

B. Minutes for Wednesday, September 23, 2009 – Special Business Meeting.

MOTION by Brian Winslow and seconded by Kara Brown to accept the meeting minutes for Wednesday, September 23, 2009 special business meeting as written. All in favor.

III. Comments and Concerns of Citizens.

David Kopacz made reference to the School District's survey sent home to parents asking if they would want their children to receive the H1N1 vaccination if made available by the School District. He stated that he was present this evening to advocate for a fully informed consent given the risks that have been associated with this vaccine. He asked the School Committee to reissue the survey to provide information pertaining to the additives contained in this vaccine (i.e. eggs, mercury). Superintendent Beach stated that the survey was released so that the Department of Public Health would have information on the number of vaccines they would need to order for the Ware School District. She further stated that she has heard nothing pertaining to this vaccine being mandated. She further stated that she receives information from the organization that deals with schools and that they are informed as to what is being done. Chairman Desjardins stated that David Kopacz should forward his written information to the Central Office to the attention of the School Committee.

IV. Policy Discussion:

A. Policy Sub-Committee Update.

Marking System/Grading Policies:

Kara Brown made reference to the revised Marking System (SEE ATTACHED). There were some word changes recommended by the members of the School Committee. After a review and discussion of this proposed Marking System, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Brian Winslow that the Ware School Committee accepts the Marking System as amended this evening. All in favor.

Communications Policy:

Kara Brown made reference to the 2nd reading of a Communications policy under Policy Section "K". After a review and discussion of this proposed Communications policy, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Brian Winslow that the Ware School Committee accepts the Communications policy as submitted. All in favor.

Use of Cell Phones on School Bus:

Paul Morris stated that school bus drivers are policing the use of cell phones on the school busses. He stated that he supports no cell phones in the schools but questions them being banned on the school busses. He further stated that with the use of technology, the cell phones should be used properly on the school busses so as to not cause problems and/or safety issues. After a discussion pertaining to the use of cell phones on school busses, Chairman Desjardins reported that the Cell Phone Policy would be reviewed.

Student Vehicle Parking Policy:

Kara Brown made reference to the Ware Junior/Senior High School Student Parking Policy (SEE ATTACHED). After a review of this policy, it was determined that the Policy Review Sub-Committee would further address this policy for revisions.

Observations of Special Education Programs:

Kara Brown made reference to the Observations of Special Education Programs as proposed by the MASC (SEE ATTACHED). After a review and discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Aaron Sawabi that the Ware School Committee approve Policy File IHBA – Observation of Special Education Programs as submitted. All in favor.

It was further noted that the Policy Review Sub-Committee will prepare policy file IHBA-E pertaining to Release Forms and Observation Forms.

The next meeting of the Policy Review Sub-Committee was scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. in the Ware Junior-Senior High School Library.

V. Reports/Updates:

A. Student Council Report.

Kara Rys presented the following report to the members of the School Committee.

- The Student Council took a trip to Greenfield High School on 9/22/09 to attend "Rachel's Challenge". This is a program in memory of Rachel Scott, the first victim of the Columbine High School massacre. The program was presented by Rachel's sister and was about how Rachel was a kind person. This presentation was a great experience and very meaningful. Prior to Rachel being killed she wrote the following essay "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness will go."

- The Ware Junior-Senior High School Open House was held on Thursday, September 24th and was well attended and successful.
- The International Club held a meeting this past Monday in the Ware Junior-Senior High School Cafeteria. There was a pot luck meal and Principal Brindisi gave a power point presentation of her travels to Italy. Everyone enjoyed the evening and is looking forward to going to Italy in April, 2010.
- The Progress Reports were issued on Tuesday, October 6th.
- Our Student Council will be hosting the October, 2009 Fall Conference for the Western Massachusetts Student Councils. We did this last year and look forward to holding this meeting again this year.

B. Budget FY2010 Update.

Andy Paquette gave out the August 31, 2009 Results of Operations (SEE ATTACHED). He stated that the FY2009 grant programs are currently being reconciled with the Town Accountant. He stated that the end of the year reports was submitted on time to the Department of Education. He stated that the carryover amount from FY2009 to FY2010 should be available in a week or two.

C. Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Beach presented the following report to the members of the School Committee:

- The 2nd recycling "If it has a plug day" is Saturday, October 3rd in the lower parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. rain or shine.
- Great turnout was made for the open houses at the Ware Junior-Senior High School and the Ware Middle School. The SMK Elementary School's Open House is tomorrow. The Pre-K and Kindergarten Open House is scheduled for Thursday, October 15th.
- There are new items on the school website including Halloween safety tips and an extensive amount of fire safety material. There are also new reference articles for the writing curriculum and a year long schedule of activities sponsored by the WHS PTSSA.
- SMK's McDonald night is Tuesday, October 13th.
- Progress Reports will be issued on October 6th for WJSHS and WMS.
- With the quotation of Principal Brindisi at Open House "We are doing well, MCAS scores are up, the dropout rate is down and we have an undefeated football team."
- There have been 7 additional banners installed at Veterans Field.

VI. Old/Unfinished Business:

A. School Committee Goals – Discussion.

Chairman Desjardins presented the “revised” 2009-2010 Ware School Committee Goals (SEE ATTACHED). A discussion pertaining to these goals was held. During discussion a recess was held at 8:28 P.M. with a return to session at 8:33 P.M. due to a tape change. With a continued discussion held, there were changes made to these goals with the following motion.

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Aaron Sawabi that the Ware School Committee accept the 2009-2010 Ware School Committee Goals with corrections as noted to Chairman Desjardins for him to update accordingly. All in favor.

VII. New Business:

A. MCAS Overview.

Superintendent Beach presented a power point presentation pertaining to the Ware School District’s MCAS Data from the spring of 2009 (SEE ATTACHED). She reported that the Ware Junior-Senior High School performance is very good and very solid. She thanked Jan Yardley and Janey Day for their efforts in preparing this power point presentation this evening.

B. Use of Facilities Fees.

Chairman Desjardins stated that the Ware Rotary Club requests a waiver of facilities fees for the clothing drive they held a couple of weeks ago in the lower parking lot area. He stated that they didn’t need a custodian or use any school utilities. He stated that the Rotary Club held this fundraiser to obtain funds for the scholarships they provide to our students. After a review and discussion of this request, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Danielle Souza that the Ware School Committee waives the use of facilities fee for the Ware Rotary Club of Ware for when they held their clothing drive earlier this month (September, 2009) given that they didn’t utilize a custodian or school utilities. All in favor.

IX. Other Business:

A. Schedule Future Meetings.

The following meetings were scheduled by the Ware School Committee to be held at the Ware Junior-Senior High School Library:

- October 14, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. Regular Meeting (5:30 P.M. with the Student Council)
- October 21, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.
- November 4, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.
- November 18, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.

MOTION by Chairman Desjardins and seconded by Brian Winslow to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman
