

The minutes from the executive session on Wednesday, December 08, 2010 were not approved during the regular business meeting.

III. Comments and Concerns of Citizens

There were no comments and concerns of citizens this evening.

IV. Policy Sub-Committee Discussion

Danielle Souza reported that there is nothing at this time.

V. Reports/Updates

A. Report from Student Council Member.

In summary, Kara Rys reported the following:

SMK

- The holiday arts festival was a great success.
- Teachers in grades 2 and 3 continue their professional development with the Writers' Workshop with Jenny Bender next week, teachers in kindergarten and grade 1 will see Mrs. Bender in January 2011.
- As part of the Responsive Classroom curriculum, we have written and adopted a pledge which is read daily by a student prior to the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The faculty and staff would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday.

WMS

- WMS Leadership Council's project for the month was "The Ultimate Patriots Raffle" to benefit Becker's Bike's Challenge far exceeded their goal of 12 bikes and purchased 20 bikes instead. Thanks to everyone for their efforts and especially Sy Becker for coming out to thank the students and draw the winning ticket, Liz C. from Holyoke won.

WJSHS

- All juniors attended a PSAT results workshop about college and tips for taking SATS.
- Mrs. Roberts held a meeting with seniors who attended Financial Aid Night, to talk about the next steps.
- We are now complete with college visits we had about 30 college reps visit to talk about their college.
- Social Norms Focus Group met with Monica Moran.
- NJHS read to 1st graders.
- NHS made a food and cash donation to the Jubilee Cupboard also a bottle donation to St. Jude's Hospital.

- We will have a new secretary beginning January 3rd, a special thanks to Mrs. Williams who is retiring and will be missed greatly.
- Ski trip January 3rd.
- Winter concert on January 12th at 7:00 PM.
- HCC is coming to the school on January 11th for a decision day; STCC is coming January 13th.

B. Report from Superintendent.

- This week at WMS we had our 4th Grade DARE graduation.
- Ms. DiLeo was asked to come up and do the honors: It is with great pride that Dr. Beach has been notified by the DESE that SMK is 1 out of 15 schools in the common wealth that has narrowed the achievement gaps for low-income students between 2008/09 and 2009/10. With the intent of learning what best practices helped us in this achievement the DESE will be here for a two day site visit to collect data with the goal of writing a report describing effective practices promoting the achievement for students in poverty. The DESE is awarding SMK a \$10,000 to continue narrowing the achievement gap.

VI. OLD UNFINISHED BUSINESS NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Mail Carrier Position

Information on Mail Delivery (ATTACHED). In summary, the post office will not deliver to both the W.M.S and Central Office because they have the same address. Danielle Souza asked to change the delivery from the middle school to the central office. This would mean then that central office sorts and distributes the mail for both. W.M.S gets much more mail and does not have the same hours. We could make someone pick up the mail in central office. Chris asked \$3,119 last year so are we are track to spend about another thousand dollars. Yes. Aaron Sawabi asked what happens in the summer, Dr. Beach answered that someone in central office does it but there is little mail compared to the school year. He also asked if there is any other way to distribute the mail. No, matter how you look at it is labor intensive. Chris Desjardins asked is there any one else that can do this during the day? Yes, someone at a higher salary could do it. Dr. Beach said we can look into it. Currently, the money is part of the employee's hourly salary, if it is stopped she will not get paid, we would then have to take \$3,119 out of her salary. Dr. Beach thought Jeff Nicholas could use her in the kitchen. Aaron Sawabi asked what the hourly rate is. Andy Paquette answered \$12.55 hour at about 255 hours. Brian Winslow asked about liability if something was to happen. Can they deliver to a mailbox at the school? One mailbox in the front of your office and deliver all the mail, Dr. Beach will ask.

B. Discussion on First Twelve Sections of Prior Bus Bid Specification (May 2006)

Dr. Beach handed out a document with the current bus odometer readings that was asked about last meeting (ATTACHED).

VII. New Business

A. Request to Waive Fee for Use of Facilities by the 250th Anniversary Committee

The 250th Anniversary Committee is holding a Tanglewood Marionettes Show and hands-on activities at the school on January 15, 2011 12:00-4:00 PM they have the principal's approval to hold the event and also have a Use of Facilities bill for \$210 with \$50 refundable deposit leaving a balance of \$160. They are requesting to have the fee waived. It was asked if there will be any conflicts with basketball teams and if a custodian is on duty that day. There does not seem to be any conflicts and yes a custodian is on duty.

Motion by Danielle Souza and seconded by Joanne Rys to waive the Use of Facilities Fee for the Tanglewood Marionettes Show sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee. All in favor. Motion carries.

B. Review Remaining Sections of Prior Bus Bid Specification (May 2006)

A review took place of the Prior Bus Bid Specification below is a summary of the discussion. Chris Desjardins would like to see page 3 deleted. The wording in the current bid regarding the ages and mileage of the buses (3.1.1) reads, "No vehicle shall be older than six (6) years and show no more than 90,000 miles on its odometer at any time during the period covered by the initial three-year contract." Brian Winslow would like to change the wording from and to or. Dr. Beach also suggested putting in the specs that the newest buses with the fewest miles get used first. Chris Desjardins wants to be careful to not make our bid so strict that no one bids, want to keep competitive with student safety a priority. Aaron Sawabi asked Andy Paquette if he does bus bids for other districts, if so, does this one for Ware compare. Andy Paquette answered that he does do other bids and this bid is about average and is competitive. Danielle Souza wanted to know where the School Bus Complaint Forms are located, and if a parent has a complaint who do they contact? The forms are located at each of the schools main office and central office, Dr. Beach answered that parents call the schools, the bus company and the superintendent as well. The committee would like to have written in the next bid that any complaints against the bus company they should be notified. Aaron Sawabi also stated that the goal of this bus bid should be to write up these specs so that we are comfortable with the age of the buses that we are getting for the term of our contract and that would be the most safe, get rid of the word and (3.1.1), change to or. Brian Winslow asked Andy Paquette about extensions, he answered adding a clause in the contract that states the 2 year extensions on all bid specs for the 3 years continue in the 2 yr. extension. Andy Paquette would also like to see a Fuel Adjustment Clause in the new contract. Chris Desjardins asked about (12.7) –

Extensions could we lower the CPI over 3 years or 10% whatever is lower. Brian Winslow asked if we going to keep it that they are based in the town of Ware and pointed out that it does not say specifically based in the town of Ware and that this also applies to mechanics. Dr. Beach stated that we want these buses to pass inspections, be operable and to be available. Andy Paquette mentioned that we do receive data for the location of the maintenance facility and the number of qualified maintenance staff; do you want to require a certain distance or location? Soon after this discussion about being based in Ware and mechanics, Chris Desjardins mentioned that the committee needs to wrap up because there is another meeting scheduled for 7:30 PM, we will pick up our discussion next time with (7.4). Joanne Rys had to leave the meeting at 7:20 PM.

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 meetings:

- January 5, 2010 at 6:30 PM Regular Business Meeting in the WJSHS library.
- January 5, 2011 at 6:30 PM Regular Business Meeting in the WJSHS library.
- January 19, 2011 at 7:30 AM Budget Subcommittee in the Superintendent’s Conference Room

MOTION by Christopher Desjardins and seconded by Aaron Sawabi to move into executive session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B, Qualification No. 3 to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining or litigation at 7:35 PM and not to return to regular session. 4 members approve. Motion Carries.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

C. Desjardins.....	yes	A. Sawabi.....	yes
B. Winslow.....	yes	D. Souza.....	yes
J. Rys.....	absent		

NOTE: The meeting adjourned in executive session at 9:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of Schools

_____, Chairman
