

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of February 28, 2018

Held at the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School
600 Franklin Street, Whitman MA

Meeting convened: 7:03 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 9:14 p.m.

Members present: Robert Hayes, Frederick Small, Michael Jones, Daniel Cullity, Kevin Lynam, Robert Trotta, Christopher Howard, and Steve Bois

Members absent: Robert O'Brien, Jr. and Alexandria Taylor

Administrators present: Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Superintendent of Schools
Kyle Riley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Christine Suckow, Executive Director of Business Services
Chad Peters, Director of Technology Services

Chair Hayes brought the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live. The Chair stated the Committee would begin the meeting by entering into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Mr. Jeffrey Szymaniak, top finalist for the position of Superintendent of Schools. The Committee will adjourn the Executive Session and re-convene the regular meeting in open session to vote on the contract for Mr. Szymaniak, subject to negotiations.

VOTE: Mr. Howard motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; by roll call vote; to enter into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel; Mr. Jeffrey Szymaniak, Top Finalist for Superintendent of Schools.

**Robert Hayes-Yes
Frederick Small-Yes
Robert Trotta-Yes
Michael Jones-Yes
Steve Bois-Yes
Christopher Howard-Yes
Kevin Lynam-Yes
Daniel Cullity-Yes
The motion passed unanimously.**

VOTE: Mr. Howard motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; by roll call vote to come out of Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.

**Robert Hayes-Yes
Frederick Small-Yes
Robert Trotta-Yes
Michael Jones-Yes
Steve Bois-Yes
Christopher Howard-Yes
Kevin Lynam-Yes
Daniel Cullity-Yes
The motion passed unanimously.**

The School Committee re-convened in open session at 8:33 p.m.

Chair Hayes announced the Committee successfully negotiated a three year contract with Mr. Jeff Szymaniak for the Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; roll call voted to appoint Mr. Jeffrey Szymaniak as the Superintendent of Schools and enter into a three-year contract effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

Robert Hayes-Yes

Frederick Small-Yes

Robert Trotta-Yes

Michael Jones-Yes

Steve Bois-Yes

Christopher Howard-Yes

Kevin Lynam-Yes

Daniel Cullity-Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

January 8, 2018

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of January 8, 2018 School Committee, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

January 10, 2018

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of January 8, 2018 School Committee, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

February 7, 2018

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of February 7, 2018 School Committee Public Hearing meeting, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

February 15, 2018

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of February 15, 2018 School Committee, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Student Advisory Report

Student Council Representative, Marah Burt, updated the Committee on student activities. The Alumni/Community Band Concert will be held on Friday, March, 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dr. John F. McEwan Performing Arts Center. Whitman & Hanson Dollars for Scholars will be celebrating the 11th Annual "A Taste of Whitman and Hanson" on Thursday, March 8, at the VFW Post #697 in Whitman from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A series of women's self-defense classes will be offered at the high school in conjunction with the Whitman Police Department beginning in March. A FAFSA Workshop will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 for seniors and their parents who have not yet completed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The Whitman-Hanson High School Counseling Department has scheduled a College Fair for April 13 at the Boston Conference Center as well as a Naviance Night for Grade 10 & 11 Parents on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. This program includes a hands-on workshop in computer labs that teaches parents and students how to do conduct a comprehensive on-line college search. The Whitman-Hanson 3rd Annual Best Buddies Road Race and One Mile Walk/Run at the High

School will take place on Saturday, April 7, 2017. The Hanson PTO is hosting a Basket Raffle/Silent Auction night on April 27, 2018.

Superintendent's Report

Safety and Security: Schools, Students, & Staff

The Superintendent provided information regarding safety and security in the school system and the District's responses to the shootings and loss of life on February 14, 2018 in Parkland, Florida. The Superintendent stressed the importance and priority of safety in the Whitman-Hanson School District. Dr. Whitner reported on recent meetings with the Safety & Security Team which included first responders in both towns, principals at each building level and central office administrators. At their most recent meeting on Monday, February 26, the Team discussed anticipated training for staff and increased communications with families by hosting a School safety Information Meeting on March 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the high school. Dr. Whitner added the importance of precautionary safety steps that include reporting something if it seems wrong, wearing ID badges, going through security properly in the schools and making sure doors are not propped open. More information will be brought forward as the Safety and Security Team meet on various topics. Principal Szymaniak reported he has announced his support for students interested in the March 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:17 a.m. in remembrance of the 17 lives taken on February 14 in Parkland, Florida. He is also meeting with faculty and staff on Thursday, March 1 to discuss planning for the walkout and how students can best use their time during that event. Mr. Szymaniak encouraged anyone with questions to contact him directly at the high school.

Program of Studies 2018-2019

Principal Jeffrey Szymaniak presented the 2018-19 School Year Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Program of Studies Following is a list of changes to be approved by the Committee. Mr. Szymaniak highlighted some newer, more modern courses that have been added due to student interest.

- 1) Removed Course #1530 MASTERING THE SAT
- 2) Removed Course #1543 STORYTELLING
- 3) Added Course #1542 BEHIND THE MASK: A STUDY OF THE SUPERHERO
- 4) Updated Course #2100 BEGINNING GUITAR to Level I
- 5) Added Course #2101 BEGINNING GUITAR (Level II)
- 6) Updated Course #2110 ADVANCED GUITAR to Level III
- 7) Added Course #2111 ADVANCED GUITAR (Level IV)
- 8) Removed Course #2290 PAINTING MODERN ART (this course will run in 2019-2020)
- 9) Added back Course #2330 PAINTING, SUBJECT, MEDIUM & TECHNIQUE
- 10) Updated the grade span for Course #4260 GEOMETRY Academic from Grades 9-10 to Grade 9
- 11) Updated the grade span for Course #4270 GEOMETRY Honors from Grades 9-10 to Grade 9
- 12) Added Course #4290 ALGEBRA I & II Honors
- 13) Removed Course #4320 ALGEBRA II Honors
- 14) Updated the grade span for Course #4572 FOUNDATIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL MATH Academic from Grades 9-10 to Grade 9
- 15) Renamed Course #6650 from DEFINING MOMENTS IN AMERICA POLITICAL HISTORY to ASSASSINATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON AMERICAN HISTORY Academic
- 16) Removed Course #6850 CHINESE CULTURAL STUDIES Academic
- 17) Rename Course #7021 from RAQUET SPORTS & COOPERATIVE GAMES to NET SPOTS & COOPERATIVE GAMES (PE TRACK)
- 18) Renamed Course #7022 from FITNESS & WELLNESS I to FITNESS, DANCE & YOGA I (WELLNESS TRACK)
- 19) Grade span for Course #7041 INDIVIDUAL TEAM SPORTS (PE TRACK) from Grade 11 to

Grades 11-12

- 20) Renamed and changed grade span on Course #7042 FITNESS & WELLNESS II (WELLNESS TRACK) Grade 11 to FITNESS, DANCE & YOGA II (WELLNESS TRACK) Grades 11-12
- 21) Changed grade span on Course #7100 TEAM & LIFETIME SPORTS from Grade 12 to Grades 11-12
- 22) Changed grade span on Course #7111 GROUP FITNESS & WELLNESS from Grade 12 to Grades 11-12
- 23) Changed grade span on Course #7130 WEIGHTS & CARDIO from Grade 12 to Grades 11-12
- 24) Removed Course #8030 INTRODUCTORY PHYSICS Honors
- 25) Removed Course #8850 THE SCIENCE OF SCIENCE FICTION
- 26) Updated the grade span for Course #8570 PHYSICS Honors from Grades 11-12 to Grades 10-12
- 27) Added Course #8851 ROBOTICS

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to approve the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School Program of Studies for the 2018-19 school year, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Report: FY2017-2018 – Christine Suckow

Christine Suckow, Executive Director of Business Services, presented year-to-date February 2018 revenue and expenditure reports. Mrs. Suckow reviewed line items in anticipated revenue all current revenue received to date, and noted that interest income exceed estimates by \$10,000.

Mrs. Suckow reviewed the expenditures report. Christine Suckow reported the District remains on a budget freeze. Mrs. Suckow highlighted line items exceeding anticipated projections of concern in the special education and substitute lines.

Old Business

2018-2019 Budget Discussion

The Committee briefly discussed the FY2019 budget proposal. Chair Hayes reported a meeting with the Whitman Finance Committee was held on February 27. Dr. Whitner added a meeting will be held with Hanson Finance Committee on March 6. The District is working closely with town officials to address the gap in costs and expenses by reviewing the assessments to Whitman and Hanson. The Committee did not discuss the use of funds from Excess and Deficiency (E&D) to close the budget deficit of over \$2.6 million at this time. Christine Suckow reported the Mayflower Municipal Health Group (MMHG) will meet on March 7, 2018 to discuss and vote on recommended health insurance rates.

Maquan School Closing Update

Chair Hayes reported the Facilities and Capital Projects Sub-committee met prior to the School Committee meeting to discuss the phases of the Maquan School Closing. Dr. Whitner reported that work at the Indian Head School commenced over the February break with asbestos abatement. The Town of Whitman is holding Special Town Meeting on March 12, 2018 to vote on the appropriation of funds associated with the moving of the pre-kindergarten district wide program from the Maquan School to the Whitman Hanson Regional High School. The Committee will vote on this article this evening. Once approved, contractor's agreements and schedules will be finalized for completion of the work. Mr. Small added a new playground is of special interest to community members in the Town of Hanson. There was a brief discussion regarding the specifics for roadway changes at the high school, which are being finalized.

New Business

Warrant Articles – Whitman Town Meeting

Chair Hayes presented the warrant article language as proposed by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee for the town of Whitman Special Town meeting on March 12, 2018.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$256,725.62 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to pay for costs associated with the moving of the pre-kindergarten district wide program from the Maquan School to the Whitman Hanson Regional High School, or take any other action relative thereto. The motion passed unanimously.

Field Trips

The Hanson Middle School annual 8th grade field trip to Washington D.C. was presented for approval.

VOTE: Mr. small motioned; Mr. Cullity Seconded; voted to approve the overnight, out-of-state field trip for the Hanson Middle School annual 8th grade field trip to Washington D.C. from June 4-8, 2018, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Hayes read the congratulatory letter and notification that Whitman student, Steven Bagley, has earned his Eagle Scout award. The Ceremony will be held on March 24.

Chair Hayes read the notification letter from the Massachusetts Chapter of National Wrestling Hall of Fame that announced Mr. Bob Gay as a nominee.

Subcommittee Reports

Warrant Sub-Committee

Warrants presented at School Committee were signed.

Payroll Warrants:

#P30118 in the amount of \$1,265,866.48

#M30118 in the amount of \$2,702.28

Warrant Subcommittee meeting minutes of January 18, 2018; January 31, 2018; and February 15, 2018 were presented for approval.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; vote to approve the Warrant Subcommittee meeting minutes of January 18, 2018; January 31, 2018; and February 15, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Negotiations Sub-Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Sub-Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Facilities and Capital Improvements Sub-committee Report

Mr. Small reported the Facilities and Capital Improvement Sub-committee met prior to the School Committee meeting. Most of the discussion focused on the Maquan School closing and plans to move the preschool program to the High School and abatement work performed over the February break at the Indian Head School. Mr. Small reported on recent lead water tests throughout the District. A bubbler at the Indian Head School was taken out of service and pipes will be replaced due to levels above MCL regulation. Repairs were made to the Whitman Middle School gym floor to address moisture issues. Mr. Small reported several School Committee members conducted walk-throughs of the school buildings over the February break.

Legislative Update

There was nothing new to report.

Pilgrim Area Collaborative Representative Report

Mr. Bois reported the search for a new executive director is ongoing.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Meeting Materials and Handouts:

- Meeting Agenda February 28, 2018
- Meeting minutes of the January 8, January 10, February 7, and February 15, 2018 School Committee meetings.
- 2018-19 High School Program of Studies and memo outlining changes
- Warrant subcommittee minutes of January 18, January 31, and February 15, 2018.
- Massachusetts Chapter of National Wrestling Hall of Fame notification Bob Gay nominated
- Budget Expenditure and Revenue Reports
- Warrant Article for Town of Whitman Special Town Meeting 3/12/2018
- Hanson Middle School Annual 8th Grade field trip request to Washington D.C.
- Eagle Scout congratulatory letter