

**WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
M I N U T E S (approved 10.13.16)**

Date: September 29, 2016

Present: Chair Belmarsh, Ms. Flemer, Mrs. Sheehan, Mrs. Curran, Mrs. Nardone and Dr. Sullivan

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

Absent: Mayor Hedlund

Call to Order

At 7:04 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to remove the minutes, 7/25/16, 8/28/16 and 9/15/16 from the consent agenda. So voted, 7:04 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Warrant 14-2017 in the amount of \$504,573.77

Minutes

June 23, 2016

Field Trips

- Confirmation of Field Trip Request; Chapman Middle School, grades 7 &8, Student Leadership to NELMS at Southern New Hampshire University, September 29, 2016
- Field Trip Request; WHS, grades 9-12 US History II, Breakers Mansion Newport RI, October 27, 2016
- WHS Grade 11, CTE Culinary Arts to Johnson & Wales, Harborside, Providence RI, October 31, 2016

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, it was voted to approve consent agenda with money to pay. So voted, 7:05 p.m.

Student Advisory Committee

Chair Belmarsh invited the Student Advisory Committee to the table. Teacher Sharon Yannizzi introduced the students who were in attendance, Rebecca Gallahue, Sabrina Manzelli and Jonathan DiModica. More will attend future meetings.

The Committee provided a report of summer reading, NEASC, Homecoming. They also reviewed Spirit Week at the High School. Reviewed upcoming fundraisers and sporting events.

Public Comment

Chair Belmarsh opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Tina Conte came to the table with fellow WEA member Thomas Healy. She reviewed her role at the meeting as a representative from WEA and MTA. Ms. Conte spoke of the resolution of Charter Schools in MA – Question 2 on the upcoming November ballot. Ms. Conte describes the resolution from the perspective of WEA and MTA. Speaks to the concern for Chapter 70 funding reallocation towards Charter Schools and discusses her concerns.

Mr. Peter Farrell came to the table. He has two children that attend the Charter School. Discussed his perspective on Question 2.

Mr. Thomas Healy came to the table. He is a parent of two children in the Weymouth Public Schools and is a teacher at Chapman Middle School. Discussed his opinion on public school education and how it is working in the state.

Ms. Elizabeth Foster-Nolan came to the table. Discussed that she does not think people are pitting anyone against each other. Discussed that she does not believe that School Committee would be committing an ethics violation. Stated her personal opinion on Charter Schools and supports the Weymouth School Committee putting forth a vote to oppose Charter Schools.

Chair Belmarsh clarified that the Committee has checked with our attorney and the Committee is allowed to take up this issue and discuss to support or not support according to our collaborative discussion.

Superintendent's Report

Charter School Update – Mary Lee

Dr. Curtis-Whipple introduced Mary Lee, Business Manager. Ms. Lee reviewed a powerpoint presentation and provided a description of what Charter Schools are, how the funding is allocated, how many Charter Schools there are in Massachusetts. Chair Belmarsh asked if Ms. Lee could go back and look at the tuition history for WPS from FY12 to FY17. Discussion continued around this and Chapter 46a.

On motion of Mrs. Curran, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to present the resolution to oppose the lifting of Charter School cap in Massachusetts. Mrs. Curran read the resolution.

Further discussion was had on this. Dr. Sullivan discusses his concern of the motion and that it was not an item on the agenda.

Ms. Flemer seconded to table this item, needs more information. Would like to look into it further, placed it as a separate item on the agenda. Would also like to see some changes made to the language as well.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to table the resolution. So voted, 7:55 p.m.

Correspondence

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that last weekend we had two very exciting events happen. The first event was our September STEM Hotspot at the New England Wildlife Center. We had over two hundred people tour the facility and learn about wildlife first hand.

At the Chapman Middle School, the Ice Bucket Challenge Event was a huge success. Over four hundred people were in attendance. The event raised funds for ALS and for the Weymouth Food Pantry. I want to share a few photos with you and a quick video that has been shared out via social media.

At the Abigail Adams Middle School, there has been exciting changes in their Music courses that includes teaching students how to play various instruments, primarily the piano (on electric keyboards) and ukuleles purchased with funds from Ernie Boch's 'Music Drives Us' charitable organization.

Theater Arts is also a new course with the addition of Brendan Cawley from the esteemed Company Theater. Students gain valuable 21st century skills while learning all aspect of theater from acting to set design.

On Wednesday of this week, WHS students Bruce Hallgren and Hannah Regan joined members of the WHS Counseling Department, Health teachers, and the Weymouth Police Department to attend the 6th Annual Event Prevention of Underage Drinking and Substance Use Disorder Conference at Lombardo's in Randolph. The topic of this conference focused on the power of coalitions in acknowledging differences & raising awareness to reduce stigma.

As a part of creating an inclusive experience which includes student voice, WHS is also proud to share that the first Substance Abuse Task Force met on September 20th at WHS and will be meeting monthly to continue their work towards solving the issues related to substance abuse in our community

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared photos of the new art work that is hung in the Pingree School Gymnasium. Olivia Butler Bowen a graduate of Weymouth Public Schools painted these beautiful pictures that depict mind, body and spirit. Oliva's mom, Denise Butler-Bowen, is a teacher at the Pingree School.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple also shared a few photos of the incredible community service work that many of our former students and local firefighters recently completed at WHS. Captain Brad Flannery and Weymouth Fire Fighters Local 1616 restored the 'Flag Rock' at Weymouth High School to honor our Service members, Veterans and Vinny DiSessa, our 91 year old hero. Teachers, Katie Owens, Peter Guadiano and Principal Peter Haviland of WHS also have been involved.

Next week begins our NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) visits this Sunday. They will be on site starting October 2nd until October 5th. We look forward to sharing their findings when their report is finalized.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple also shared that at the meeting of the whole this evening that she and the School Committee discussed the School Committee Goals, NEASC visit and MASC Conference attendees and delegate. They also got a chance to meet Paul Dakin, Dr. Curtis-Whipple's superintendent coach.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple invited Mr. Dakin to the table. He describes his role as Dr. Curtis-Whipple's coach. Discusses his background, the new superintendent program and that he will be working with Dr. Curtis-Whipple for 3 years. Also provided a final thought on Question 2.

Chair Belmarsh stated that the Mayor was unable to attend this evenings meeting due to an event. The Mayor is asking children and teens to design their own library. This is open to Grades K -12 and the models are due by October 24th.

New Business

Report on Teaching and Learning

Special Education Consultant Report – Kathy Porcaro

Special Education Administrator Ann Knapp introduced Kathy Porcaro, presents her qualifications and accomplishments. Ms. Porcaro came to the table and highlights her special education review and presented a powerpoint presentation. She reviewed the strengths and areas for improvement as well as her recommendations are presented. Ms. Porcaro stated that there is a very strong administrative team in place and it was wonderful working with them. Ms. Porcaro answered questions from the Committee and all questions were addressed.

Staffing Update – Susan Kustka, Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Personnel Susan Kustka and Dr. Curtis-Whipple to the table to provide a staffing update. . Assistant Superintendent Kustka reviewed a powerpoint presentation with new hires. Assistant Superintendent Kustka reviewed numbers and the schools where they would be working. The hiring timeline was reviewed and lists the process step by step. Assistant Superintendent Kustka gave an overview of the new educator induction program that was held in August was provided. This included the mentoring program, responsibilities of the mentors/mentees and district role in mentoring.

Assistant Superintendent Kustka answered questions from the Committee all questions were addressed.

MASC Resolutions

Chair Belmarsh stated that Mrs. Nardone, Mrs. Sheehan and Mrs. Curran will attend the MASC Conference November 2-5. In light on our motion to table the resolution on Charter Schools, Chair Belmarsh asked if the MASC resolutions should be tabled.

On motion of Ms. Flemer, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan to table the MASC Resolutions. So voted, 9:04 p.m.

Old Business

Update Policy JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited – Third Reading

On motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer to table the updated Policy JICH to go back to Policy Committee on October 6, 2016. So voted, 9:04 p.m.

Mrs. Curran reported the there are two policy meetings scheduled one on Thursday, October 6th and the other on Monday, October 17th both at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration Building.

MSBA Chapman Feasibility Study

Chair Belmarsh stated a meeting was held on September 22 at the Whipple Center. Chair Belmarsh reviewed that at that meeting the educational profiles were shared and that the maintenance profile was reviewed. Chair Belmarsh stated that she will be attending with Dr. Curtis-Whipple at meeting at the MSBA office on Monday to evaluate our current status and will report out to the School Committee once that is held. Next steps will be discussed after that. Chair Belmarsh answered all questions asked by the Committee.

School Committee Goals

Chair Belmarsh shared that a draft of the Committee goals was shared at the meeting of the whole.

Mrs. Curran asked if a Budget Sub-Committee had been set up. Dr. Curtis-Whipple stated we are looking at dates.

Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee

The Weymouth School Committee will next meet on September 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary J. Livingstone Humanities Center at Weymouth High School.

Adjourn

At 9:11p.m., on motion of Mrs. Sheehan, seconded by Ms. Flemer, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Sheehan – Secretary

Weymouth School Committee Meeting
September 29, 2016

Documents Related to Meeting and Retained at School Administration Building

- Agenda
- Warrant 14-2017 in the amount of \$504,573.77
- Minutes
 1. June 23, 2016
 2. July 25, 2016
 3. August 28, 2016
 4. September 15, 2016
- Field Trips
 1. Confirmation of Field Trip Request; Chapman Middle School, grades 7 &8, Student Leadership to NELMS at Southern New Hampshire University, September 29, 2016
 2. Field Trip Request; WHS, grades 9-12 US History II, Breakers Mansion Newport RI, October 27, 2016
 3. WHS Grade 11, CTE Culinary Arts to Johnson & Wales, Harborside, Providence RI, October 31, 2016
- Charter School Update
- Special Education Consultant Report
- Staffing Update
- MASC Resolutions
- Update Policy JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited