

check with our insurance company and there was no determination of coverage for non-students on the bus, did say that it covers the town. Also, the bus company should submit written evidence that their insurance company would cover the school should such circumstances arise, Dr. Beach answered they have submitted. 3. The Ware Public Schools would require the bus company to sign an addendum, Last Page of Handout 18.4, the attorney has stated that this is sufficient to cover us. 4. The bus company would have to sign a waiver, Sample form on following page (ATTACHED).

Dr. Beach added one more item, that the contract be amended to read that either the superintendent or the school committee can make the decision. Further, tonight the bus company is here to respond to Mr. Sawabi's questions about the car seats and the seat belt cutters.

Joan Crowther and Noreen Ford, came up to the podium to answer Mr. Sawabi questions. Ms. Crowther stated that we have the car seat and the seatbelt cutter here and the cutter is a state regulated cutter. The cutter is taped with velcro and is located near the right side of the right leg it must be easily accessible and the cutters are state mandated, and must be visible during annual inspection. The car seat was then brought up to be shown and a demonstration of cutting the car seat belts with the seat belt cutter took place. Brian Winslow asked if the car seat is DOT (Department of Transportation) approved, Joan Crowther answered that they are Department of Registry approved she would check to see if DOT approved. Aaron Sawabi did a lot of research since the last meeting, and based on this research he said this is not something unique to our school, it is very common throughout the nation, people have discussed this issue and because of that, there are guidelines out there to be followed. Because of the research he has done and talking to other mothers, and as long as the paperwork behind the scenes is addressed regarding any liability, he does not feel there is an increase in risk by allowing the child with the car seat on the bus. Joan Crowther, again mentioned that if she receives even one complaint the driver is done bringing their child. Brian Winslow asked who installs the seat belts on the bus. Ms. Crowther answered they are put in, in the factory by a mechanic. Legally we cannot force a driver to sign the waiver but the school committee can refuse them from bringing their children on the bus.

The car seat was then checked to see if it is DOT approved. Chris Desjardins wants to recess to call or to check online if the car seat is DOT approved.

Motion by Chris Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to recess at 6:56 PM in order to find an answer whether the car seat is DOT approved or not. All in favor.

Chris Desjardins called the meeting back to order at 7:05 PM.

During the recess it was found that no car seats are manufactured that are not DOT approved. Brian Winslow asked what if a bus driver does not sign the waiver, and that the school district cannot force them to sign. Dr. Beach explained you cannot force them to sign, however, you can refuse them from carrying their small children on the bus and she is not changing her position.

Motion by Aaron Sawabi and seconded by Danielle Souza to amend the bus contract to allow either the superintendent or the school committee to approve extra riders on the school bus. 4 members approve, 1 member oppose (B. Winslow). Motion Carries.

IV. Comments and Concerns

There were no comments and concerns tonight.

V. Sub-Committee Discussion:

Danielle Souza reported that the committee is working on a rough draft for the Facebooking and Social Networking Policy. What the subcommittee and teacher representative, Mr. O'Malley came away with from our policy meeting discussion is that it is a good technology tool to use in order to communicate with students, but the teachers personal account should not be used, if they wanted to use Facebooking or others, the sites would need to be a teacher/professional account. Dr. Beach asked if this would happen during the day because students are blocked from using Facebook or others during school. Aaron Sawabi asked why this is coming about. Dr. Beach answered that possibly teachers have lost their jobs doing this. Aaron Sawabi questioned that once you open this up to teachers and students how use will be monitored. Danielle Souza answered that this policy should be used to train staff in the warning of using Facebook and other social networking sites. Aaron Sawabi asked if this is the technology tool of choice. Danielle Souza mentioned maybe we could use LinkEd which is more of a professional site. The subcommittee thought it would be a good idea to survey teachers to see if they would or do use. Dr. Beach thought we should wait for the results of the survey to see how many use Facebook. The concern of the subcommittee would be to make sure teachers understand what could happen using Facebook to communicate with students. Dr. Beach mentioned that, during the training we had during the first day the attorney talked about things being said that could be misinterpreted and discussed incidents of bullying over such sites and could this happen here? Dr. Beach mentioned having random searches, but then we start to get into privacy issues and our IT department would be doing the monitoring. Brian Winslow then mentioned liability. Kara Rys student representative, explained that you can get tagged on an account and even if you deny it, it is still there and people can get it. Ms. Brindisi mentioned we have something free called MecNet you sign in and create an account and post homework assignments and it's easy to use. Danielle Souza asked Dr. Beach, the committee, and the principals how they felt about teachers befriending students on Facebook or other social networking sites, Ms. Brindisi said she is opposed to the idea. Danielle Souza then asked what would happen if something inappropriate was to happen. Dr. Beach answered if there was inappropriate conduct they will follow through with appropriate action which could include firing the teacher. The committee agreed to do more research on this issue and let the policy subcommittee put together a rough draft.

Lastly, Danielle Souza asked if the YMCA Scanlon reached out to Mr. Warren yet to put out the survey. Dr. Beach mentioned that you have another entity that wants to be considered, Valley Human Services and we may want to consider doing an RFP. The survey will go out from the YMCA and Valley Human Services may do the same. The committee wants the results by the next meeting.

V. Reports/Updates.

A. Report from Student Council Member.

In summary, Kara Rys reported the following:

- PSATs will take place October 13th for all sophomores and juniors that signed up.
- October 22nd is the Jr.PTSSA dance for 7th and 8th grade.
- Tuesday we began advisory. Mrs. Grant and Mr. Rich have worked very hard on helping to group students according to interests and the first day went really well.
- Ware Middle School will hold a concert on October 28th, from 6:30-7:30 in the WJSHS auditorium.

B. Report from Superintendent.

- The athletic sponsor banners - We have 14 that renewed their banners for a total of \$3,450 and we are sending final notices to 7 others to go into their second year and if they choose to, this will bring in an additional \$1,625. We have two new banners this year. At the very moment the banner fund has about \$4,000.

C. 2010 MCAS Results - Principals.

Ms. DiLeo presented - When comparing our 2010 ELA MCAS scores to the 2009 results SMK noted an increase of 8% for our above proficient and proficient students for the ELA portion of the test. This year noted an 8% decrease in the needs improvement category and the warning category held steady at 12%. These percentages found SMK close to the state's averages in all categories.

Since the summer of 2009 the faculty's focus at SMK for professional development has been geared towards writing. That focus continues today as we partnered with Hampshire Educational Collaborative to work on our knowledge and skill of Writers' Workshop. The Leadership Team at SMK noted a significant increase in student scores around the open response questions on the test since our building's focus on writing.

When comparing the math results we noted a decrease in the above proficient and proficient level by 5%, along with an increase in the needs improvement category of 6% as the warning category held steady at 18%. Through SMK's Leadership

Team's MCAS analysis it was determined that our students need work on math comprehension. Vocabulary words for math have been targeted in all grades as we work together to have a common language across the grade levels. In addition there are now five third grade classrooms which enable us to target a fifth group of learners during our "Walk to Math" groupings.

Mr. Warren presented – grade 4 ELA comparison in 2009 and 2010 we have had an increase in both advanced and proficient and a decrease in warning. Grade 4 Math we had an increase in the advance column and we are also pleased the column closed the gap between the state and had a decrease in warning. Grade 5 ELA we had an increase in proficient column and we are pleased that that equaled the state percentage for proficient. Grade 5 Math from the 2009 and 2010 showed an increase in both advance in proficient and a decrease in warning. Next is Grade 5 Science and Technology we are please to see an increase in the advanced. Grade 6 ELA we had a 13% increase in the advance and proficient and that is significant and are very proud of this, in the proficient category we exceeded the state. The last slide we had is the Grade 6 Math scores a slight dip. Some the steps we are taking to expand our math interventions, utilizing our math coach in the classrooms all to increase our scores. We are very pleased with our special teachers they are incorporating ELA and Math initiatives in their lessons, for example, the art teacher Mr. Pearson is working with geometric shapes, Ms. Revans our music teacher is having the students write journals, Ms. Brown our PE teacher and Mrs. Malin our computer teacher use a multitude of interdisciplinary approaches.

Ms. Brindisi, WJSHS Principal – She explained that she takes the proficient and advanced scores and combines them together to come up with a percentage. Beginning with the 2009 and 2010 comparison for Grade 7 ELA - 2009, 73%; 2010, 65% and even though we experienced a dip we are close to the state average of 70%. Comparison for Grade 7 Mathematics - 2009, 65%; 2010 64% a dip did occur but are higher than the state. Grade 8 ELA – 2009, 69%; 2010 75% significant increase close there and to the state 75% average. Grade 8 Mathematics – 2009, 44% and 2010, 46% slight increase here and close the stage average. Grade 8 Science – 2009, 23%; 2010, 43% huge leap here a great deal of work was done on aligning our science curriculum done by our eighth grade science teacher. Grade 10 ELA – 2009, 73%; 2010, 75% slight increase here and close to the 78% state average. Grade 10 Math – 2009, 78%; 2010, 75% on par with the state average of 78%. Grade 10 Biology – 2009, 69%; 2010, 50% something we need to look at. We are working with teachers and staff at the junior high on professional development in writing with HEC; sending 5 teachers to pre AP courses; aligning parts of our curriculum; vertical teaming; adding rigor to our curriculum. At our first faculty meeting we looked for gaps and things that needed to be updated in our current curriculum. These things we will be working on, on a continual basis.

Dr. Beach commented that the schools have done a good job looking at the data, dissecting the data and putting interventions in place. One of the interesting things about NCBL legislature is that 100% of students must be proficient or advanced by 2013 for the WPS that is about 3 years. We are somewhere between 50-75% and so is the state.

Chris Desjardins noticed that our scores are lower in the fourth and seventh grades and does transitioning into a new building part of it.

VIII. Communications

There were no communications tonight.

IX. Special Projects

A. School Choice.

There were no school choices updates tonight.

X. Other Business.

There was other business tonight.

MOTION by Chris Desjardins and seconded by Danielle Souza to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 P.M. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

C. Desjardins.....yes
B. Winslow.....yes
J. Rys.....yes

A. Sawabi.....yes
D. Souza.....yes

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman
