Weymouth School Committee

VIRTUAL

Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/863607059?pwd=YWpoaWhFZGJsM3FMWVZBcHF4K3NYZz09

April 9, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Approved 4/30/20

Members In Attendance: Lisa Belmarsh, Chair; Tracey Nardone, Vice-Chair; John Sullivan, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Carrie Palazzo,

Members Absent: Mayor Hedlund

Also Present: Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Wargo, Assistant Superintendent.

The Meeting Came to Order At 7:00pm.
The Chair led in the pledge of allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for the Richard Steele who passed away on 3/29/20 and for Christopher Kibbe who passed away on 3/31/20.

The Chair shared that it was important to have this second virtual meeting and went over directions of how public comment will be handled; online participants should wave hands in front of the camera and phone participants should say their names. WETC will also be recording this meeting to be viewed on http://weymouth.tv/

Consent Agenda:
The consent agenda included:

- Warrant 42-2020 in the amount of $1,048,291.07, Dated 4/13/20 presented with an assurance there is money to pay for these items.
- Regular Minutes: 3/26/20 & 3/31/20
- Executive Minutes: 3/4/20

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda by Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll call vote. Passed unanimously
Mrs. Curran commented that the minutes of 3/26 minutes would more accurately represent her comments on the budget number if they said, 'the proposed budget plus the needs list.' Dr. Sullivan agreed to make the change.

Massachusetts Association of School Committee's sent out an advisory dated 4/9/20 for school committees recommending appointing a single signatory for the warrant. The Chair asked members to support a motion pursuant to MGL Chapter 41 Section 56 to appoint a single signatory to sign the warrant. Chair Belmarsh would be the signatory. Motion by Mrs. Nardone, Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll call vote. Passed unanimously. Mrs. Curran requested that she be able to see the warrant; she will work with Ms. Pitts. It was reiterated that the administration building will be closed the week of 4/13/20.

Student Advisory
Students Juliana Amendolare, Abigail Huard, Lauren Crisileo, Natalie MacDonald, and Katelyn Horan gave an overview of their report. Their report is attached to these minutes. Topics included GPA, Community Service, class dues, senior events, pass/fail, and credit/no credit, social distancing project. The committee thanked the advisory for their report and encouraged the students to stay in touch with Principal Strauss.
At this time senior events are postponed and not canceled.

The Superintendent added that more information will be forthcoming on term 3 and 4-'The Super Term' and asked to be included on future student advisory correspondence.

MRs. Nardone shared that the email that went out to families from Principal Strauss was well written and well done.

Principal Strauss added that the consistent message is that the goal is to come back and things might be done differently. He reiterated that counselors have heard from colleges and have been advised that this time won't affect applicants and that something will go out, especially to junior families.

Public Comment
There was none.

Report of the Superintendent
The Superintendent shared a huge shout out to all WPS employees and thanked all for going above and beyond during this time of school closure.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared her condolences to the Steele and Kibby families.

15,000 lunches have been prepared and given out by food services with support from custodial staff, maintenance staff, administrators, and teachers. The difficulty providing food for everyone was an error in the count and there is not a shortage of food. That glitch has been remedied. A big thank you to Brian Smith for all of his hard work.

The Virtual Curriculum plan is in full swing.

Academy Ave shares big thank yous to Brett Lindholm, James Rekowski and the Tech Staff for all of their help and training.

Abigail Adams remote learning has rolled out with high attendance and big thank yous to the teaching staff and Mr. Materna for the Friday morning shout out.

Principal Perez wanted to remind that registration is ongoing for PreK and Kindergarten. Information is available at
https://www.weymouthschools.org/johnson-early-childhood-center

Murphy and Nash School are hosting online book fair.
Murphy School Facebook page has a mystery reader series.

Weymouth High School has over 17 videos in the social distancing project and was recognized by the Patriot Ledger.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple recognized how the students and community are reacting so positively during this social distancing time.

New Business
a. Weymouth Remote Teaching and Learning Update – Assistant Superintendent Robert Wargo

Mr. Wargo gave special thanks to the Curriculum team; Terri Marculitis, Teri Fleming, Jeremy Angelos, Allison Mezzetti, Dennis Jones, Lauren Saracino, and the Special

Education Administrator, Allyson Bell and Assistant Administrators, Patricia Hayes and Meg Verlicco, the Tech Team and Brett Lindholm, the Nursing team and Paula Magnascao, Maryann Foley, Brian Smith and Superintendent Curtis-Whipple for her steadfast leadership.

Mr. Wargo gave an overview of the presentation. Some topics covered were student welfare, guiding principles set by DESE, Remote vs. Online learning, Synchronous and Asynchronous check-ins, and office hours.

Mr. Wargo emphasized the tremendous amount of work that went into creating over 70 grade level content based professional learning communities and that from Day 1 educators were working hard and reaching out to students, especially the most vulnerable population.

The tech department has already distributed 600 chromebooks to students/families in need.

At this time the focus of remote learning is on reinforcement and review of previously covered topics as well as enrichment. Mr. Wargo also reminded that if there are multiple students checking in from the same at home they don't have to stay on for the entire time and may also check in with teachers during office hours. Video check in not being mandatory was discussed.

Learning activities and suggested daily schedules for primary, middle and high school levels will be posted online
https://www.weymouthschools.org/district/urgent-alerts/remote-learning-and-updates
The tech team is streamlining to make it easier to navigate.

Mr. Wargo thanked Maryann Bryan for her invaluable help. Assistant Superintendent Wargo also asked for the community to be patient as information is ever changing and answers are coming.

Special Education Administrator Bell reiterated the amazing work that has been done not only Monday-Friday but weekends too. Ms. Bell restated that the needs of all students, even the most vulnerable will be met and special education staff is engaging students as best they can during this time. Ms. Bell met virtually with SEPAC on 4/8/20 and a letter also went out to special education families

Dr. Sullivan added that establishing a predictable daily routine is important for students so he recommended taking part in check-ins if at all possible. He also stated Google Meets can be accessed by multiple devices, including phones.

The Superintendent clarified for Mrs. Curran that if the school is capable and can move forward with new curriculum to challenge all students general and special education during remote learning, it will. Everything that is falling into the Super term is credit/no credit.

Chair Belmarsh added that if parents/families have questions to reach out to teachers during office hours and then the building principal for support. Email is the preferred communication at the moment.

Ms. Palazzo added that if there was 1 place to have information (schedule and links) that it may eliminate the sense of overwhelm some families feel.

Ms. Bell advised that due to privacy a lot of what is shared with special education families will be shared individually.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Kelly Stuckenborg
Stated that for WHS families, check-in has been represented as mandatory and asked for clarification. High school students should check in each day, but doing so on the timed Google Meet is not required.

b. Review of Contract Changes with SEIU, AFSCME, and WEA and Weymouth Schools
The Chair shared that the School Committee - particularly Dr. Sherlock Shangraw -, along with Maryann Foley, Brian Smith, and other administrators worked over the last 2 weeks to update contracts. They were approved by School Committee on Monday, April 6, 2020. She thanked all for the collaboration and support of union and non union staff. Chair Belmarsh thanked Rebecca Sherlock- Shangraw and others for their work in reviewing and approving in the expedited time frame to allow continuity of pay.

Dr. Sherlock Shangraw gave an overview highlighting the cafeteria and van driver contracts. Cafeteria workers on call can volunteer to work on site and have prepared and delivered 15,000 lunches. They will receive a minimum of 4 hours on top of their weekly pay. The van drivers on call, delivering and lunch and educational materials will receive hour for hour worked in addition to their weekly pay. Proper guidelines will be followed and gloves and masks will be provided. All on call workers can partake in

professional development as well. Additional pay is in recognition of the additional risk the employees are taking.
Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw stated it was a pleasure to work with both unions during negotiations and the district is lucky to have them.

c. 2019-2020 Calendar Changes (Action Requested)
The Superintendent gave an overview of the revised calendar. There will not be school on Monday, April 20, 2020 however school will be in session April 21-24, 2020. The last day of school now will be June 19, 2020. The last day for senior students is still being determined. The professional development day April 7, 2020 has been rescheduled to May 19, 2020. Grades 5-12 will have 'super term' combining terms 3 and 4. Primary and Kindergarten terms will remain the same. Primary report cards will be going out the week of 4/13/20.

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the changes made to the 2019/2020 calendar as requested. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll call vote. Passed unanimously.

The Next Meeting of the Weymouth School Committee will be held virtually on Thursday, April 30, 2020, 7pm

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:08pm on the motion of Dr. Sullivan. Seconded by Ms. Sherlock-Shangraw Sullivan. Passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

- Student Advisory Report
- Remote Teaching and Learning Update
- 2019/2020 School Calendar

Respectfully Submitted,

John P. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Secretary