

WARE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010

PLACE: Ware Junior-Senior High School Library

PRESENT: Christopher 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 Committee; Crysty Bertini, Reporter Ware River News;
Charlene Desjardins

Chris Desjardins called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 May 8, 2010.

MOTION by Joanne Rys and seconded by Danielle Souza to accept the warrants and payroll for May 8, 2010 as submitted. All in favor. Motion Carries.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. Minutes from Wednesday, April 28, 2010 – Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Danielle Souza and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to approve the meeting minutes from the Wednesday, April 28, 2010 regular business meeting as submitted. All in favor. Motion Carries.

III. Comments and Concerns of Citizens.

There were no comments and concerns of citizens this evening.

IV. Sub-Committee Discussion:

A. Policy Update.

Danielle Souza reported that the subcommittee met last Tuesday at 5:00 P.M. in the WJSHS library and the document everyone has a copy of is the final draft of Policy K regarding service animals. Previously, a copy was sent to Attorney Dupere and this draft reflects his recommendations.

Chris Desjardins asked how do we know if the animal is a service animal. Danielle Souza explained that Joanne Rys researched the required documentation needed and these requirements are listed in the final draft. Brian Winslow asked if the policy includes service animals for different types of medical needs. Danielle Souza explained that this policy does cover different types of medical reasons that a service animal may be needed, and that we need documentation pertaining to the animal for our files. Brian Winslow then asked in what section is this covered, after review Danielle Souza will amend the final draft and add under General Requirements that documentation for use of a service animal on campus must be on file and signed by a physician stating the medical need.

MOTION by Aaron Sawabi to accept proposed policy update to file KFAB as amended and seconded by Joanne Rys. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Danielle Souza also reported the subcommittee is changing their next meeting date from May 25, 2010 to May 26, 2010 at 5:00 PM due to the town meeting. At the next meeting we will be looking at the Student Handbook and the Bullying Policy. Joanne Rys also mentioned the committee is looking at the absentee policy, giving high school seniors sick and/or personal bank days.

V. Reports/Updates.

A. Report from Student Council Member.

In summary, Kara Rys reported the following:

- May 5th was Door Day for Seniors – 20 doors decorated was very successful.
- Friday, May 14 was the 2010 Promenade. The event was well attended, a great success and was held at the Log Cabin.
- Today and tomorrow, May 17th and 18th Math MCAS takes place for grades 7, 8 and 10, a special thank you to First Student Bus Company for providing student pickups for the delayed start.
- May 21st will be the Step-Up Dance for grades 6, 7 and 8
- May 27th is the Spring Open House for the incoming 7th graders.

B. Budget Update

Andy Paquette reported the highlights from the past two weeks expense report which includes the sub accounts, they are net over raw, breaking even, and we have a couple revenues to be added up. Some accounts are in deficit but there are surplus in other accounts, he added, there will be some breakage in the salary accounts for staff going on leave status, to cover this we will doing year end reclassification of expenses as we close out the books. If you see some negative balances to the salary line it is because when we build our budget we have x amount of dollars allocated toward using school choice funds, so we will be reclassifying those expenses to the school choice revolving account as needed. Andy further stated this will be done as needed; we want to be able to carry forward school choice funds next year.

C. Report from Superintendent.

- These are the last days of MCAS at all grades levels, there is one more day in June, 10th grade Biology but after that, that's it for MCAS 2010.
- The yellow sheet (SEE ATTACHED) in your packet shows 99% of events that are happening now through the end of June at all schools, excluding sport activities. Lots and lots going on.
- Particularly want to highlight our tag sale and recycling fundraiser which is this Saturday, the money raised will go toward student agenda books and various technology needs. On the screen now is a slide show preview of some tag sale items. Yes, we are still able to pick up items for our senior citizens this Friday. 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. So, this Saturday we are looking for people to buy things and bring their friends to buy to buy things or recycle items all to benefit the schools. We appreciate what everyone is doing and the staff here for bringing in items for the tag sale.

VI. Old/Unfinished Business.

There was no old/unfinished business this evening.

VII. New Business:

Chris Desjardins discussed the calls he has received from parents regarding our French program at the high school being canceled next year. And yes, it has been discussed during budget meetings. At this time we are still trying to figure out how to fund some sort of French program. He proposed some possible changes in the budget to help make this happen, budget items that the school committee would have to approve. One being to cut membership with MASC, which would be \$5,000; also cut the school committee travel account \$500; also, if possible, the school board liability insurance for \$7,500. He asked, if we could get a better deal on the liability insurance? Dr. Beach and Andy Paquette are looking into being covered under the town's liability insurance. Collectively these cut amount to \$13,000 which could be used for the French program. Brian Winslow asked how much we are looking at to fund the program. Chris Desjardins said the teacher alone costs

\$45,000 plus benefits. Danielle Souza mentioned she only uses the MASC website once in a while. Chris Desjardins added the committee used the MASC when looking for a superintendent and now feels the committee does not full utilize the subscription. Chris Desjardins and Brian Winslow asked Dr. Beach if we shared a French teacher with another district, who pays the benefits. Dr. Beach answered we would share the cost of benefits. It was mentioned that the districts needs to inform MACS about renewing the subscription by July 1, 2010.

Joanne Rys mentioned that she has had a few concerns voiced from our students about French being is cut. Chris Desjardins mentioned the people he spoke with are concerned if the high school only has one foreign language, could this put our students at a disadvantage.

Dr. Beach mentioned that no pick slips have gone out. Aaron Sawabi had an email questing staffing changes, if there any rumors going around lets address them. He added that nothing is definite the only thing definite is we are going forward to the town with the proposed budget. There is still a possibility in the budget of an elimination of 1 .fte in one of language courses, if there are any staffing changes the committee will be made aware of them at the end of June. He said the committee is doing their best to find alternates to keep the funding for the French program.

Danielle Souza asked how many students are currently involved in the program. Dr. Beach answered 47 this year, next year 62 requested the class but not all of them would get that class. Chris Desjardins then asked each committee member to look at the budget line for line to see if you come up with something that we may have overlooked. Aaron Sawabi mentioned that we have had a hearing on the overall budget, but maybe at our next meeting we could arrange time to listen to the community to hear their concerns. We do make decisions based on input from the community. Dr. Beach mentioned that knowing the communities wishes helps the administration set priorities, it's never too late, and the other thing is that the high school sets up a schedule and we can only run one schedule at a time, but we would never make a decision to orchestrate a school just because we have a schedule. So, if we an influx of money comes in we will adjust the schedule to accommodate that.

Brian Winsow asked how much flexibility do we have on hiring substitutes and how much interest is there is Spanish. Dr. Beach answered none on hiring substitutes; we have to advertise for certified teacher if unable to hire them, you entertain hiring a non-certified teacher, if you do hire non-certified then it is reported to the state as a non-certified person. Secondly, there are about 150 students interested in Spanish.

Lastly, the committee asked community members for their feedback through phone calls, face-to-face or through email where you can always remain anonymous and/or come to the next meeting on June 9, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. in the WJSHS library. Chris Desjardins mentioned that the school committee's email is located online at under School Committee, emails. Dr. Beach added that next year we have an AP Biology course; this is a new offering, college credit.

VIII. Communications.

Dr. Beach gave a reminder that on June 9th there is a 5:30 PM meeting with the student council. And also we have new microphones; these are wireless microphones and will reduce the paper moving and pen clicking noises that will give us a better sound quality. Chris Desjardins mentioned that they were not purchased by the school system. Dr. Beach thanked Stanley Ciukaj and the cable company for their investment and commitment to the school system.

IX. Other Business:

A. Executive Session Under M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B, Qualification #3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation.

MOTION by Christopher Desjardins and seconded by Brian Winslow to move into executive session at 7:12 P.M. under M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B, Qualification #3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and to not return to open session at the conclusion of this executive session.

5 members approved. Motion Carries.

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 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman
