



# Weymouth

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Weymouth School Committee

Meeting of the Whole  
MJL Humanities Center  
February 6, 2020  
Meeting Minutes  
(approved 2/27/20)

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

**Members Absent:** Mayor Hedlund

**Also Present:** Superintendent Curtis Whipple, Assistant Superintendent Smith, Director of Human Resources, Maryann Foley, Attorney Callanan, Eileen Pitts

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**The Meeting Came to Order At 6:25.**

**Discuss Upcoming Chapman Open Forum Meetings on February 11, 2020**

Superintendent Curtis-Whipple reminded everyone that there would be a Chapman Forum on February 11, 2020 right after school for staff and then another meeting for the community from 5-6pm. The goal of both meetings would be to inform people of all the changes that will surround the project.. There was a google document that was circulated by school messenger to collect questions, which is also available on the website under Superintendent's Corner.

Ms. Palazzo verified that school committee members could attend.

Chair Belmarsh emphasized all the work that has been done in preparation of closing Chapman, moving 60 years worth of stuff and suggested a slide be made to add to the presentation to help people understand all of the hard work that is being done every day to make this project happen.

The Superintendent said that everyone is working very hard to be able to close in 2 months.

Ms. Curran mentioned that parents are concerned with drop off and pick up at WHS and also requested a price tag for the modulars and Assistant Superintendent Smith advised 2 million.

**Refer OML of January 31, 2020 and February 5, 2020 filed by Gerard Mackin against Weymouth School Committee, Chair Belmarsh to Town Solicitor Callanan**

Chair Belmarsh made a motion to refer complaints to the town solicitor for response. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call Vote-all yes.

**Discussion on School Committee Open Forum Community Meetings**

Chair Belmarsh-tabled

Joe Callanan left at 6:32pm

**Recording Secretary Changes**

Chair Belmarsh gave an overview of the process in place; the recording secretary creates draft and submits to Dr. Sullivan who in turn will forward to Mrs. Pitts to post.

Mrs Curran requested that a training workshop be done to better understand and effectively make changes to notes before they go on the blog. Ms. Curran also requested more turnaround time than what has been done in the past as she doesn't feel she can effectively make comments/corrections.

Tracey Nardone suggested maybe one to one training.

Dr. Sullivan reiterated that there isn't an efficient way for corrections in regard to open meeting law.

Ms. Curran suggested sending corrections to Dr. Sullivan to add and Chair Belmarsh added that she doesn't believe that is in violation of open meeting law.

Chair Belmarsh asked Mrs. Pitts to organize a Google lesson or workshop with Mr. Lindholm, the IT director..

Mrs. Curran shared that the 3 day turnaround is not enough time for her. She added that We were missing a meeting of the whole minutes for November 14, 2020-that it was on the agenda but was never posted.

Chair Belmarsh advised that once the minutes are caught up it won't seem so daunting Dr.Sherlock-Shangraw inquired if minutes are posted with attachments.

Ms. Pitts commented that attachments are posted with meetings on the left side of the website and she also has a hard copy.

Chair Belmarsh requested improvement with attachments for meetings including budget sub and policy sub.

Mrs. Pitts advised that they can set it up like it is on the page for televised school committee meetings.

The Chair reiterated that Dr. Sullivan will receive changes and will then send them to be posted.

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

The Superintendent shared that John MacLeod will be at the next school committee meeting on February 27, 2020 and gave a brief summary of the possibility of the closing of Abigail Adams being delayed by 1 year. The Superintendent also shared that she has received a question about why the estimate came in much higher than the original estimate (2-3 million to 4-5 million)? Dr. Curtis-Whipple commented that the first estimate was a high level estimate through HMFH. In 2019, a true feasibility study was done and the building needed a lot more work-especially plumbing, ceiling tiles, work on the kindergarten suite addition, doing renovations around the building, etc. There was quite a difference from the first rough estimate. The scope of work greatly increased. The Superintendent added that the first quote was conceptual and that it would be important for the building to be renovated the right way and having it take longer provides a better final product. John McLeod will also draft a time proposal for the next meeting in February

Other uses for the property were talked about including a requested building to house school vehicles, Weycare, and provide central storage for maintenance. Mitchell field was also mentioned. It is considered school land and the school committee would have to vote to alter it.

Mrs. Curran inquired in addition to the Kindergarten Suite, what administration will do with the remaining space. The Chair advised that once more information and enrollment is known the conversation can go forward.

Mrs. Nardone inquired about redistricting and the Superintendent advised it will remain status quo for the year the Adams is closed and then the district will revisit numbers, but in any case, the MA School Building Authority requires Adams to open as a primary school.

Chapman and Abigail Adams will not be closed at the same time.

5th grade teachers and certification concerns, and plans for a primary school mentoring program were discussed. Current fourth grade teachers would be paired with new fifth grade teachers to help them acclimate to the primary schools.

The Chair hopes that community members and staff will bring questions to the forum on February 11, 2020.

Dr. Sullivan pointed out that the the number of students in the building doesn't change the cost of the renovation as the work has to be done regardless of the number of students.

Ms. Palazzo stated she is grateful for extra money and additional improvement however she regrets it wasn't estimated more precisely earlier.

Mrs. Nardone shared she would rather close for a year and not do the work in a piecemeal fashion.

## **Open Forum**

The Chair shared that she is looking for ways to invite community members to meetings of the whole, and suggested one consideration might be to explore alternate times to meet during the day. Discussion on this will continue in future meetings.

**The Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm** on the motion of Chair Belmarsh, seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Passed unanimously.  
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**Documents Attached to These Minutes:**

- Minutes flow sheet

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "S".

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John Sullivan  
Secretary