

WARE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

TIME: 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

PLACE: Ware Junior-Senior High School Library

PRESENT: Christopher Desjardins; Aaron Sawabi; Brian Winslow;
Kara Brown; Danielle Souza

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach;
Kathleen M. Parmenter-School Committee Recording Secretary;
Andy Paquette; Marlene DiLeo; Robert Warren; Jan Yardley;
Mary Tzambazakis-Interim Town Manager; Rebecca
Desjardins-Student Advisory Council Representative to the
School Committee; Melissa Fales, reporter-Ware River News;
Charlene Desjardins; Sandy Roes; Cherri Ellison;
Pam Keith-First Student Safety Supervisor; Noreen Ford;
Kim Burges; Denise Poci; Diane Boudreau; Pat Goudreau
and other interested individuals

Chairman 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 September 12, 2009.

MOTION by Aaron Sawabi and seconded by Kara Brown to approve the warrants
and payroll for September 12, 2009 as submitted. All in favor.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

**A. Minutes for Wednesday, August 5, 2009 – Regular Business
Meeting.**

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to approve the meeting
minutes from the Wednesday, August 5, 2009 regular business meeting as written.
All in favor.

B. Minutes for Wednesday, August 19, 2009 – Regular Business Meeting.

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Brian Winslow to approve the meeting minutes from the Wednesday, August 19, 2009 regular business meeting with corrections as noted to the School Committee Recording Secretary. All in favor.

C. Minutes for Wednesday, September 2, 2009 – Regular Business Meeting.

MOTION by Aaron Sawabi and seconded by Danielle Souza to approve the meeting minutes from the Wednesday, September 2, 2009 regular business meeting as written. All in favor.

VI. Old/Unfinished Business:

A. Transportation Discussion – Continued.

Chairman Desjardins reported that since the last meeting when this situation was discussed, a meeting was held with Dr. Beach, Andy Paquette and the owners of the First Student bus company. At the last meeting of the School Committee it was clear that parents shouldn't have to change their child's schedules for busing and that parents shouldn't have to change their work schedules. At this point of the meeting he distributed a form showing the addition of one afternoon bus to accommodate the increase in ridership to day care facilities after school (SEE ATTACHED). This form shows the net cost of \$1,260.72 to the Town of Ware for this additional bus. He reported that the Interim Town Manager has agreed to use the fuel tax savings for this additional bus as noted on the form he distributed. Chairman Desjardins further stated that there is nothing in writing with the Town Manager because this added bus is within the transportation budget. He stated that there have been 75 additional busing students that are included in the calculation for implementing this additional bus. Several parents and residents expressed the need to have their children taken to day care after school due to work schedules.

Dr. Beach stated that the new bus schedule would be placed in the local newspapers and on the school's website and at the school buildings by Monday. She stated that the morning bus transportation currently is not a problem, but the bus company may need to address morning transportation should the number of students on the morning bus schedule increase. In addition, Dr. Beach stated that the town doesn't have to transport students above the 6th grade and this may also need to be addressed at future bus transportation discussions. Chairman Desjardins requested that the new bus schedule be sent home with the students.

It was noted by the Building Administrators that the 3 day notice of student bus transportation changes has shown a minimal impact on the bus schedule at this time. However, parents need to adhere to this notice request for bus transportation changes for students for the safety of the students.

IV. Policy Discussion:

Kara Brown distributed to the members of the School Committee a revised Withdrawal Survey, a Withdrawal Consent Form and the Procedural Instructions pertaining to Policy Section JF-E (SEE ATTACHED). After a review with minimal changes, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Aaron Sawabi and seconded by Brian Winslow to accept Policy Section JF-E pertaining to the Withdrawal Survey, a Withdrawal Consent Form and the Procedural Instructions as submitted (SEE ATTACHED). All in favor.

Kara Brown reported that the Ware Junior-Senior High School passing grade is 65 and the Ware Middle School is 60. Discussion occurred pertaining to having a consistency in grading. It was determined that parents and teachers would be asked at the upcoming open house at the Ware Middle School to change the passing grade from 60 to 65. If the survey conducted determines an interest in doing this a special meeting of the School Committee would be held to implement that change prior to the next scheduled meeting of the School Committee. It was noted by Chairman Desjardins that if not implemented for this school year 2009-2010, it would be implemented for the school year 2010-2011.

V. Reports/Updates:

A. Student Council Report.

In summary, Rebecca Desjardins reported the following:

- The Junior PTSSA first meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2009.
- The Ware Junior-Senior High School open house is scheduled for September 24, 2009.

B. Superintendent's Report.

In summary, Superintendent Beach reported the following:

- There have been 5 students leaving the Ware School District since September 2, 2009. One high school student to homeschooling, one School Choice student and two relocations at the Ware Middle School and one School Choice student at the SMK Elementary School due to child care.
- MCAS results were formally released today. A formal presentation will be made to the School Committee at the next meeting. The individual student reports will be sent home with students on Monday, September 21, 2009.

- Open house at the Ware Middle School is September 17th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and the Ware Junior-Senior High School is September 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 101 Kindergarten students started last Friday with the students and parents adjusting well.
- The school's website has a link to the daily news headlines. Ware River News articles will soon be available on line.
- Six new banners will be installed at the field during the week.
- Boys' soccer and girls JV volleyball both won games. The first football home game is this Friday night at 7:00 p.m. under the lights.

VI. Old/Unfinished Business:

B. School Committee Goals – Continued.

Chairman Desjardins reported that this agenda item will be tabled until the next meeting of the School Committee.

VII. New Business:

Superintendent Beach made reference to the WTA Teachers Contract, under Article X, Leaves of Absence, Section A-Sick Leave (SEE ATTACHED). In summary, Superintendent Beach stated that sick leave for new employees is earned. She stated that she would hate to see a new employee contract the flu and not be able to take the time off because of not having sick leave time available to him/her. Under paragraph one, it reads that "The Committee reserves the right to make exceptions in cases of unusual merit." Superintendent Beach asked that the School Committee give the Superintendent the authority to make exceptions. Under paragraph two, it reads that "Employees will be required to submit medical documentation when out on sick leave over three (3) consecutive working days." Superintendent Beach asked that the School Committee change the "will be required" to "may be required" and that this be accomplished with the negotiations of a Memorandum of Understanding. Brian Winslow stated that the WTA agreed to the wording in this contract. Aaron Sawabi stated that the "may" should be specific to the "swine flu" and all other medical situations would remain "will". After discussion, the following motions were made:

MOTION by Aaron Sawabi and seconded by Danielle Souza that the Ware School Committee accept the proposal of Superintendent Beach that the WTA "may" be asked to submit medical documentation for the "swine flu" and all other medical injuries and/or illness "will" be asked to submit medical documentation. 3 members approved, 1 member (B. Winslow) opposed, 1 member (C. Desjardins) abstain. Motion Carries.

Superintendent Beach will contact Attorney Dupere for obtaining a Memorandum of Understanding with the WTA.

MOTION by Aaron Sawabi and seconded by Kara Brown that the Ware School Committee grant Superintendent Beach the authority to make exceptions to the WTA Sick Leave for new employees not having enough sick leave for being out of work for the "swine flu". 3 members approved, 1 member (B. Winslow) opposed, 1 member (C. Desjardins) abstain. Motion Carries.

Kara Brown noted that a Calendar of Events will be updated each month via email from her to the members of the School Committee.

MOTION by Christopher Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman
