



Weymouth

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Weymouth School Committee

Humanities Center & Zoom

April 7, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

(approved 4/28/22)

Members In Attendance: Dr. John Sullivan, Chair; Tracey Nardone, Vice Chair; Carrie Palazzo, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Steve Buccigross

Members Absent: Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Mayor Hedlund

Also Present: Robert Wargo, Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Melanie Curtin, Assistant Superintendent

The Meeting Began at 6:48pm.

Mrs. Nardone moved to enter into executive session: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2): To conduct strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel: Talbot Principal Contract. Motion seconded by Ms. Palazzo. Motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:06pm

The chair informed that the meeting is being recorded and available on WETC.

Chair Sullivan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for Geraldine 'Gerry' Begonia, a Weymouth educator who died on March 18, 2022.

Consent Agenda:

The Consent agenda included:

- Warrant 40-2022 in the amount of \$910,358.62. Dated 4/4/22
- Regular Minutes: 3/24/22
- Executive Session: 3/24/22

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Ms. Palazzo. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

The Chair reminded that public comment be in accordance with Policy BEDH, items on the agenda and kept to 3 minutes and gave instructions if members wish to speak; name and address should be added in the chat.

-Danielle Graziano

Expressed thanks to Principal Fratolillo, Dr. Verlicco and Ms. Murphy for touring space at Wessagusset and urged the committee to think about special education families before voting on the Abigail Adams usage plan.

Report of the Superintendent:

Superintendent Wargo informed that April is Autism Awareness month and that there will be the first International Resource Night at WHS on May 12, 2022 from 6-8. He turned the floor over to Principal Costella and Strauss.

-Murphy Primary School Student Successes-Principal Costello

Principal Costello, Ms. Lindsey Jacobs and students Drew Staffier, Tanner Hamilton, Lilly Murphy, Geoffrey Nippins and Abigail Velasquez gave an update with demonstrations of what is happening at the Murphy School. Topics included Community involvement, Reading across America guest readers, ST Math Challenge, DEI integration, Social Emotional Learning, RULER, Earth rotation project, music education, outdoor learning areas, and socializing events.

The committee thanked Principal Costello and the students for their presentation and for attending the meeting.

-WHS Diversity Summit-Principal Strauss

Principal Strauss reviewed some upcoming dates:

-April 9, 2022-Junior Prom

-May 9, 2022-senior cruise-students will not have to pay as fundraising will cover cost

-May 17, 2022-National Honor Society

-May 20, 2022-Senior Prom

-May 25, 2022-Scholar and leadership wall night

-June 4, 2022-Graduation (more info to come)

-June 10, 2022-Freshman/Sophomore dance

-June 27 or 28, 2022-8th grade move up ceremony

He excitedly outlined the Diversity Summit which will be held on April 30, 2022 in the WHS auditorium. So far 18 schools have registered to attend. Speakers will be Akrobatik, Bri Nichols and the Master of Ceremonies is Jamele Adams. Workshops will be offered throughout the day (8:30am-3:30pm) such as:

Conformity's Role in Identity

Exploring Stereotypes within the LGBTQIA+ Community

Gender Stereotypes

My Story, Our History, Our Future

One School Story-presented by building leaders of WPS

Lunch will be provided to those that register. Thanks was expressed to Mr. Galusha and Ms. Laporto for their assistance. More information is available.

The committee expressed their thanks to Principal Stauss and for the welcoming sense of belonging the summit creates

NEW BUSINESS

a. Student Handbooks-First Reading

-District

Assistant Superintendent Curtin reviewed the district handbook changes (attached to these minutes).

-Middle School

Associate Principal Paulhus summarized the revisions to the middle school handbook including language, date, and grade changes.

Chapman will be a cell free building; students will leave phones in lockers unless for medical exemption.

Discussion of attendance policy, immunizations, and cell phone was had. Excused absence language will be revised to the current policy language.

-High School

Associate Principal Monahan and Bonner reviewed the summary of changes to the high school handbook. Possible attendance policy review for flexibility and responsible use policy as well as suspension language was talked over.

The hat and headwear pilot was successful and will go back to policy for review, however hoods will not be included for identifiability and safety reasons.

It was mentioned that WHTC won the regional championship.

b. Fee Cycle (ation requested)

Mrs. Curran left the table at 8:09pm and returned at 8:14pm.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to table the Fee Cycle. Seconded by Ms. Palazzo. Motion passed.

c. Discuss Job Description: Coordinator of Family Engagement

Superintendent Wargo reviewed the job description of the Coordinator of Family Engagement. It will be a year round full time position. The position will be funded through ESSER III for FY23 until a new funding source is identified within the operating budget. Discussion of applicants being welcoming and a community based expert was had.

d. 2022-2023 School Calendar Draft (action requested)

The Superintendent presented the new calendar format for review. The Committee recommended better identifying ½ day elementary conference days on the district calendar. First day of school for grades 1-12 will be September 6, 2022 and Kindergarten will be September 8, 2022. It was suggested to move the ½ day the week before April school vacation.

The committee expressed thanks to Ms. Pitts, Ms. Curtin and Mr. Strauss for their work on updating the calendars and their appreciation for providing more information to families.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to approve the 2022-2023 school calendar as corrected. Seconded by Ms. Palazzo. Motion carried.

e. Last Day of School vote (action requested)

To meet the 180 requirement of school days the last day of school for the high school will be 6/28/22 and for the remainder of schools 6/27/22.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone and seconded by Ms. Palazzo to approve the last day of school for Primaries through Adams of June 27, 2022 and for Weymouth High School June 28, 2022. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Future of Pre-K-K Reutilization of Abigail Adams Building (action requested)

Principal Perez, Dr. Verlicco, Executive Director Bransfield, and HR Director Foley reviewed Option B and the benefits of relocating the Johnson Early Childhood Center to Adams. The Family Engagement Center and district offices would also be housed at Adams. MSBA response, funding, special education, and an educational plan are considerations. JECC currently holds NAEYC accreditation.

Space for students as well as specialists, and special education programming was discussed. Dr. Verlicco described that special education programming will remain in their buildings and new students to the district could be displaced.

Mrs. Nardone left the table at 8:41 and returned at 8:44pm.

Assistant Superintendent Smith reminded that the total appropriation of measures total \$4,525,000 and advised that the actual balance after the accounting of work in kind is \$3,723,684. He further stated that MSBA funding is not tied to Adams being the 9th elementary school. He suggested that a conceptual design could be performed at a probable cost of \$35K

Overcrowding, early literacy, timeline to start work, transportation, and student achievement was talked over.

Public Comment

-Caitlin McInnis, 20 Neck St.

Expressed her opinion of administration finding a way to keep students at their neighborhood school.

The Committee thanked the Superintendent for gathering stakeholder input.

Mrs. Nardone left the table at 9:29pm and returned at 9:32pm.

Motion by Ms. Palazzo and seconded by Mrs. Curran to authorize administration to begin conceptual design of the early education center, family engagement center and office at Abigail Adams. Motion passed.

Job Description: Athletic Director (action requested)

Motion by Ms. Palazzo and seconded by Mrs. Curran to approve the job description of the Athletic Director. Motion passed.

- b. Policy AC-Non Discrimination Policy including Harrassment and Retaliation-2nd reading**
- c. Policy AC-R-Non Discrimination Policy including Harrassment and Retaliation-2nd reading**
- d. Policy ACAB-Sexual Harrassment-2nd reading**
- e. Policy JICK-Harassment of Students-2nd reading**

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to combine the 2nd and 3rd reading of policies AC, non-discrimination policy including harassment and retaliation; AC-R, non discrimination including harassment and retaliation; ACAB, sexual harassment; and JICK, harassment of students. Seconded by Ms. Palazzo. Motion passed.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone and seconded by Ms. Palazzo to approve policies AC, non-discrimination policy including harassment and retaliation; AC-R, non discrimination including harassment and retaliation; ACAB, sexual harassment; and JICK, harassment of students. Motion passed.

- f. Updates and Status of Chapman Middle School Opening 2022-Assistant Superintendent Curtin**

Course offerings are being finalized and landscaping is underway. Pictures of the auditorium, ym and broadcasting center in the theater were reviewed.

Chapman Project Updates

Announcements:

- April School Vacation-April 15-22, 2022.
- SEPAAC-April 26, 2022-6:30pm via Zoom-Guest Speaker Jonathan Gardner (cancer survivor and autism self advocate)
- Budget Sub-Committee Meeting-May 4, 2021, Administration Building/Virtual
- Weymouth Market-May 4, 2022-3:30pm-WHS, Gold Cafeteria

Next School Committee Meeting:

Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 28, 2022 - 7:00pm

The Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm on the motion of Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Ms. Palazzo.
Motion passed.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

- Murphy School update
- Diversity Summit 2022 flier
- District, middle and high school summary of handbook changes
- 2022-2023 district calendar
- JECC education center at Adams presentation
- Policies AC, AC-R, ACAB, and JICK

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Palazzo
Secretary