

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of November 9, 2016

Held at the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School

- Meeting convened: 7:00 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned: 9:12 p.m.
- Members present: Robert Hayes, Frederick Small, Daniel Cullity, Robert Trotta, Christopher Howard, Michael Jones, Robert O'Brien, Jr., Kevin Lynam, Alexandria Taylor (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)
- Members absent: Steve Bois
- Administrators present: Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Patrick Dillon, Asst. Superintendent of Schools
Ellen Stockdale, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Staff Development
Dr. John Queally, Administrator for Special Education and PPS
Christine Suckow, Director of Business Services
Chad Peters, Director of Technology Services
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Chair Hayes brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the meeting was being broadcast live and recorded.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2016 School Committee meeting minutes

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the October 12, 2016 School Committee meeting minutes, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hayes took the agenda out of order.

NEW BUSINESS

Drug Use Report and Survey – Grade 8

Dr. Whitner introduced Hillary Dubois, Director of Prevention Services at the High Point Treatment Center in Brockton, Gabrielle Peruccio, Coalition Coordinator from the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse prevention Collaborative, and Edward Jacoubs, Director of Grants and Sponsored Projects from the Office of the Plymouth County District Attorney. The Office of the District Attorney was awarded a federal grant and uses the money to address the opiate epidemic, works closely with the Brockton Area Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative and helped form Whitman-Hanson Whitman WILL, part of the coalition encompassing area towns. The Collaborative focuses on education, trainings, and outreach for individuals in active use and those around them.

Ms. Dubois and Mr. Jacoubs reported on highlights of a student survey administered to high school students at the regional high school as well as surrounding high schools that included Brockton, Rockland and East Bridgewater. The Youth Health and Wellness survey was approved by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District School Committee in May 2016 for participation by

Whitman-Hanson Regional High School students. The purpose of the survey is to identify student health behavior and what students feel may be affecting their health. The Coalition is requesting to administer the same survey to 8th grade students in the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District upon the approval of the School Committee. The additional data for middle school year students will be used to determine what steps may be necessary to promote and address current youth risk behavior issues and determine the priority target areas that need attention and move forward with the next steps of Whitman WILL mission. The Committee will be provided with a copy of the entire survey upon request.

VOTE: Mr. Trotta motioned; Mr. Small seconded; voted to approve administering the Whitman-Hanson Drug Free Communities Survey to Grade 8 students in the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District, as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

MASC/MASS Conference 2016

Dr. Whitner reported on the MASC/MASS Conference 2016 last November. Dr. Whitner participated in a panel session to discuss Whitman-Hanson's success on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on the Planning for Success strategic plan model. Dr. Whitner also attended the Massachusetts Association of Regional School (MARS) general meeting at the Conference. Mr. Cullity reported on the sessions he attended, including social media and the MASC adopted Charter School Reform resolution regarding English Language Learners (ELL). Mr. Small reported on a panel session he attended about working with the community and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to achieve a school building solution.

Spring 2016 Statewide Assessments

Ellen Stockdale reported on the spring 2016 MCAS statewide student assessment and district accountability. Mrs. Stockdale provided a review of the current DESE classification for each school. Over the last three years, statewide assessments have been undergoing a transition by administering MCAS, PARCC and a combination of both. Additionally, some testing has been online; some has been paper and pencil. The goal is to build a solid, well-aligned curriculum with high effective teachers and identify areas of improvement for students. In order to get the data needed, consistency in testing is necessary. Whitman-Hanson used PARCC as well as MCAS in 2016, and the District has been "held harmless," meaning that achievement levels either stay the same or improve, and they cannot go down. . The District's schools are in Level One and Level Two. Overall, Whitman-Hanson is a Level Two district; no regional school districts in Massachusetts are Level One. School districts' scores are calculated at the lowest level of its lowest performing school.

In the spring of 2016, grades 3-8 participated online in PARCC again in ELA and Math and paper and pencil MCAS in science. The high school administered MCAS for mathematics, English language arts, and science, all paper and pencil. Whitman-Hanson will be held harmless as it transitions to the anticipated MCAS 2.0 in spring 2017 as voted by the Board of Education. Mrs. Stockdale went on to describe how the District will continue to align grades K-12 across the District. The curriculum directors are working to that end, visiting schools and classrooms and participating in Professional Learning Communities or PLC's. This assists in data analysis by school to address school needs as part of school improvements plans in line with the objectives and initiatives of the Strategic Plan.

Curriculum directors, Brian Selig, Amy Hill, and Mark Stephansky, discussed considerations and opportunities for each subject area: math, English, and science respectively. Each curriculum director discussed instruction and curriculum, resources, and learning about next generation MCAS in each subject area. Samples of online testing and MCAS questions vs. PARCC questions were presented. All schools are expected to administer assessments online by 2019. There was a brief discussion in the challenge of comparing assessment data due to the transitions in MCAS and PARCC, assessment differentiation, and the fact that the state does not have released results linked to actual PARCC test questions.

Ellen Stockdale reported the Gelfand Trust recently signed proposals for the District to fund Kindergarten and grade 1 materials. Mr. Trotta commented he was pleased to see the amount of coordination between curriculum directors and teachers, as well as the handling of the roll out.

Health Insurance Information

Mrs. Suckow reported that the next meeting of the Mayflower Municipal Health Group Steering Committee is November 18. The Steering Committee is researching additional alternatives for medical insurance for additional premium options and uncertain about cost increases in the upcoming year. An Insurance Committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Excess and Deficiency Certification

Christine Suckow reported that notification from the Department of Revenue confirmed the District Budget has been certified based upon the unaudited balance sheet submitted, the amount of excess and deficiency (E & D) as of July 1, 2016 for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District was certified at \$1,246,482 by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) which is 2.75% of the District LEA Budget. The allowable maximum in the E&D account is 5% of the operating and capital budget (LEA Budget \$45,534,871) or \$2,276,744. Mrs. Suckow summarized the accounts and other receivables that represent the unexpended and/or unencumbered appropriations in the E & D account.

Budget Reports

Christine Suckow reviewed the YTD expenditure and revenue reports illustrating original appropriations, transfers and/or adjustments and year to date expenditures, encumbrances and available budget used to date.

Dr. Whitner reported that when the Committee reorganized in May, a Warrant Subcommittee was not established. Going forward, a Warrant Subcommittee meeting will be posted to enable all warrants to be signed outside of School Committee meetings. Chair Hayes asked for members interested in being on the Subcommittee. The Committee appointed the following members to the 2016-2017 Warrant Sub-committee; Kevin Lynam, Alexandria Taylor, Robert O'Brien, Jr., Frederick Small, and Christopher Howard. A Warrant Sub-committee posting and agenda will commence every two weeks in anticipation of signing warrants. The Superintendent will contact legal counsel regarding the use of digital signatures on budget and payroll warrants.

OLD BUSINESS

Maquan Roof Repair

Chair Hayes reported he attended a recent Hanson Board of Selectmen's meeting where they discussed the remaining roof repair details for the Maquan Elementary School. The Board of

Selectmen voted to approve the bid specs, developed by Gale Engineering. Christine Suckow reported an agreement has been signed by the Hanson Town Administrator and anticipates finalizing the bid invitation specs next week.

Capital Repairs

Chair Hayes defined the town's responsibility for maintenance of the school facilities and any capital items exceeding a cost of \$5,000 are the responsibility of the town. Recently the Indian Head School playground was added to the Hanson Capital Improvement matrix due to need of a new playground.

Dr. Whitner explained that the Facilities and Capital Projects Subcommittee met earlier in the evening to review the matrices, which are five-year plans developed and reviewed with the town improvement committees with the school to discuss, plan, synchronize and prioritize the needs of the buildings. The Superintendent will send the updated capital projects matrices to School Committee members.

Field Trips

Business related arts field trip to New York City.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. O'Brien seconded; voted to approve the out of state, overnight field trip for high school related arts classes to New York City April 27-29, 2017, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Sub-Committee

There was nothing new to report.

Facilities and Capital Improvements Sub-committee Report

Fred Small reported in addition to a review of the capital projects matrices, water and air quality reports released. Also, the capital repair of the tennis courts is progressing and will be completed in the spring, once the final top coating can be applied.

Legislative Update

Mike Jones reported the incumbent state representatives are Josh Cutler for the Town of Hanson and Geoff Diehl for the Town of Whitman. Both were re-elected.

North River Collaborative Representative Report

Mr. Bois was not present to report.

Pilgrim Area Collaborative Representative Report

Mr. Bois was not present to report.

Negotiations Subcommittee

Chair Hayes stated although the negotiations are now concluded for 2015-2018 collective bargaining units and to be prepared for the upcoming 2018-2021 negotiations.

Chair Hayes announced the School Committee will enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's litigating position.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; roll call voted to come out of Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; roll call voted to come out of Executive Session at 9:12p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. O'Brien; seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted Michelle Kelley

Enclosed:

- 1) November 9, 2016 Meeting Agenda
- 2) October 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes
- 3) MSSAA correspondence letter
- 4) Field Trip Request - High School to NYC
- 5) Whitman-Hanson Drug Free Communities Survey Highlights