



MOTION by Danielle Souza and seconded by Brian Winslow to approve the meeting minutes from the Wednesday, October 27, 2010 regular business meeting as amended. 3 members approved. 1 member (C. Desjardins) abstain. 1 member (A. Sawabi) absent. Motion Carries.

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

There were no comments and concerns of citizens this evening.

### **IV. Sub-Committee Discussion**

Danielle Souza has provided the committee a rough draft of the Social Networking Websites Policy File: IJNDD for review and dialog (ATTACHED). She reported that the subcommittee created this draft using an original policy file from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC); suggestions from Nancy Slator, President of Ware's Teacher Association; suggestions from staff, coaches and parent volunteer groups. The surveying found that some are using Facebook and other social networking sites now to communicate with parents and students, for example the Jr.PTSSA. Since people are already using social networking tools we added in SECTION B to help keep the students from teacher's personal accounts. This draft has not been through legal yet the subcommittee is looking for input from the entire committee and will make necessary changes and will then send to legal. Dr. Beach mentioned that in SECTION C in addition to coaches, they have volunteers, this section should extend to them as well. Dr. Beach said that should the committee choose to adopt a policy, some faculty and staff are not in support of formulating a social network with teachers, parents and students. She would like it to say something about this being voluntary not a must. Danielle Souza asked, legally can we tell teaches they cannot use social networking to talk to kids, Dr. Beach said yes. Dr. Beach also mentioned that a teacher at SMK wants to set up a blog and this draft does not address blogging. Danielle Souza would like to talk to Mike Brown from the Information Technology (IT) department to see if teachers can use their emails to set up a Facebook account. Dr. Beach said that the district has a firewall set up against all social networking sites, no one can access them on our network, teachers and students would not be able to do this on our network. Dr. Beach will ask if the firewall structure can be open or not open during certain times of the day and maybe we can invite IT to come to our next meeting to get a perspective on social networking and to explain the technicalities to us. Dr. Beach would like to also invite the attorney to a meeting to help answer some questions about random searches, privacy issues and mandating reporting.

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

#### **A. Report from Student Council Member.**

In summary, Kara Rys reported the following:

#### **SMK**

- Last week and this week the Ware Fire Department is giving classroom presentations on Fire Safety to all students at SMK. Fireman Dave Gambino is sharing valuable information with all of our students.

- There was a great turnout for the Halloween Happening which took place on Friday, Nov. 5 even though it took place after Halloween; it was a chance for many students and adults to dress up one last time.

### WMS

- The Halloween Bash was held on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended and all had a great time. The bash was sponsored by the PTO.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Veterans Day observance assembly took place today. Local veteran's visited the school to speak with students on their experiences and answer questions. The chorus performed "This Land Is Your Land" a reception was held following the assembly for our honored guests. Mr. Coll, Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher was instrumental in coordinating this assembly. Thank you, Mr. Coll.
- The non-perishable food drive continues at the middle school until November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The students are to be commended for all of their donations thus far.

### WJSHS

- The student council attended the fall conference at Westfield on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, conference went well and we learned a lot of fun activities and leadership skills.
- Reports cards were issued on Monday.
- Spirit week is being held this week with days including "Hillbilly Day," "Twin Day," and "Sports Day."
- Friday night is the bonfire and pep rally
- MCAS Testing is over.
- Friday, Nov. 19 is the Homecoming dance for grades 9-12 from 6-10 PM.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM is Financial Aid Night at Palmer High School.
- Girl's soccer lost last night against Lenox for the quarter final tournament.
- Girl's volleyball lost against Frontier Monday night.
- Kara Rys made All-State in soccer for the girls and Josh Lynch for the boys.

### **B. Report from Superintendent.**

- Ware High School has 18 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship winners in the class of 2011. These students may attend any state university with tuition being paid for four years. You have a copy of the press release and names.
- The superintendent attended the joint MASC/MASS Conference, lots of conversations about bullying, social networking, and next year's budget...bleak outlook.
- I mentioned awhile ago we might try to go out for transportation bid with Granby. Granby has decided on another course. Andy Paquette will be preparing draft bid specifications for your review, before Christmas.
- The superintendent on behalf of the Ware Learning Community wants to thank all of our Ware Veterans for their service to preserve the rights and freedom we enjoy in the United States.

- Enrollment update, grade 8 female moved out of town; two grade 11 males left, one dropped out to enter the military and one moved out of town.

Brian Winslow asked Dr. Beach if we will be submitting the Bullying Plan to the state by the December 31, 2010 deadline. Dr. Beach answered yes.

## **VI. OLD UNFINISHED BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Before and After School, Summer Program – Discussion**

This item was moved from item B. to item A. as a courtesy because we have representatives here tonight from VHS. Danielle Souza would like to have a program in place by January 2011. Chris Desjardins asked about the cost of the program and that the survey mentioned financial aid but did not go into detail as how much. Joanne Rys thought it may be difficult to put a program into place by January. Danielle Souza mentioned that we are only renting the space not putting together the program. The programs licensing should only take about 30 days. If we are not happy with the program we could terminate at any time, Dr. Beach added only if it's in your contract. Discussion then took place regarding renting the space making sure the cost is equitable, currently we charge by the square footage, we could do a flat fee, or look at per pupil charge. Both the YMCA and VHS will work around athletics. The YMCA ends at 6:00 PM and the VHS ends at 5:30 PM. Chris Desjardins would like to see both the VHS and YMCA exist. Danielle Souza agreed, she would like to see the VHS stay with the little kids and have the YMCA with the older kids. Dr. Beach is willing to write a letter on behalf of the school committee to these programs saying we are delighted to accept their proposals, expanding VHS K-5 program and offering a YMCA to grades 6-8 and that we are willing to entertain summer programs later in the spring.

Jane Simonds from VHS came up to the podium to speak. Ms. Simonds wanted to confirm that Superintendent Beach is correct that we would be willing to do the K-5 program after school programming or a K-8 program. In going forward for this year, if the school committee chose to contract with VHS as well as with the YMCA the two would be in different locations, and that next year we do not know what it will look like but both will have to be mobile. Dr. Beach said yes, that is true and that no one program can be in the buildings in August and that the programs have to be portable.

Motion by Danielle Souza and seconded by Brian Winslow to accept The Carson Center at Valley Human Services (VHS) grades K-5 program for morning and afternoon programming at SMK and bring in the Scantic Valley YMCA to the middle school for grades 6-8 through after school and vacations during the school year and then revisit before the summer program begins. 4 members approved. 1 member (A. Sawabi) absent. Motion Carries.

**B. School Committee Goals – 2010-2011 (Tabled from October 27, 2010).**

Committee members agreed to email Chris Desjardins their school committee goal suggestions before the next meeting so that he can compile them and have a final document to review and approval.

**VII. New Business**

Danielle Souza asked Dr. Beach about the fourth graders not using the grass area on the side of the middle school for recess during lunch. Parents are concerned that their children can fall and get hurt on the tar in the middle school driveway. Dr. Beach mentioned they can, but she will speak to Mr. Warren and try a day or two a week and see how it goes.

Dr. Beach reported that she has a MOA that needs signature from the school committee for the MMSI (Massachusetts Math and Science Initiative) this grant allows us to offer the AP support, buys supplies and train teachers. The grant has paid for five of our junior high teachers to attend the pre-AP training during the summer, paid for a teacher to attend AP Biology training, paid for half of the materials for the AP English and Biology this year, and they will pay for the AP tests for students that took English AP last year that did not score a three, and continue to pay for training in AP. The AP grant will also provide three Saturday AP classes for the students at the university, and as part of the agreement we will be paying the teachers their hourly rate to attend these Saturday classes. If students receive a three or higher on the AP exam the teacher will get a stipend, this was part of the negotiation with the union, that slowed the agreement down because they do not want the teachers to get a bonus check, consequently the check will be deposited in a mutually agreed upon fund for the teacher's to use. Dr. Beach said that if there is a vote on this, and it is approved then she can get Mr. Sawabi's signature and get this going. The cost to the district is the three sessions and half the materials. We already offer AP English, Biology and Math. The committee has already agreed. Brian Winslow asked if there is a ball park, Dr. Beach said she can not give a ball park, but our goal is to expand the program. Joanne Rys mentioned that these AP classes are extremely important and would like to see them continue and even more offered. Dr. Beach added that we are keeping our dual enrollment and that AP courses depending where you go often waive a freshmen entry class for the student if they scored a three or four in the AP course.

Motion by Joanne Rys and seconded Brian Winslow to start what ever is needed for the MOA to keep the MMSI grant going. 3 members approved. 1 member (C. Desjardins) abstain. 1 member (A. Sawabi) absent. Motion Carries.

Lastly, Dr. Beach brought to the committee a request to allow a World Language Teacher to attend the conference, Strengthening Spanish Language Instruction conference on January 10, 2011 in Albany, NY. This was brought to the committee because of Policy GCIA which is professional development opportunities policy that

says all requests for teachers and administrators to attend out of state conferences must have approval of the school committee.

Motion by Joanne Rys and seconded Brian Winslow to allow the World Language Teacher attend the Strengthening Spanish Language Instruction conference in Albany, NY. 3 members approved. 1 member (C. Desjardins) abstain. 1 member (A. Sawabi) absent. Motion Carries.

**VIII. Communications**

There were no communications tonight.

**IX. Special Projects**

**A. School Choice**

There were no special projects tonight.

**X. Other Business.**

Schedule of future meeting, December 8, 2010 at 6:30 PM in the WJSHS library.

MOTION by Chris Desjardins and seconded by Brian Winslow to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 P.M. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach  
Superintendent of Schools

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_