

WEYMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Meeting of the Whole
MEETING NOTES

Date: February 28, 2019

Present: Chair Belmarsh, Dr. Sullivan, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw, Mrs. Curran and Superintendent Curtis-Whipple, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Sheehan, Joe Callahan, Mrs. Nardone (late)

Absent: Mayor Hedlund

Call to Order

At 6:04 p.m. Chair Belmarsh called the meeting to order.

Review of Superintendent Evaluation and School Committee Goals:

Chair Belmarsh reminded members that February 15, 2019 was the goal date for school committee members to meet with Dr. Curtis-Whipple for a progress check in. Mrs. Sheehan missed the date as she missed some of the meetings where this was discussed and just read minutes today (2/28). Chair Belmarsh said anyone who wishes to may, coordinate with Eileen by March 14 to set up independent meetings with Superintendent.

Chair Belmarsh pointed out that in members' packets were expanded versions of the superintendent's evaluation questionnaire with definitions of indicators with which to evaluate the superintendent.

Mrs. Sheehan said she thought there had been eight goals. She will check her notes.

Chair Belmarsh said the committee could check off item #1 as completed.

Doctor Sherlock Shangraw asked how we would know when to check off #5. Chair Belmarsh suggested we could check that off when funding was secured

School Committee Representation at Mediation for Open Meeting Law Complaints

Attorney Callanan reminded members that he had come before School Committee previously to have 2 members designated as representatives in mediation with Gerard Mackin. This, however, would make these representatives into a sub-committee meaning they would have to deal with all the Open Meeting Law procedures of posting meetings, etc. To avoid these complications, he now recommends assigning only one representative. The mediation date is still TBA.

Chair Belmarsh mad a motion for John Sullivan to be appointed to attend the open meeting law mediation. Dr. Sherlock-Shagraw seconded.

Discussion: Mrs. Curran stated that she'd like to be appointed, Chair Belmarsh advised going with a member that had not had previous conversations with Mr. Mackin.

Mrs. Curran stated for the the record that she has had only one conversation with Mr. Mackin and one email exchange.

On the motion that Dr. Sullivan be appointed to the attend the mediation for the Open Meeting Law, Chair Belmarsh, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw and Dr. Sullivan voted yes; Mrs. Sheehan and Mrs. Curran voted “no.”

Town Council

School Committee has posted they will attend town council hearing on Monday, 3/4/19.

Town Solicitor Callanan pointed out that there can be a quorum as long as the body is not deliberating on anything within its direct control. Since the committee is attending to advocate to town council on something in their jurisdiction, it would not be a violation. He feels conflict of interest is unwarranted and reiterated that the role of SC member is to advocate for money for the schools.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw feels it is important for citizens to know that School Committee supports plans for a new Chapman.

Mrs. Curran asked for a hard copy of the proposed resolution. She is uncomfortable with the part that says, “despite strong maintenance.” Chair Belmarsh reminded the Committee that Weymouth received credits from MSBA for the quality of its maintenance so she felt it would be an appropriate phrase.

Chair Belmarsh shared that there was a meeting with the office of campaign and finance on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, wherein it was made very clear that School Committee could send out a statement of support. She hopes town council, the teachers union, the town republican committee and others will also express their support.

Joe Callanan advised many layers of law around Campaign and Political Finance, and reminded the committee that it needed to comply with Open Meeting Law, ethics regulations, etc., and the vote to approve the document should be in open session.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw reiterated again for Mrs. Sheehan that it’s important for all bodies of government be on the same page with respect to supporting the project.

Open Forum

Mrs. Sheehan reminded the Chair that the Committee agreed to submit a letter to the legislature for funding and all School Committee members were going to sign. Dr. Sullivan said he should have taken the initiative on this and that he would write a draft in time for it to be on the next agenda.

Mrs. Curran stated at last meeting there was a lot of texting and that although not against open meeting law she feels it’s rude and recommended all at the table to be mindful of the perspective of viewers.

On a motion by Dr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan the Weymouth School Committee Meeting of the Whole was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sullivan – Secretary