

**WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
M I N U T E S**

Date: March 9, 2017

Present: Chair Belmarsh, Mrs. Sheehan, Ms. Flemer Mrs. Nardone (arrived at 8:34 p.m.), Mrs. Curran, Dr. Sullivan and Mayor Hedlund (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)

Also present: Superintendent Curtis-Whipple, Assistant Superintendent Kelly Stukenborg, Assistant Superintendent Kustka and Business Manager Mary Lee

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Warrant 37-2017 in the amount of \$1,551,740.43

Approval of Minutes: February 2, 2017

Field Trips:

Confirmation of WHS, Grades 10-12 MASS DECA State Conference, Marriott Hotel, Boston March 9 – 11, 2017

WHS, Grades 9-12 University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH March 11, 2017

WHS, Grades 10-12, Bryant University, Smithfield RI, March 24, 2017, March 25, 2017 & March 26, 2017

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to approve the consent agenda with money to pay. So voted, 7:01 p.m.

Mrs. Curran announced that on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Tufts Library the Weymouth Historical Society will be presenting "Protecting our Past".

Chair Belmarsh announced that Mayor Hedlund and Mrs. Nardone were running late.

Student Advisory Committee

Not in attendance as they were at Mr. WHS Event this evening.

Public Comment

Chair Belmarsh opened the meeting to public comment. There was none.

Superintendent's Report

Correspondence

Kindergarten Registration went well! We have worked to include an online registration component and families seemed happy with the changes.

Read Across America kicked off for the month of March! Nash welcomed many visitors from across our community including the Mayor, Captain Still (Fire), Office Favreau, Dr. Curtis-Whipple, Betsy Harris, Marie

Jankord from Bob's Muffin Shop, Mr. Patrick, Jamie Murphy, and Elaine Thorberg, a local social worker. This was a wonderful way to bring important members of our community together and enter our classrooms to read with the students. We had a wonderful day!

Ed Tech

- All iPads purchased for the elementary schools as well as the preschool were distributed.
- The WHS art department received ten (10) new iMacs. These iMacs are particularly helpful in the creation of the yearbook.
- 136 classroom computers were installed at WHS. Students from Mr. Conaghan's, CTE IT class assisted with the installation of the computers over February vacation.
- Ten security replacement cameras were installed at WHS.
- Brett Lindholm has accepted our offer to become our new Ed. Tech Director. Brett is currently the Ed. Tech Director for Upper Cape Technical School in Bourne. He will begin April 1st, but will attend our next school committee meeting to the Committee.

Weymouth's Got talent at WHS 6:30-8:30 on March 14th. March 14th is also a district wide PD choice day for our teachers.

Today is the day that the Dana Farber mammogram van is at Weymouth High School for the capstone project real-world application of Kyra Maskell & Meghan Crosson. The van staff has agreed to allow tours of the mammogram van from 1:00-2:15 if you are interested in seeing how it works.

The 9th Annual Weymouth School Day Games for Special Olympics will be held on April 27, 2017 9:45-1:00 at WHS.

Dr. Sullivan took a moment to congratulate Susan Kustka who is now Dr. Susan Kustka. She successfully defended her thesis and will receive her doctorate in May.

New Business

Report on Teaching and Learning

Primary School Presentation

Dr. Curtis-Whipple invited the primary school principals to the table. Jean McLean, Wessagusset; Maura Perez, Johnson; Nate Thorsteinson, Talbot; Rebecca Kelly, Nash; Kathy Guilfooy, Pingree; Patrick Costello, Murphy; Patrick Higgins, Academy Avenue and Nancy Schuhwerk, Interim at Seach. A powerpoint presentation was given with the following being reviewed: Summary of Student Data; Four Performance Challenges (Literacy, Mathematics, Family Engagement and School Culture and Social, Emotional and Behavior Development; Accomplishments and Key Initiatives and Resource Priorities. All questions asked by the Committee were addressed.

Chair Belmarsh commented on the incredible job the principals are doing. It is clear that you are taking that challenge and making strides. Impressed that the principals are digging into the data.

Report of Sub-Committees

Policy Sub-Committee

Mrs. Curran read the report of the Policy Sub-Committee from February 27, 2017 (a copy is attached to these notes). Reviewed Policy EE-1 – Parochial School Transportation. Policies reviewed at the Policy meeting were given to legal for review prior to being put on the School Committee Agenda.

The next meeting of the Policy Sub-Committee will be on March 13th at 6:00 at the Administration Building.

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to approve the report of the Policy Sub-Committee. So voted, 7:59 p.m.

Public Hearing for School Choice

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, voted to open the meeting for the Public Hearing on School Choice. So voted 8:00 p.m.

Chair Belmarsh shared that School Choice is something that we have to vote on every year. This relates to a provision in the Education Reform Act as stipulated by MGL Chapter 76 section 12B. Under this program non-resident students can attend schools in the community without paying tuition on a space available basis. There is an element of the law that makes community participation in school choice mandatory unless a vote is taken not to participate.

Due to the lack of space, it is the chair's recommendation that Weymouth Public Schools withdraw from the obligation of enrolling non-residential students referred to as School Choice for the school year beginning 2017.

There was no public comment on School Choice.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted to close Public Comment on School Choice. So voted, 8:01 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted not to participate in School Choice for the 2017-2018 school year. So voted, 8:02 p.m.

Public Hearing – Budget

At 8:02 p.m., on motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was unanimously voted open the meeting for the Public Hearing on Budget.

Chair Belmarsh officially opens public hearing. Chairman Belmarsh described in detail the budget process and submission of the budget to Town Council.

Mayor Hedlund arrives at 8:05 p.m.

Dr. Sullivan left the meeting at 8:07 p.m. returns at 8:09 p.m.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple and Leia Secor came to the table. Dr. Curtis-Whipple explained that Ms. Secor is attending in the place of Business Manager Mary Lee who has to attend to a family issue. Dr. Curtis-Whipple outlines the process going forward this evening for the presentation of the FY18 Budget. Dr. Curtis-Whipple reviewed the budget breakdown and proposed budget (including all requests). Dr. Curtis-Whipple and Ms. Secor reviewed the Needs List summary and additions for FY18. Ms. Secor reviewed the following; technology

needs, special education program needs, curriculum leadership/teacher support, free cash allocations, expense budget drivers and per pupil expenditure.

Mrs. Nardone arrived at 8:34 p.m.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple concluded with how proud she is of her team that worked collaboratively to create this budget that with maintain our excellent schools and make them even better.

Chair Belmarsh asked if the Committee had any questions. All questions asked by the Committee were addressed by Dr. Curtis-Whipple and Ms. Secor.

Chair Belmarsh opened the meeting to public comment.

Mayor Hedlund thanked Dr. Curtis-Whipple in her first year as Superintendent for her first budget process.

Chief of Staff to the Mayor, Ted Langill came to the table. Commented on the collaborative effort on the budget process with the public schools. Met with Administration last week and went line by line through the budget. Shared it was a learning process for them. Stated that there is still work to do to balance the budget. He talked about projected revenue, health insurance costs and new growth in town. Mr. Langill also shared the increasing costs, collective bargaining town-wide, retirement benefit costs and hoping to know in April about local aid when the budget comes out.

The town has drafted a letter to the state and is hoping that the School Committee will join them in sending the concern to the state regarding the assessment versus Chapter 70 funding deficit. Chair Belmarsh stated that the letter is being sent and thanked the Mayor's office.

Chair Belmarsh asked committee members to support and sign this letter to our state representatives.

Mrs. Sheehan stated that she will support this but would like more notice next time so we are not seeing something for the first time at a meeting and then having to take a vote on it that night..

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan that the school committee will support and sign the letter to our state representatives, Rep. Murphy and Rep. Mariano and Sen. O'Connor. So voted, 8:58 p.m.

Town Councilor Jane Hackett came to the table. Thanks Dr. Curtis-Whipple and staff for their efforts in the budget process. Asked about the increase for Unit A. Dr. Curtis-Whipple explained the increase as contractual and part of the level service budget. Ms. Hackett also likes the five-year plan and would like the Chapman project to be built in as well.

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan came to the table. Discussed her concerns with special education projections future year column projects being empty, to put something like "to be determined" in those columns, Chapter 70, and need for curriculum coordinators.

Chris Primiano came to the table. Recommends with the 5-year plan that you prioritize within each given year. Asked for another level of transparency.

Andrea Honore came to the table. Thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak tonight. Stated there is a different feeling from past years. It's working and it is great to see and feel the difference and that she has hope this year.

Gus Perez comes to the table. Echoed what previous speakers had to say. Superintendent Curtis-Whipple has done a good job on the budget in her first year as Superintendent. Shows there has been great thought put into the budget process this year. Addresses his concerns. Discussed the end of year report and hoped that we are putting our revised numbers in very soon. Chair Belmarsh confirmed this. Asked if the proposed budget request and needs list will be the number sent to the town. Chair Belmarsh explained that we are not at that point right now it is still being reviewed in sub-committee. Mr. Perez discussed his concerns regarding prioritizing the lines. He also stated that he thinks the 5-year needs list plan is a reasonable approach, but we need to clarify that these are not really needs. Also, fiscal year 18 is the second year of our multi-year Technology Plan. He feels that funding this is really not optional. Mr. Perez commented on athletic budget, discussed coach stipends were not being covered by appropriations as discussed in budget sub. A conversation was had about where information was coming from. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated that we will look at the athletics amount more closely. Ms. Kustka left the meeting at 9:38 p.m. returned at 9:41 p.m.

Mayor Hedlund stated that he is trying to make strices. Prop 2 ½ did not work, so we are taking steps to improve our commercial tax base, looking at zoning, characterizing free cash versus non-recurring revenue. The Mayor hopes part of the solution will be property tax growth; and they are looing to grants to assist with town repairs and improvements.

Mr. Perez responded that Mayor Hedlund deserves credit for re-energizing Weymouth.

Dr. Sullivan stated that we don't want confusion as to what requests we would be making. He is trying to be realistic.

Ms. Flemer discussed the five year plan and how she supports the process. Also addressed how it will allow for the addition of positions as we can eventually get to where we want to be. Mr. Langill came back to the table. Clarified that this is a concerted effort with administration. He also stated that if School Committee submits our full needs list, it would be battling other departments in Town's needs. They all have capital budget requests separate from the operational budget.

Chair Belmarsh reminded that there is another budget sub-committee meeting on Thursday, March 16th.

On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Mrs. Sheehan it was voted to close the Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 School Budget. So Voted 9:44 p.m.

Old Business

MSBA Chapman Feasibility Study

Chair Belmarsh invited Mr. Langill, Chair of the School Building Committee to the table to provide an update. There was a public hearing on March 2nd at the MJL Humanities Center. At that meeting the proposed contractor Hill attended. On March 6th there was a meeting with MSBA where Hill was presented as our

project manager and it was confirmed this week. Next steps will be to advertise for a designer. Mr. Langill discussed the process.

Announcements

The SEPAC meeting at the Tufts Library with the MA Bureau of Special Education Mediation was a great event.

The next SEPAC meeting will be on April 4th at 7:00 p.m. at Tufts Library there will be a speaker on Autism.

Ms. Flemer shared she has a table for School Committee at the WEF Quiz Night.

Chair Belmarsh shared that the 2nd Annual Clothing Swap will be at the Weymouth Main Branch Library on Saturday from 10-3.

Norfolk District Attorney’s Office presents “The Other Talk”, Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mayor Hedlund shared that the School Building Committee has created a Facebook Page to further the outreach to the Community.

Executive Session

At 9:52 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of approving and reviewing Executive Session Minutes: 12/1/16, only to return to open session for the purpose of adjournment. A roll call vote was taken; Dr. Sullivan: YES; Mrs. Sheehan, YES; Ms. Flemer, YES; Mrs. Nardone, YES; Mrs. Curran, Yes; Mayor Hedlund, YES; Chair Belmarsh, YES. So voted.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee Meeting of the Whole

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on March 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

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Adjourn

At 11:03 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Mrs. Nardone, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Sheehan – Secretary

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Warrant 37-2017 in the amount of \$1,551,740.43
- Approval of Minutes: February 2, 2017
- Field Trips:
 - Confirmation of WHS, Grades 10-12 MASS DECA State Conference, Marriott Hotel, Boston March 9 – 11, 2017
 - WHS, Grades 9-12 University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH March 11, 2017
 - WHS, Grades 10-12, Bryant University, Smithfield RI, March 24, 2017, March 25, 2017 & March 26, 2017
- Policy EE
- Letter from Mayor Hedlund to State Representatives Murphy, Mariano and Senator O'Connor

APPROVED