

A. Warrants and Payroll for April 09, 2011

MOTION by Joanne Rys and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to approve the warrants and payroll for April 09, 2011 as submitted. 4 members approved. 1 member (D. Souza) absent. Motion Carries.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. Minutes from Wednesday, March 30, 2011 – Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Joanne Rys and seconded by Chris Desjardins to approve the meeting minutes as submitted from the Wednesday, March 30, 2011 regular business meeting. 4 members approved. 1 member (D. Souza) absent. Motion Carries.

III. Comments and Concerns of Citizens

There were no comments and concerns of citizens this evening.

IV. Sub-Committee Discussion (took place at the end of the meeting)

Danielle Souza asked the committee if they had a chance to review the File: AC – Non-Discrimination Policy, if so, could we have a motion to accept.

Motion by Aaron Sawabi and seconded by Brian Winslow to except File: AC Non-Discrimination Policy as amended. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Secondly, she is looking for a motion to approve Use of Facilities Policy File: KF-E-1 changes from the last meeting.

Motion by Chris Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to except File: KF-E-1 Use of Facilities Policy. All in favor. Motion Carries.

She also presented a First Reading to the committee a recommended policy from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), Service Animals in School. A year ago, we presented the committee with a policy that was implemented but this policy is more detailed and recommended by the MASC. She will email a copy to committee members. Brian Winslow would like a chance to review. It was agreed to table this policy. The Policy Sub-Committee will take next month off, but if anyone has anything to please bring it forward. Lastly, the Student Handbook was mentioned, the committee will try and get their changes submitted by May 30, 2011; we would like to have a proof ready for end of June and approved the first meeting in July.

Chris Desjardins asked the committee to get their copy of Dr. Beach's evaluation to him as soon as possible.

V. Reports/Updates

A. Report from Student Council Member.

In summary, Kara Rys reported the following:

SMK

- First grade embryology unit yielded 26 yellow chicks this year. Students enjoy this lesson greatly. Teachers and administrators look forward to this time every year.
- Kindergarten registration was held April 6th and 7th. As of today 73 children have registered for kindergarten for next year.
- "Officer Phil" Child Safety Program was held at SMK on April 7th for grades K-3.
- SMK Spring Festival is taking place tonight from 5:00-7:00 PM. It is an evening of arts and music presented by SMK Specials Teachers.

WMS

- The WMS Leadership Council is holding their spring raffles. The student raffle will be drawn this Friday. Students have the opportunity to win a giant stuffed bunny as well as a 2 lb. chocolate bunny. A spring floral raffle will also take place for staff on Friday.
- The Middle School will hold a "Win It In A Minute" night of fun and games for grades 4-6 on April 27th from 6:00-7:30 PM. This event is sponsored by Title I and WMS Parent Advisory Council.
- WMS PTO will be holding an Open Gym Night for WMS students on Friday, April 29th from 6:00-8:00 PM. Admission cost is \$5.00.

WJSHS

- "Credit for Life Fair" sponsored by Country Bank was held last Thursday, April 7th in the gym. Students from Pathfinder, Palmer, and Ware attended.
- The boys baseball team record is 3-0; girls softball is 2-0
- This Saturday the freshman class will be hosting a community breakfast at the Knights of Columbus.
- Junior Leadership Council raised money for "Hands for Japan."
- Luwana Cheney has started an after school writing club, their plan is to have their writings published.
- The International Club is leaving for Paris on Sunday.
- First Annual Golf Tournament athletic fundraiser will take place Saturday, April 30th the cost is \$50 to join the golf tournament and \$20 for a chicken dinner to be held at Gabe's in Ware after the tournament. Win a Jeep for a hole-in-one on the first hole.
- CAD Applications students are building a set for the performing arts students.
- Talent Show will be held Thursday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM donation is \$5.00.
- The Junior Class is having a reverse raffle on April 28th.
- Prom tickets are on sale for \$60 starting April 25th.

B. Report from the Superintendent

In summary, the superintendent reported the following:

- The University of Phoenix donated another large selection of furniture to our schools – thank you Mr. Rogers for making that happen. Also, thank you to Chris Dymon and Bill Alderman for making two trips to pick up the items.
- We now have Moodle, which is a technology communication application for teachers to share articles and lessons and the like.
- MCAS homework packets were distributed to the schools grades three through eight this week.
- Reminder of our two district wide fundraisers; on May 7th it is our fourth annual tag sale and recycling event, “If It Has A Plug.” This year, we are also renting spaces for \$20.00 payable in advance. The adults in the Ware Learning Community are voluntarily selling raffle tickets to raise money for next years 250 cases of paper. The prize is a \$500 gift card that was donated by Bob’s Furniture. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing is June 8th.
- As required by the NCLB legislation the district report card is in hard copy at each school and on our website.
- The superintendent hosted an artist reception in Central Office for Ms. Malin’s third grade class to applaud their foil mask work. The work will remain on display until the end of April.
- The sidewalks and parking lots will be swept over vacation.
- Our elementary principal is now officially Dr. DiLeo after defending her dissertation at UMass last Friday.
- Spring is particularly noticeable outside WMS where the daffodils are in bloom.
- One final note we are having a site review by the DESE for academic achievement, their visit begins on the 25th of April, also on the 27th the School Committee is invited to be interviewed at 5:30 PM.
- Enrollment update since March 30, 2011 meeting: Grade 3 one male moved out of state; grade 6 one female moved out of town; grade 9 one female moved out of town.

VI. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no old/unfinished business tonight.

VII. New Business

A. First Reading of the 2011-12 Budget

Danielle Souza arrived at 6:45 PM

Chris Desjardins explained that he will read each line item of the budget (ATTACHED) and anyone that has a question to yell out “*question*” and we can return at end of reading to address questions. Brian Winslow questioned the

Athletic Director's 18% increase in salary and also the 12% increase in Transportation Regular. Andy Paquette answered that the increase in the athletic director salary was because we had under budgeted in previous years plus, last year there was a memorandum of agreement for the co-athletic directors to receive an additional amount that was not budgeted for FY 2011 but is now in the FY 2012 budget. He also explained the increase in transportation regular is because it has been five years since we bid this last and with cost of fuel being what it is, and looking at other district's trends this is what we came up with as an anticipated increase. Brian Winslow then asked if the estimate could go either way, to which Mr. Paquette answered yes.

Chris Desjardins questioned the School Committee Travel for \$500. He explained that we could probably take that out of the budget because members have been here for a while and therefore, do not need to attend the mandatory trainings. Dr. Beach said as long as people are not going to charge for any other events, we will take it out of the budget. It was agreed to take out of the budget.

Aaron Sawabi had a few questions on various pages mainly increases in budget line items. For example, he questioned the increase to the Elementary Instructional Aides, Dr. Beach answered this is due to longevity and step increases. Mr. Sawabi also questioned the 6% increase on Page 6 to the Teachers Medical/Therapy. Andy Paquette explained that we had an independent contractor which was a former retired teacher which was used as salary, technically, this should be in Contracted Services in Special Education, and also part was grant funded and that funding is no longer available. Aaron Sawabi asked if this is the same as on Page 8 Teachers/Medical Therapy salary. Andy Paquette answered that, that increase is due to moving along a salary scheduled increase and longevity. Aaron Sawabi referring to Teachers/Medical Therapy on Page 8 asked about it being a 54% increase? Andy Paquette answered yes, this was partially funded by grants that are no longer there but the expense still is. Further he explained, we used Medicaid money for it, so it will be offset, but ultimately we do not get the funding source side, we do have funds budgeted for Medicaid and also there are grant funds that we used in prior years that we do not have, for example, ARRA. Mr. Sawabi also asked about the Programs – Other Public 27% increase on Page 11. Andy Paquette answered those are the known tuitions that we have at the time of this budget. Dr. Beach reminded the committee that these expenses are under the Rate Setting Commission, Superintendents around the state have been asking for a freeze for Special Education Programs this has not happened yet, so they are able to go back to the state and show their increased costs and ask for the rates to go up.

Chris Desjardins said one thing that came up this morning is the YMCA program starting, Danielle Souza explained, the YMCA did not want to start mid-cycle but will begin the program at the start of the school year. The YMCA has been in contact with Mr. Warren and together they will be working on exposing the program at various parent events and also will be reworking the flyer.

Aaron Sawabi emphasized we are not cutting any curriculum other than CAD, and Dual Enrollment which will still be available offsite at HCC. He then explained the

anticipated cuts, and are as follows: (1 Part-Time) Custodial Position; (1 Part-Time) Maintenance Position; no summer help; (1) CAD; (1) Business Teaching Position but 2 of the 4 offerings are being transferred to other qualified teachers; (1) English Department Position; (2) Special Education Positions; (1) Kindergarten Position; (1 Part-Time) Kindergarten not being renewed; (2) Paraprofessionals. He also explained that there are still some variables that may affect this budget and asked Dr. Beach to touch on those. Dr. Beach said some of those variables include: The Town Meeting, because we are asking for more Medicaid money; Contract Negotiations; State Budget; and Mandated Expenses, such as tuition. A Public Hearing will take place during our next scheduled business meeting on April 27, 2011 in the WJSHS Library at 6:30 PM.

VIII. Communications

There was no communications tonight.

IX. Special Projects

There was no special project tonight.

X. Other Business.

A. Executive Session (Under Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 39, Section 23B, Qualification No. 3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation.

MOTION by Christopher Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to move into Executive Session (Under Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 39, Section 23B, Qualification No. 3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation at 7:26 PM. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

C. Desjardins.....	yes	A. Sawabi.....	yes
B. Winslow.....	yes	D. Souza.....	yes
J. Rys.....	yes		

NOTE: The meeting adjourned in executive session at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman
