back to them. She inquired if the district were to suspend classes how would that information be distributed and clarified the absence procedure. She also inquired about MCAS.

The Superintendent advised that notification would be just a snow day with messenger voicemails, emails and media. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated that health and wellbeing is first concern before MCAS right now.

First Student and Weymouth busses and vans will be sanitized.

Mrs. Palazzo inquired if supplies/donations are needed. The Superintendent reiterated that Lysol/Clorox wipes, Purell, pump soap donation are always appreciated.

Mrs. Nardone made a motion to support the Superintendent's efforts and decisions that the Superintendent has taken and as reported tonight in response to actions taken for the Coronavirus. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Passed Unanimously.

New Business

a. School Safety - WEA Union President

Moved to the next meeting as Mr. Murphy was not present.

b. Town of Weymouth Census - Elizabeth Foster Nolan

Ms. Foster Nolan came to the table and gave an overview of her presentation and reminded residents that they can complete the census online. Topics included funding, timeline dates, census questions, public service announcements and outreach. This census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and happens every 10 years. No citizenship questions are on the census. The 2020 census will never ask for social security number, political party, bank or credit card numbers. Completion of the census takes about 10 minutes and can be done via phone, mail, or online.

All questions asked by the committee were addressed. The committee thanked Ms. Foster Nolan.

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes

c. Student Opportunity Act Plan Review - Assistant Superintendent Brian Smith

Mr. Smith gave a summary of the short form for Chapter 70 funding that will need to be submitted by April 1st. Assistant Superintendent Smith reiterated that Weymouth will be receiving zero funds for this submission. The form will be voted on at the March 26, 2020 meeting.

d. Budget Sub-Committee Report 3/4/20 - John Sullivan

Dr. Sullivan gave an overview of the Budget Sub Committee report. Topics included a 2.5% salary increase for non union staff that have not yet been a part of recent salary adjustments, Weycare Fees, School lunch fee review, Extended School Year pay rate and the Student Opportunity Act.

A copy of the report is attached to these minutes

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to approve the report of the budget subcommittee 3/4/20. Seconded by Ms. Palazzo. Passed unanimously.

e. Policy Sub-Committee Report 2/25/20, 3/11/20 - Tracey Nardone

Mrs. Nardone gave a summary of her report informing that Mr. Hardy from Massachusetts Association of School Committee is helping to review and revise the current policy manual. There was a final review of Section A, Section B was reviewed page by page. Dates and topics for future meetings were set. Sections C & D were reviewed at the March 11 meeting and Mrs. Nardone thanked Superintendent Curtis-Whipple and Assistant Superintendent for their input on the sections with everything else going on.

A copy of the report is attached to these minutes

Motion by Dr. Sullivan to accept the report of the policy subcommittee. Seconded by Dr. Sherlock Shangraw. Passed unanimously.

f. Review Section A Policy Manual Changes

Mrs. Nardone gave a copy of Section A to committee members at the last meeting for review. She reiterated that readings will be combined whenever possible. Homework and votes will be occurring each meeting.

The Chair advised that a list of the changes should be posted on the agenda so that the community can be made aware.

Mrs. Curran noted that for Policy ADDA, the amount for the background check fee shouldn't be listed because it could change. Mrs. Nardone concurred. She also asked that the acronym "DCJIS" (Department of Criminal Justice Information System) be spelled out.

Mrs. Nardone reminded that Mrs. Curran can present her questions/revisions at policy subcommittee as she is on the committee.

For ACAD-the position should be listed only and not the name of the person who holds the position.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw asked Mrs. Nardone to give a brief explanation of who Mr. Hardy is. It was stated that Mr. Hardy is a liaison with the Massachusetts Association of School Committee and he handles all changes for policies throughout Massachusetts and is a wonderful resource who is very reachable and has an encyclopedic knowledge of policies.

Mr. Wargo thanked Mrs. Nardone for her leadership and the way she runs the policy subcommittee meetings.

Section A will be moved the first reading at the next school committee meeting.

g. Refer OML of February 28, 2020 filed by Gerard Mackin against Weymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh to Attorney Joe Emerson

A motion was made by Dr. Sullivan to refer OML of February 28, 2020 filed by Gerard Mackin against Weymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh to Attorney Joe Emerson, for Chair to review and then file. Seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Passed unanimously.

Conduct of Public Hearing

SUBJECT #1: School Choice*

*As reported in the February 19, 2020 edition of the Weymouth News.

The chair gave an overview as it relates to the provision of education reform act, Chapter 76, Section 12-non residents are able to attend school on a space available basis unless the School Committee votes not to participate in school choice. The Chair recommended that due to lack of space WPS withdraw from the obligation of enrolling non resident students (the practice known under the law as School Choice).

The Chair opened up for public comment.

There was none.

Mrs Nardone made a motion to close public hearing on school choice. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

Mrs. Nardone made a motion that Weymouth Public Schools not participate in school choice for SY 2020/21. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

SUBJECT #2: The FY21 Budget as of February 19, 2020 for the Weymouth Public Schools**

**As reported in the February 19, 2020 edition of the Weymouth News
Dr. Curtis-Whipple and Assistant Superintendent Smith came to the table and gave an overview of their presentation. Topics included organizing for improvement, vision and mission statements, Strategic levers, funding, Chapter 70 and state aid, Circuit Breaker and Medicaid reimbursement, Budget overview (revolving and level service), capital improvement plan, needs and compliance lists and Full Day Kindergarten. Proposed budget for FY21 is \$76,119,856.

The Chair reminded that community members can put in writing comments/questions to the School Committee and they will be taken into consideration at the next budget sub meeting on March 17, 2020 and that the School Committee would be voting on the budget at the March 26, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Smith summarized the timeline.

The budget needs to be to the Mayor April 1, 2020 who then has 2 weeks for review then it will go before Town Council on April 16, 2020.

The Superintendent met with Mayor Hedlund on March 11, 2020 and gave the same presentation. Expectations were heard and continued collaboration was discussed.

Opened to public hearing for FY21 Budget
There was none

Mrs. Nardone made a motion to close public hearing on the budget FY21. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Sullivan left table at 8:34pm and returned at 8:36pm
Mrs. Nardone left the table at 8:36pm and returned at 9:01pm

All questions asked by the committee were addressed.
A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes

Old Business

a. 2020-2021 School Calendar (action requested)

The Superintendent gave an overview of the changes including Primary School open houses being held on individual nights after a discussion with the principals. The Committee thanked the Superintendent and Principals.

Dr. Sullivan left the table at 9:04pm and returned at 9:05pm

Mrs. Nardone made a motion to approve the 2020/21 calendar. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

The Superintendent reminded everyone that the first day for staff will be September 1, 2020. For students grade 1 and up on September 2, 2020 and for PreK and Kindergarten the first day will be September 8, 2020.

b. Chapman School Building Update

- **School Building Committee Meeting - March 31, 2020, 6:30pm at the Whipple Center**

Currently at 60% of funding requests. The Chair asked community members to attend or watch the March 31st meeting.

- **Updates to Abigail Adams Renovations**

School administration has been meeting with The Mayor and his staff to determine renovation cost and discuss possibilities for obtaining additional funding.

The Superintendent shared that John Macleod might present at the next meeting.

The Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2020, 7pm - MJL Humanities Center, WHS

Announcements:

Budget Sub Committee-March 17, 2020 at 5:30pm - Administration

Policy Sub Committee-March 25, 2020 - 6:00pm - Administration

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Orientation-March 25, 2020-6:30pm-Adams Auditorium

CANCELED-WEF Quiz Night-April 3, 2020Weymouth-Braintree Elk-CANCELED

Weymouth Market - April 1, 2020, 3:30pm - WHS Gold Cafeteria

The Meeting Adjourned at 9:09pm on the motion of Mrs. Nardone. Seconded by Dr Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

- Town of Weymouth Census Presentation
- SOA Plan Review
- Budget Sub Committee report
- Policy Sub Committee report
- Section A of Policy Manual
- OML of February
- Budget Proposal Summary dated March 12, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Sullivan", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

John P. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Secretary