

WARE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011

PLACE: Ware Junior-Senior High School Library

PRESENT: Chris Desjardins; Aaron Sawabi; Brian Winslow; Danielle Souza;
Joanne Rys

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach;
T. Janey Loehr-School Committee Recording Secretary; Kara
Rys - Student Advisory Council Representative to the School
Joshua Lariviere – Leadership Council Representative to the
Middle School; Cory Rogers; Lucille Brindisi; Dr. DiLeo; Keith
Abete; Joann Skowyra; Nancy Slator; Eugene Rich; Melissa
Fales WRN Reporter

Chris Desjardins called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

A Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was conducted at this point of the meeting.

NOTE: This meeting has been videotaped and is on file in the
Superintendent's Office. This is a written summary of the action taken
at this meeting.

NOTE: Documents referenced with (SEE ATTACHED) are on file in the
Superintendent's Office in a file folder marked with the date of this
meeting.

I. Approval of Warrants and Payroll.

A. Warrants and Payroll for April 23, 2011

MOTION by Joanne Rys and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to approve the warrants
and payroll for April 23, 2011 as submitted. 5 members approved. Motion Carries.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. Minutes from Wednesday, April 13, 2011 – Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Danielle Souza and seconded by Joanne Rys to approve the meeting
minutes as submitted from the Wednesday, April 13, 2011 regular business meeting.
5 members approved. Motion Carries.

III. Comments and Concerns of Citizens

There were no comments and concerns of citizens this evening.

IV. Sub-Committee Discussion

Danielle Souza reported that the sub-committee has nothing at this time, except to again table the Service Animal Policy. Brian Winslow has submitted via email a few recommendations to the policy.

V. Reports/Updates

A. Report from Student Council Member.

In summary, Kara Rys reported the following:

SMK

- The Spring Arts Festival that took place the week prior to vacation was a huge hit.
- 1st Grade will be attending a field trip this week to the Eric Carle Museum.

WMS Leadership Council member Joshua Lariviere reported the following:

- The three goals of the leadership are: Increase school spirit; provide community service and to develop school improvement projects.
- Over the holiday's the council participated in Becker's Bike Challenge; Toys for Tots; a Non-perishable food drive; Rally Against Cancer with Red Sox Day. The council also holds weekly spirit days to make school a more fun and interesting place to be.
- The council is planning to buy more picnic tables for our courtyard. In the past the council has purchased a salad bar, microwaves for cafeteria, framing anti-bully posters and umbrellas for picnic tables. The Student Leadership Council is proud to help the school and community.

WJSHS

- Students from the International Club traveled to France and London this past week and had an excellent time.
- Junior Prom tickets are on sale; they are \$60 and will be on sale until May 14th. See Mr. Rich or junior class advisors to purchase.
- This Saturday is the Ware High Open Golf Tournament at Dunroamin, the cost is \$50. There will be a chicken dinner at Gabe's to follow. See Mr. Bernier if you would like to join.
- The middle school now has air conditioning in their computer room.
- The Reverse Raffle that was going to be held tomorrow night is now cancelled.
- Reports cards were sent out before vacation.
- May 4th will be Door Day for all seniors, this event is to promote college and post graduate planning options for the underclassmen.

B. Report from the Superintendent

In summary, the superintendent reported that Ms. Brindisi and Dr. DiLeo would give reports on following:

- Dr. DiLeo reported that Saturday, April 30th from 9:00-3:00 PM will be Truck Day here on school grounds. All types of truck will be involved in the event including front loaders, dump trucks, tow trucks, fire trucks plus much more. Also, you will be able to purchase hot dogs, bags of chips, have your face painted and jump in the bounce house. Tickets are \$10 the day of the event or can be purchased in advance for \$5.00. This is a PTO fundraising event.
- Ms. Brindisi reported that last night she received a letter from New England Association of Schools and Colleges (N.E.A.S.C.) the response received is our accreditation is continued, which is very good news. The highlights of the accommodations are as follows: They were please with the increased course offerings, specifically AP Biology and Advanced Science in 8th grade. They were also pleased with the maintenance of a budget that supports instruction in student services for 2010-2011.
- Dr. Beach reminded everyone that Saturday, May 9th is the Annual "If It Has a Plug" Recycling Event and Annual Tag Sale. Tag sale spaces are still available for \$20.00.
- Dr. Beach reported that we are currently having a site visit from the DESE; they are here to highlight what SMK is doing to close the achievement gap between low income and non-low income students.

Danielle Souza asked if the results will be made public from the site visit. Dr. Beach is not sure how the report will be distributed. This is the third year the state is doing these reports. The first year they looked at districts that did well reducing the gap with English Language Learners vs. non, the second year they looked at Special Education vs. non, now this year they are looking at closing the achievement gap for lower income students and the big reports have not been published yet. We are part of the big report and we may receive an individual report as well. Chris Desjardins was told by the visiting team that the report would be public.

C. March 31, 2011 Results of Operations

Andy Paquette said the summary chart on the front of the Results of Operations report (ATTACHED) explains the potential concerns you may see as projected deficits of 06/18/2011, I have been aggressive as far as projecting the year-end for non-salary, for salary the year end is known. Aaron Sawabi said this shows we have a projected deficit, but there are other funding sources available to cover. Andy Paquette answered yes. Brian Winslow asked if we sent out the bus bid. Andy Paquette answered no, we are waiting for the prevailing wage from the Department of Labor, vendors will ask about this. The ad will go in next week. Brian Winslow asked how many papers. Andy Paquette will put into the Goods and Services Bulletin through the state, where many vendors go to, maybe the Republican and the Ware River News, he will also send a letter to all vendors from the last bid.

VI. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. FY 2012 School Budget Second Reading/Vote

Chris Desjardins explained this is the FY2012 School Budget Second Reading/Vote tonight, he will read the budget out loud and any item that anyone has a question on to yell out "*question*" at which time it will be marked on the budget and we will go back once the budget has been read in its entirety. This is for everyone in the audience and also School Committee members. Dr. Beach added that this is the final version of the budget to date, we have highlighted in yellow the comments or things we have changed from the last time. We gained some funds back because we now have a lower municipal retiring insurance rate. We are offering French II next year for the first half and World Culture at the middle school for the second half of the year. We had a math resignation that we will not refill, so we are reinstating the Business position, we will be able to offer Dual Enrollment for the first semester and amazingly this morning, a neighboring district that also offers CAD had to reduce because of their budget, we are going to try and buy the difference and offer a couple of CAD classes. Lastly, the carryover and reserve funds are a little scary. Before Chris Desjardins read the budget he asked Andy Paquette about the water/sewer rates being added back in. Andy Paquette explained that yes, they take it off the indirect costs and do not send us a bill. Dr. Beach will call Mary Tzambazakis at the Town Hall and see where we are at with this.

Brian Winslow asked on Page 11 Programs-Other Public Schools 27% increase, what was the increase for. Dr. Beach answered new students. She further explained that there is legislation out there trying to freeze the inflation rates. These increases go through a Rate Setting Commission they are allowed to put in increases at any time. Therefore, superintendents across the state are asking for a freezing of the rates. Mr. Winslow also questioned the 18% increase on Page 17 to the Superintendent's Salary. Andy Paquette answered based on Dr. Beach cutting back to a .8 fte then the following year to .9 and this brings her up to where she is suppose to be. Chris Desjardins said that this brings her back to full-time. Dr. Beach commented that the cutting back saved \$43,000. Mr. Winslow questioned Page 3 the 53% cut on Circuit Breaker. Andy Paquette answered because we are using all of the Circuit Breaker available to us and will not carry forward any into School Year 2012. Mr. Winslow asked if the reduction on the Rental Income is because Valley Human Services is moving from the SMK, Dr. Beach answered yes. Danielle Souza mentioned that with the YMCA coming next year we will be adding funds to this line. Lastly, Mr. Winslow questioned Page 5 the Kindergarten position being cut and if there is any way to add that back into the budget. Dr. Beach answered yes this position is being cut and will be not be added back in, unless we absolutely have to. Once the questions were answered Mr. Desjardins opened the floor for comments.

Nancy Slater, Special Education Teacher at the W.J.S.H.S. expressed concern with where the budget cuts are happening. She stated the remaining five cuts are happening at the W.J.S.H.S. She feels that the cuts will disproportionately, effect our most vulnerable students, cutting half of the four people in the high school special education department will have a significant impact on the students with special needs. The cuts to the regular education program CAD, Business and

English are also disproportionately effecting a segment of our school. She mentioned that as we heard tonight the reinstatement of the business teacher is great news, but he will split his time between the high school and the junior high school. She feels these cuts could negatively impact our special education students whose success we need to demonstrate annually under No Child Left Behind (N.C.L.B.) legislation and these cuts also could negatively impact our drop out rates. Dr. Beach responded to Ms. Slater's comments by stating that there are two cuts at S.M.K. Elementary School, four cuts at the W.J.S.H.S., one cut in Special Education and two cuts in maintenance. Chris Desjardins said there are adjustments to the cuts that Ms. Slater spoke of. Dr. Beach mentioned that there are 79 students registered in kindergarten and if there is an influx of students not registered we may have to add another kindergarten class. We still have some unknowns, but we are required to have this budget passed because we have a town meeting in a week.

MOTION to approve Danielle Souza and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to accept the Fiscal FY2012 Budget as proposed. All in favor. Motion Carries.

VII. New Business

A. District Bullying Plan – Review/Approve

Chris Desjardins mentioned that every committee member has a copy of the amended District Bullying Plan. Danielle Souza thought we already approved this. Cory Rogers, Assistant Principal WJSHS said that yes School Committee members did approve the plan but there is some language the DESE is looking for, requiring us to make some adjustments.

MOTION by Danielle Souza and seconded by Joanne Rys to accept the District Bullying Plan as amended. All in favor. Motion Carries.

VIII. Communications

Danielle Souza did communicate that the policy sub-committee will begin looking at next year's Student Handbook. Ideally, we would like to have School Committee changes by May 31st, school changes by June 30th, and approval by committee the first week in July. The handbook will be reviewed at the next Policy Sub-Committee meeting.

IX. Special Projects

There were no special projects tonight.

X. Other Business.

A. Schedule Future Meeting(s)

- May 11, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the WJSHS Library
- May 25, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the WJSHS Library

Lastly, Superintendent's Evaluation will take place on May 11, 2011.

MOTION by Christopher Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to adjourn at 7:40 PM and not to return. All in favor. Motion Carries.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman
