

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Approved 6/8/17

Date: May 11, 2017

Present: Chair Belmarsh, Mrs. Sheehan, Mrs. Curran, Ms. Flemer, Dr. Sullivan, Mrs. Nardone
Absent: Mayor Hedlund and Assistant Superintendent Kustka
Also present: Superintendent Curtis-Whipple, Assistant Superintendent Kelly Stukenborg,
and Business Manager Mary Lee

Call to Order

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

A moment of silence was had for Richard Critch, husband of retired resource officer Patti Critch who passed away recently.

Consent Agenda

Payment of Bills: Warrant 46-2017 in the amount of \$1,218,184.81

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to approve the consent agenda with money to pay. So voted, 7:02 p.m.

Student Advisory Committee

Chair Belmarsh invited Student Advisory to the table. Katherine Page the safety captain for the Robotics team. Shared their experiences in competing this year. Thankful to the community for all of their support this year. The team has made great progress and made it to the District Competition and won the second highest ranking in the district. They used Go Fund Me for fundraising and raised over \$7,000. The team Qualified for worlds, the cost was \$23,000 and they used Go Fund Me again. They were able to raise the funds with little resources. All members were able to go. They received two awards for Team Spirit and Safety; and they placed 64th out of the 407 teams that participated in the World competition

Public Comment

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

Superintendent's Report

Correspondence

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared information regarding the shortage Police Resource Officers at this time. The Police Department is aware of the shortages and is attempting to fill in where necessary. She also stated that the Police Dept. hopes to have these positions filled by fall. She thanked them for their support for the schools.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple attended Shrek Jr. – The Musical at Adams it was a great performance. Thanked all the teachers and staff that supported their production. It was very interesting to watch, so many students with the spot light on them, it was good to see!

National Honors Society Ceremony was last Tuesday, seniors commemorated a teacher from their earlier grades. Graduation is on June 10th at 10:00 a.m. The seniors are attending the senior cruise this evening.

Mrs. Curran asked about the resources officers. Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that Patti Critch retired and Officer Flanagan is out on medical leave. Sargent St. Croix and Officer Favreau are filling in as much as they can.

Mrs. Sheehan asked why budget sub-committee was cancelled. Chair Belmarsh stated the items on the agenda were not time sensitive. Dr. Curtis-Whipple explained with upcoming meetings on May 22nd they wanted time to prepare the information to present and discuss at Budget subcommittee.

New Business

Weymouth Educational Foundation Block Grant Acceptance

Dr. Curtis-Whipple invited Mrs. Maloney to the table. Shared that we are excited and grateful to WEF for their donations. WEF has graciously donated \$15,000 to the district. we will be using the funds to buy 12 interactive projectors - one for every building for \$8880. The remaining \$6120 will be used to purchase materials for the Chapman Middle School and the High School art departments.

Mrs. Maloney shared that over the past 17 years WEF has given out over \$300,000 to Weymouth Public Schools. Trivia night went so well this year that WEF had the funds to give to Weymouth Public Schools. Asked the public to be aware that we always need the help.

Mrs. Sheehan thanks the Educational Foundation Board members for voting these funds, particularly the \$6,100 that will be used for the art department.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple reminded everyone that the WEF Annual Golf Tournament is held at the end of August.

Chair Belmarsh stated that the projects that WEF funds are the ones that mean the most to our teachers and students. WEF goes out classrooms grants to run program in their classrooms or schools each year.

Mrs. Maloney shared that the grants are spread out from Johnson Early Childhood Center to Weymouth High School. The largest grant is \$1,000 and goes a long way.

Mrs. Curran asked if the projectors are part of the IT plan. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated they are and Brett Lindholm is working on this.

Mrs. Maloney share that next year's WEF Trivia night will be on April 6th.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to accept the \$15,000 block grant from WEF. So voted, 7:30 p.m.

Acceptance of Gifts

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to table the acceptance of gifts. So voted, 7:31 p.m.

WHS Student Handbook – First Reading

Principal Peter Haviland and Dean Rebecca Fisher came to the table to present the proposed changes to the WHS Student Handbook. Ms. Fisher outlines the proposed changes in detail and a discussion with Committee members ensued.

Mrs. Sheehan questioned their proposed change regarding "Building Security" where they want to change the wording that the police are not notified immediately, only "if necessary." She brought up the March 2nd incident regarding the intruders at the High School - and that the police were not notified in a timely fashion. She feels they should be notified, not just "if necessary", and stated that she does not support this change to the High School handbook

Chair Belmarsh moved to second reading.

Mrs. Sheehan asked if in the future we can receive these changes earlier, does not like to combine second and third reading in case there is discussion.

Report on Teaching and Learning: English Language Learners – MaryAnn Bryan

Dr. Curtis-Whipple invited Mary Ann Bryan and the ELL team to the table. Iris Vallsdottier, district paraprofessional for ELL, Jennifer Johnson, Molly Louzan and Karen Ceo. A powerpoint presentation was provided. This presentation reviewed the Weymouth ELL Program, statewide assessments, Adult ESL, the role of the ESL teacher in WPS, social emotional supports, collaboration and partnerships, cultural proficiency and State and Federal Changes and future considerations.

Additional information was provided about Title 3 grant program at Seach that program included more students and longer period of time. Mrs. Sheehan commented she heard great things about the program. Mrs. Sheehan asked question regarding 'opting out' and why a student would do so. Mrs. Bryan stated students opt out for a variety of reasons including to stay in home school, family decides services not needed. Dr. Sullivan commented that data showing work they are doing is working to help students make strides in academic competencies. Mrs. Flemer commented need for services in high school also important.

Chair acknowledges comment by public member, Gus Perez. Mr. Perez asked if additional positions would be hired if there was additional funding based on needs and to truly be effective. Mrs. Bryan commented that program is very flexible and meeting needs but will present if needs change. Mrs. Curran asked if students stay in program longer will needs change? Mrs. Bryan again stated program is good right now and if find needs will communicate that. Proficiency standards also allow students and administration to determine needs.

School Calendar 2017-2018 (Action Requested)

Dr. Curtis-Whipple outlined the 2017-2018 calendar. Calendar discussion to clarify on calendar the dates of end of school year, professional days and kindergarten days.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to approve the 2017-2018 school year calendar. So voted, 8:46 p.m.

Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement with Weymouth Educators Association, Unit D (Action Requested)

Chair Belmarsh welcomed Ydana Chella, WEA President, Joanie Cederholm, WEA Vice President and Janet Carpenter, Para Representative to the table. Ms. Flemer went over the details of the proposed contract and stated that the ABA therapists have been added to this Unit D contract. She also reported that the cost for this negotiation for FY17 will be \$3589.24.

Ms. Cederholm clarified CNA's would be paid plus \$1.00 not only \$1.00. Shared it was an honor to be part of the negotiation team and thanked her colleagues.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that Ms. Kustka would have wanted to be here but was celebrating her doctoral achievement this evening.

On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to approve the Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Weymouth School Committee and Weymouth Educators Association, Unit D. So voted, 8:50 p.m.

Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement between Weymouth School Committee and SEIU Local 888, Maintenance Employees (Action Requested)

Ms. Flemer reviewed the proposed changes to the contract in detail and that the cost for this negotiation for FY17 will be \$9883.78.

On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to approve the Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Weymouth School Committee and SEIU, Local 888, Maintenance Employees. So voted, 8:55 p.m.

Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement between Weymouth School Committee and SEIU Local 888, Van Drivers/Monitors (Action Requested)

Ms. Flemer reviewed the proposed changes to the contract in detail and that the cost for this negotiation for FY17 will be \$6530.87.

Mrs. Sheehan asked for a correction to Mrs. Flemer's report, that it was that the van drivers do "shift-bidding", not ship building.

On motion of Ms. Flemer seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to approve the Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Weymouth School Committee and SEIU, Local 888, Van Drivers/Monitors. So voted, 8:57 p.m.

Ms. Flemer thanked the negotiating team, John Sullivan, Tracey Nardone, Mary Lee and Susan Kustka for their many hours of commitment for these negotiations.

Old Business

MSBA Chapman Feasibility Study

Chair Belmarsh reported that there was a meeting held on May 9th. Several Building Committee Members attended to review the design panel. A meeting was held with the School Building Committee to choose the 3 finalists for our designer. A meeting will be held at MSBA in Boston for the final interviews.

On June 6th there will be two public forums. One at 9:30 a.m. and the other at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapman Middle School. We are encouraging anyone who wants to share thoughts or ideas to attend. It is a great opportunity to voice your ideas, opinions and thoughts. The flyer will be sent out through our school messaging system as well as on the website. WETC will also have the information and will be taping the forum.

Proposed changes to Policy EEAG - Student Transportation in Private Vehicles – Second Reading

Mrs. Curran read the proposed changes to policy EEAG. Chair Belmarsh still has concerns about addressing the fact that there is a lot of transportation that take place for home events. Chair Belmarsh states she reached out to Kathy Curran and Kelly Stukenborg on this concern.

Suggested the following sentence to be added to the policy “Students are responsible for own transportation to home events, practices or activities unless school transportation is provided.” Further discussion was had around the language.

Chair Belmarsh opened the meeting to Public Comment.

Mr. Gus Perez came to the table. Asked was the potential change reviewed by the Athletic Director and is it compliant with MIIA Regulations. Assistant Superintendent Stukenborg addressed these concerns.

Mr. Hank Goldman came to the table. He does support the policy in general. Asked if this means you would have students driving in cars to/from these events. Is a parent/family informed how many people will be in these vehicles going to away events. Assistant Superintendent Stukenborg addressed his concerns. Parents would be notified who is driving. Mr. Goldman concerned over one on one supervision in the car.

Ms. Elizabeth Foster-Nolan came to the table. Stated that compliance with MGL and junior licenses should be mentioned in the policy.

Chair Belmarsh asked that the changes be made and posted to the website and moved to third reading.

Job Descriptions: Curriculum Directors, Assistant Curriculum Directors (Action Requested)

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that there was an information session offered last Friday for WEA members, non-union members etc. It was felt that these job descriptions were better suited in Unit B. A meeting

was held with Unit B representatives this week and discussed entering these positions into Unit B. The Director positions were to be contract personnel, non-union and the Assistant Directors in Unit B.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple asked if Committee members had questions regarding these positions and their placement in the Union.

Mrs. Sheehan discussed her concerns regarding the cost of these positions and needs to know more about the funding source. Dr. Curtis-Whipple will discuss in Executive Session.

Mrs. Sheehan asked for a list of the positions that are being let go as a funding source for these positions. She has not received this yet. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated the list is still being finalized to take into consideration retirements, changing positions, etc. It is still ongoing for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Sheehan also asked Dr. Curtis-Whipple how many retirements there are so far for this year. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated there were 5 as of today.

Mrs. Curran stated she is concerned about the amount of money that is being redirected for next year. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated we are in a good position at this time. It is a pilot program for one year. Worked very closely with Mary Lee and she has assured me that we can handle the funding at this time. Chair Belmarsh and Superintendent clarified the funding is from current teaching positions and savings. It is not an additional \$600,000.00. Mrs. Curran further asked about role of principal in selecting staff. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated that would have a role in this.

Dr. Sullivan asked to clarify it looks like six job but the assistant directors are also teaching and not full FTE's. He is concerned about class sizes with the funds available, but we can provide Curriculum Support with this funding. Dr. Sullivan reminded committee NEASC report cited these duties as needs as well and these positions will address these needs. Felt these moves are carefully tailored to keep get the most out of the funds available.

Mrs. Sheehan asked for clarification information from the Superintendent regarding the pilot program versus non-pilot positions. Dr. Curtis-Whipple clarified Director positions are not pilot and not union. Committee clarified that of the \$600,000 cited by Mrs. Curran, most of it is currently in the budget and not in addition to. Mrs. Curran stated a concern that committee has not seen these changes. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated until we have the actuals it is difficult to report on but will keep committee informed.

Mrs. Curran thanked Dr. Curtis-Whipple for having the meeting and following through on the questions from the previous meeting.

Chair Belmarsh reminded everyone that the budget is still in process, retirements are still in process, data collection and enrollment is ongoing. Chair Belmarsh also thanked Administration for seeing the opportunity to fill this need and the process is working to find solutions. The Chair also thanked teachers and Union Reps that came to the meeting and provided input and information for all.

Mrs. Curran shared her concern if we need more ELL or special education educators.

Mrs. Sheehan liked that that Assistant Curriculum Directors will also be teaching.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Gus Perez. He stated that we all need to trust in the Leadership in terms of pursuing these positions. For clarification purposes the four assistant directors are one year pilots. Mr. Perez asked for clarification around salaries. The two directors are moving forward. Also asked for information as to how the positions will be handled with the unions etc.

Chair Belmarsh stated that details of the Union placement of these positions will be discussed in Executive Session this evening.

Mr. Perez asked if we have received a commitment from Town side on the Capital list. Chair Belmarsh listed off the various items on the list that are being considered by a variety of sources including MSBA for the boilers and town requests for the A/C and IT. There a multiple conversations going on about what funding may or may not be available and waiting to hear from town what capital needs of the schools may be met. Chair and Dr. Curtis-Whipple anticipate some sort of funding will be provided for IT as has been requested through the budget process.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple also discussed the MSBA funding projects. There will be a meeting in Boston tomorrow that may give us some definitive answers.

Mr. Perez was concerned that where we do not know if we are getting the capital funds necessary and we are going down this path to increase the Curriculum staff.

The Chair thanked Tracey Nardone for our lovely flowers.

Chair Belmarsh shared a couple of announcements.

The SEPAC group has graciously moved their meeting on June 6th so we can all attend the Public Forum for MSBA Chapman Feasibility. The SEPAC meeting will be on June 7th at Tufts Library.

Town Wide Parent Council is June 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Humanities Center.

Chapman Feasibility Study Charter Public meeting, June 6th 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Chapman Middle School.

Policy Sub-Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m. at Administration.

The School Committee has been invited by the Veteran's Council to the Memorial Day Observances on Monday, May 29th.

Mrs. Sheehan shared a point of information that being cognizant of the Open Meeting Law training that she went to and because she is concerned about the continuing pattern of last minute agenda changes that fall contrary to the 48 hour notice period required by the Open Meeting Law that I will be voting no to go into this Executive Session Meeting this evening.

Chair Belmarsh clarified that open meeting law does allow changes within the 48 hour window before the meeting if those changes could not be foreseen. She continued to describe the reasoning behind why the Executive Session being held this evening as we did not know about this topic until yesterday. Mrs. Curran is also not comfortable and will also vote no to go into Executive Session this evening. She said we could always have a one item agenda special meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:45 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called for a motion to go into Executive Session. On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Nardone, Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; to discuss strategy relative to negotiations with union personnel: Unit B only to return to open session for the purpose of adjournment. A roll call vote was taken; Dr. Sullivan: YES; Mrs. Sheehan, NO; Ms. Flemer, YES; Mrs. Nardone, YES; Mrs. Curran, NO; Chair Belmarsh, YES. So voted.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on May 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

Adjourn

At 10:18 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Sheehan – Secretary

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Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Payment of Bills: Warrant 46-2017 in the amount of \$1,218,184.81
- WEF Block Grant Acceptance (Action Requested)
- Acceptance of Gifts (Action Requested)
- WHS Student Handbook – First Reading
- Report on Teaching and Learning: English Language Learners – Mary Ann Bryan
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