

IV. Policy Discussion:

A. Policy Sub-Committee Update.

Kara Brown made reference to the updated Withdrawal Consent Form, the Withdrawal Survey as well as a flow chart showing the procedures for processing student transfers both in and out of the Ware School District (SEE ATTACHED). A review and discussion was held pertaining to these documents. In summary, the following were noted:

- *Attorney Fred Dupere will be contacted to seek his legal opinion regarding these documents.
- The documents will need to include the word "Confidential" in the title.
- The form will be changed to show that the administrators or counselors would speak with the parents/guardians/students pertaining to their particular request to leave the Ware School District.
- The CAD students will be asked to prepare a map of all school buildings to include in a welcome packet for all new students to the Ware School District.
- Superintendent Beach will ask the Administrators to seek input at their school open houses pertaining to this proposed new policy.

Daniel Souza will prepare a revision to these documents for continued review at the next meeting.

Kara Brown stated that Policy File BEDB-E ---Agenda is recommended to be amended to include a section for "Special Projects" per the School Committee's 2009-2010 Goals. After a review of this proposed change, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Aaron Sawabi that the Ware School Committee amends Policy File BEDB-E---Agenda to include a section for "Special Projects" as presented this evening. All in favor.

Kathleen Parmenter will prepare an update to this policy.

V. Reports/Updates:

A. Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Beach presented a verbal report to the members of the School Committee. In summary, she reported the following:

- A video of the WWLP Channel 33 news coverage of the first day of school was shown to the members of the School Committee. This was a positive start to the 2009-2010 school year that also included

new coverage in both the Springfield Republican and the Ware River News.

- Enrollment this year has increased from 1,184 (10/1/08) to the current enrollment of 1,258 including preschool.
- On Friday, September 11, 2009 the Ware Junior-Senior High School cheerleaders are sponsoring a Heroes Rally to honor Ware's Hero's at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium.
- The Veterans Field banner project is going well with 15 banners on the fence as promised for the first day of school. There are 4 additional banners sent to NEPM this week with several others expected.
- The appliance and electronic recycle event is October 3, 2009.
- The schools will be holding the fall open house's beginning September 11th at the Ware Middle School, September 24th at the Ware Junior-Senior High School and October 1, 2009 at the S.M. Koziol Elementary School. All will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- The Ware School District will be participating in the national address delivered to all school children by President Obama on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 12:00 noon.
- Research has been started pertaining to a recent inquiry about reestablishing the Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame.
- The Class of 2022 starts school this Friday.
- The Ware Middle School has begun its Math Intervention Program with approximately 55 students been identified as needing a specialized opportunity in one of four focus areas (basic operations, measurement, short answer and word problems). The receive 20 minutes of tutoring daily in groups of 3 or 4.

B. Student Advisory Council Report.

In summary, Rebecca Desjardins reported that students have returned to school and are getting adjusted to their new teachers and schedules. She noted the Heroes Rally to honor Ware's Hero's on September 11, 2009. She will keep the School Committee updated as student activities are scheduled during the school year.

VI. Old/Unfinished Business:

A. Reschedule School Site Visits for SMK and WMS.

The School Site Visits were scheduled as follows:

- September 16, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. -----SMK
- September 30, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. -----WMS

B. School Committee Goals for 2009-2010 – Continued.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

C. Passing Grade Score Discussion – Continued.

A continued discussion was held pertaining to the passing grade score. During the discussion, a recess was held at 8:15 p.m. with the meeting returning to session at 8:23 p.m. for Superintendent Beach to contact Principal Warren at the Ware Middle School to find out what the Ware Middle School passing grade score is. Discussion was continued to later in the meeting.

E. Request for Documents on the School's Website.

Chairman Desjardins stated that the Town of Ware's website has an area for people to have documents such as meeting agenda and meeting minutes sent to them. Superintendent Beach is looking into having this on the Ware School District's website.

C. Passing Grade Score Discussion – Continued.

Superintendent Beach reported that the Ware Middle School passing grade score is currently 60 and the Ware Junior-Senior High School grade score is currently 65. Aaron Sawabi expressed concern for implementing a new grade score policy without input from the teaching staff. Superintendent Beach stated that she would first like to receive input from the administrators. It was determined that a survey will be prepared by Chairman Desjardins and sent to Superintendent Beach for distribution to the WMS teaching staff for return by Friday afternoon. Due to this survey, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Chairman Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to table this agenda item until the next meeting. All in favor.

A. Committee Discussion – Email Confidentiality.

Discussion occurred pertaining to the emails of the School Committee being confidential documents. After discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Chairman Desjardins and seconded by Kara Brown that the School Committee members are to use the Ware School District's email addresses for all School Committee mails and not have those emails forwarded to personal email accounts. All in favor.

Kara Brown will be consulting with Attorney Dupere pertaining to the placement of a disclaimer on school emails.

D. School Bussing.

Discussion was held pertaining to the concern for having scheduling problems regarding the transportation of students after school. There have been numerous requests (and some the same day) to have students taken to a location other than their home bus stop. This has caused some busses to exceed the number of students allowed on the bus. After discussion, it was determined that this is a safety concern that needs to be addressed and that the bus company and parents/guardians be asked to attend the next meeting of the School Committee to discuss this situation in the hopes of having a resolution to the situation. All concerns regarding bussing are to be given to Dr. Beach by the members of the School Committee by next Tuesday. Questions for the bus company would be how can the current situation be restructured, what would be the cost of a long and a short bus and what are the number of seats remaining if all the students went from home to school and from school to home.

MOTION by Chairman Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 P.M. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman

