

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. Minutes for Wednesday, September 30, 2009 – Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Danielle Souza and seconded by Brian Winslow to approve the meeting minutes for the Wednesday, September 30, 2009 regular meeting as written. 3 members approved, 2 members (C. Desjardins, K. Brown) absent. Motion Carries.

B. Minutes for Wednesday, October 14, 2009 – Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Danielle Souza and seconded by Brian Winslow to approve the meeting minutes for the Wednesday, October 14, 2009 regular meeting as written. 3 members approved, 2 members (C. Desjardins, K. Brown) absent. Motion Carries.

C. Minutes for Wednesday, October 14, 2009 – Executive Session.

MOTION by Danielle Souza and seconded by Brian Winslow to accept the meeting minutes for the Wednesday, October 14, 2009 executive session as written. 3 members approved, 2 members (C. Desjardins, K. Brown) absent. Motion Carries.

D. Minutes for Wednesday, October 21, 2009 – Regular Meeting.

MOTION by Danielle Souza and seconded by Brian Winslow to accept the meeting minutes for the Wednesday, October 21, 2009 regular meeting as written. 3 members approved, 2 members (C. Desjardins, K. Brown) absent. Motion Carries.

III. Comments and Concerns of Citizens.

Aaron Sawabi stated that a Use of Facilities question was presented to him by a member of the Ware Youth Football organization pertaining to the Ware School District's Policy File KF and KF-E. He stated that this group holds an event in each of the three school buildings on different dates and is charged separately by each of the school buildings for this usage. He asked if the fees could be grouped together by waiving the \$10.00 application fee and the \$50.00 usage fee for two of the buildings they use. Superintendent Beach stated that all three buildings are being used and therefore, separate fees are implemented for each building usage. She stated that in this situation, each building is a separate event with associated use of facilities fees. Aaron Sawabi requested that the Policy Review Sub-Committee revisit the Use of Facilities policy to see if there was a provision for the waiving of the \$10.00 application fee and the \$50.00 usage fee when an organization uses more than one school building for its event. Superintendent Beach stated that the Policy Review Sub-Committee would be addressing whether a single organization that utilizes multiple school facilities would be considered for only one application fee and one usage fee.

Superintendent Beach reported that the Town of Ware is not going to charge the Ware School District for water usage during the 2009-2010 year. She stated that with this new development, she would like the School Committee to waive the rental fee charged to the Town of Ware for the use of school facilities for Town meetings this year (2009-2010). Discussion pertaining to this request will be held at the next meeting of the School Committee.

IV. Policy Discussion:

A. Policy Sub-Committee Update.

Danielle Souza reported that the Policy Review Sub-Committee has reviewed information pertaining to the updating of the policy for School Volunteers. She stated that a policy will be formulated and presented at a future meeting for the School Committee's review. Superintendent Beach requested to have the school administrators review the draft of this policy for input.

V. Reports/Updates.

A. Student Council Report.

Kara Rys presented her verbal report to the members of the School Committee. In summary, she reported the following:

- Last Wednesday the President of Holyoke Community College, Dr. Messer, came to our high school and spoke to the 9th and 10th grade students.
- Several events occurred on Friday, October 30th such as:
 - The WMASC Conference was held at our high school with 150 students attending. Leadership skills were practiced.
 - The 7th and 8th grade parade for Halloween costumes was held prior to the start of school.
 - Mr. Adam's Performing Arts class presented their scenes for the school at the end of the day.
 - Spooky Village for children under 8 years was held Friday evening in the gymnasium by the International Club.
- The field trip to the Emily Dickenson Museum was cancelled because the roof caved in.
- A survey was held for Grades 10, 11 and 12 pertaining to convenient times for taking the United Driving School. The choices selected were the February school break or on Saturdays. The classes are 15 days for two hours.
- The Volleyball Girls took the Western Massachusetts Banner.
- The Girls and Boys Soccer find out tournament games on Friday.
- The MCAS retakes are on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for English Language Arts and on Monday and Tuesday for Mathematics.

- There will be a financial aid night in the Ware Junior-Senior High School Auditorium on November 23rd at 6:00 P.M.

B. Superintendent's Report.

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

- The Haunted Village held by the International Club went very well.
- The Halloween Happening at the Elementary School went very well.
- A professional development day was held on November 3rd with 30 offerings. This event was partnered with several other school districts.
- The cafeteria personnel are again preparing dinner rolls for Thanksgiving at \$5.00 for a pan of 16 rolls. The money raised is for the Christmas for Kids Fund in Ware.
- Ware's Christmas for Kids applications were sent home today. If a student is eligible, they send in their wish list. These applications are to be returned to the Town Treasurer by November 30th.
- The 250th Town Anniversary Committee has forwarded information to the School Committee that is in the packet this evening. The School Committee needs to determine if it wishes to participate in this town celebration.
- A banner has been placed at the Veterans Stadium for the 250th Birthday of the Town of Ware.
- Report Cards will be released on November 9th for students of all grades.

Lucille Brindisi, Robert Warren and Marlene DiLeo presented a video review of the MCAS Growth Model to the members of the School Committee (SEE ATTACHED). In summary, this "growth model" pertains to the K-12 method of measuring individual student progress on the MCAS by tracking student scores from one year to the next. They will keep the School Committee informed as additional information develops.

VI. Old/Unfinished Business.

A. Cell Phone Use on School Buses – Continued.

Representatives of the bus company (First Student) presented information to the School Committee that the "practice" has been that there are to be no cell phone usage on school buses. They stated that the school policy is that cell phones are off and away during the school day. They stated that the school day is from the time they access the bus in the morning until they are off the bus at the end of the day. They made reference to the student handbook reinforcing the bus company's practice of "off and away" on the school buses. After a discussion of the safety of the students and responsibility of the bus drivers, it was determined that the bus drivers should have some control over discipline on the school bus. The drivers would give violators a ticket for using cell phones on the bus and the Building Principal will address these violations on a case by case basis pertaining to the

circumstances for the usage. The Building Principals will announce to the students that the cell phone policy also reflects the “off and away” on school buses. A note pertaining to this will be sent home with the report cards next week. The bus company will post an appropriate sign for reminding the students to not use their cell phones on school buses.

Christopher Desjardins arrived at 7:40 P.M.

Lucille Brindisi reported that the Hampshire County School Collaborative hosts college fairs on a rotating basis. She stated that the Ware School District isn't a member of that Collaborative, but we could participate for all we need to do is attend a meeting twice a year. After discussion, it was felt that the school administrators need to determine if they wish to participate on this Collaborative.

VII. New Business.

There was no new business discussed this evening.

VIII. Communications.

There were no communications noted this evening.

IX. Special Projects.

A. School Choice.

Danielle Souza reported that she sent an email to Bill Bradley to state that the School Committee would contact him as they pursue the school choice legislation.

MOTION by Chairman Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 P.M. 4 members approved, 1 member (K. Brown) absent. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman
