



**C. Minutes for Wednesday, October 14, 2009 – Regular Session.**

MOTION by Aaron Sawabi and seconded by Kara Brown to approve the meeting minutes from the Wednesday, October 14, 2009 Regular Session as written. All in favor.

**D. Minutes for Wednesday, October 14, 2009 – Executive Session.**

MOTION by Kara Brown and seconded by Brian Winslow to approve the meeting minutes from the Wednesday, October 14, 2009 Executive Session as written. All in favor.

**III. Comments and Concerns of Citizens.**

Bill Hill (parent, voter of Ware and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher) stated that he heard the comments made at the last meeting of the School Committee pertaining to School Choice. He believes that his messages were not inconsistent in that he reported that as a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher his message presented in the spring of the year is the same as what is presented in the fall of the year. Aaron Sawabi stated that he thanks Mr. Hill for being here this evening. He stated that this is a good example the need to have the information available to the School Committee so as to address situations presented so that there are no misunderstandings. He encourages people to bring forward information so that the data reviewed is accurate. Kara Brown stated that she has discussed the issue with teachers and due to the discussion held at the last meeting of the School Committee a better communication is being implemented for the transition of students from one grade level and/or one school building to another.

**IV. Policy Discussion.**

**A. Policy Review Sub-Committee Update.**

**B. Cell Phones Use on School Buses.**

Chairman Desjardins reported that at the last meeting of the School Committee there was a discussion of the pros and cons of cell phone usage on school buses. Brian Winslow stated that this is a safety issue. He stated that the Student Handbook reads that the buses are an “extension of the school” and therefore there shouldn’t be cell phone usage on the school buses. Paul Hills stated that he supports the school district rules, but wanted to know how the cell phone usage on school buses is enforced. He stated that with the bus driver operating that bus, it would be a liability issue to have the bus driver checking those passengers using cell phones while the driver is operating that bus. Chairman Desjardins stated that in order to enforce this ruling, the bus driver would need to have a longer time looking through the rear view mirror at the students thus causing a safety hazard. Superintendent Beach stated that the Director of the bus company wasn’t able to be present this evening, but has forwarded an email explaining this situation.

Brian Winslow stated that the bus driver is responsible for the safety on his/her bus. He stated that the driver can enforce some of the rules, but not all of them because of his/her driving responsibilities. Aaron Sawabi stated that if the bus driver feels the use of cell phones on the school bus is a safety issue, we need to acknowledge that. He stated that the School Committee can agree to certain requirements with the bus company and then we can see what community issues are present after that School Committee and bus company agreement is reached. Kara Brown reported that the non usage of cell phones on school buses is not a policy of the School Committee as it only appears in the Student Handbook, to which the School Committee does approve. Annie O'Brien reported that on the school buses the students can't do homework. She stated that no cell phones usage on school grounds is understood, but texting on the school bus shouldn't cause harm. Paul Hills stated that when things are forbidden, they are the things that people crave. After additional discussion, Superintendent Beach stated that she would request to have an Administrative representative available from the bus company at the next meeting of the School Committee to respond directly to the non use of cell phones on school busses.

## **V. Reports/Updates.**

### **A. Student Council Report.**

Annie O'Brien presented a verbal report to the members of the School Committee. In summary, she stated the following:

Sports:           Girls soccer needs one more game  
                      Boy's soccer made the playoffs  
                      Girl's volleyball made the playoffs  
                      Boy's football made the playoffs

Guidance:       Senior sessions are continuing along with other classes.  
                      College visits continue weekly

Student Council:   The Western Massachusetts Associate of Student Councils will be holding its next meeting here at the Ware Junior-Senior High School on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

New Clubs trying to be formed are the Diversity Club, the Manga Club and the Environmental Club. The Karate Club has started and the Games Club will start soon.

### **B. Budget Update FY'10.**

Andy Paquette made reference to his October 16, 2009 report pertaining to the September 30, 2009 Results of Operations (SEE ATTACHED). It was agreed to by the members of the School Committee that Andy doesn't need to have this report photocopied for future presentations because the report is available on the schools website for review.

### **C. Superintendent's Report.**

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

- Principal Brindisi is negotiating with United Driving School to offer driver's education here at the Ware School District Campus. This could be up to a \$100.00 savings for students along with the convenience of this campus location
- The Veterans' Field banner project has raised approximately \$2,300.
- The Ware Middle School is holding a concert on October 28<sup>th</sup> and is being held at the Ware Junior-Senior High School auditorium. The Ware Middle School's PTO is sponsoring a Halloween Holloway on October 30<sup>th</sup> and this Friday, the SMK is holding its Halloween Happening.
- Representative Gobi will be visiting the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes at the SMK on October 26<sup>th</sup>. There is also a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade trip scheduled to visit Sturbridge Village on November 6<sup>th</sup> to study colonial life.
- Dr. Bill Messner, President of Holyoke Community college will be visiting the school campus on October 28<sup>th</sup> to address the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders and discuss dual enrollment with me.
- The written update pertaining to student enrollment was presented to the members of the School Committee.

Robert Warren reported that the Ware Junior-Senior High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee has held monthly meetings and wish to add 5 to 7 members to the Hall of Fame with an induction dinner to be held in April, 2010. The members of the School Committee encouraged people to submit names to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Robert Warren stated that the names need to be submitted with reasons for why the individual should be inducted into this Hall of Fame. He stated that they seek candidates from as far back as 1970. He further stated that arrangements would be made to provide the criteria for eligibility on the school district's website. Superintendent Beach stated that the Hall of Fame Selection Committee's meeting schedule will also be posted on the school's website.

### **VI. Old/Unfinished Business.**

There was no old/unfinished business held this evening.

### **VII. New Business.**

There was no new business held this evening.

### **VIII. Communications.**

There were no communications noted this evening.

**IX. Special Projects.**

**A. School Choice.**

Chairman Desjardins stated that according to discussion held at a previous meeting, we need to have volunteers to contact other school districts pertaining to seeking their support to work with us in filing a Legislative Bill to change the School Choice legislation. Kara Brown and Danielle Souza volunteered to contact other school districts.

Bill Bradley stated that he has legislative insight and would be pleased to help prepare the wording for the proposed School Choice Bill. He wants to keep the students enrolled in the Ware School District and would be pleased to help on any committee.

MOTION by Chairman Desjardins and seconded by Kara Brown to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach  
Superintendent of Schools

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