

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of June 20, 2018
Held at the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School
600 Franklin Street, Whitman MA

Meeting convened: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 8:17 p.m.

Members present: Robert Hayes, Robert Trotta, Robert O'Brien, Jr., Michael Jones, Daniel Cullity, Christopher Howard, Christopher Scriven, Alexandria Taylor, and Steve Bois

Members absent: Frederick Small

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

Chair Hayes brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2018

VOTE: Mr. Bois motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of June 6, 2018, as presented. The motion passed 8-0-1. Mr. O'Brien abstained.

Chair Hayes took the agenda out of order to accommodate several presentations.

Old Business

Scoreboard Project – Bob Rodgers

Athletic Director, Bob Rodgers, updated the Committee on the new Daktronics scoreboard funding source. On donation has been received to date of \$25,000. Mr. Rodgers described the features of the proposed scoreboard that would include six sponsor panels for advertising. He suggested several funding scenarios for consideration and leasing versus purchase for the upgraded scoreboard at \$100,000. Additional funding beyond donations would be paid through fundraising events and not through the school district budget. Two other options to address the current scoreboard issues would be to repair the existing scoreboard at a cost of \$5,000 and push the new scoreboard initiative out one more year, or, replace the existing scoreboard with a similar one at \$20,000.

Mr. Rodgers discussed the benefits and uses of the new upgraded scoreboard and reasons for the investment by the Committee. Ten of the current twenty-seven sports teams and youth groups utilize the Panthers scoreboard. The new scoreboard, if the larger size is purchased or leased, could also be used for movie night, simple message display and other such non-athletic related events. Mr. Rodgers requested authorization to enter into a five-year lease agreement, if necessary, (to own) for a new scoreboard pending notification of the precise cost to the School Committee. The life expectancy of the new scoreboard was discussed. The Executive Director of Business Services or Athletic Director will investigate if Scoreboard Enterprises offers an extended warranty on the proposed new Daktronics scoreboard.

VOTE: Mr. Bois motioned; Mr. Trotta seconded; voted to authorize the Athletic Director and Executive Director of Business Services to enter into a lease agreement, if necessary, for the amount of \$75,000 with Enterprise Scoreboards for a new Datroniks scoreboard to be funded solely from

fundraising events held by the Whitman-Hanson Athletic Department. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Introduction of New Principal – Dr. Darlene Foley (Duval)

Dr. Whitner introduced Dr. Darlene Foley as the new principal of the Duval Elementary School.

Mr. Szymaniak added he will meet with new administration during the first week in July to plan for upcoming school year.

Maquan School Closing/Transition

Dr. Whitner provided an overview of the current steps in finalizing the closure of the Maquan Elementary School in Hanson. The new location for the Preschool Program at the High School was toured on Monday, June 18. The new access road in front of the high school and the new preschool playground projects are progressing well. Dr. Whitner thanked the Town of Whitman Department of Public Works (DPW) for their contributions to help with the installation of the access road. Renovations at the Indian Head School are underway. The student restrooms and music and technology classrooms augmentations are nearly complete. Packing bins are being packed and stored for relocation. Additional classroom chairs may be requisite and the Committee will be notified, if needed. On Monday, June 18, a meeting was held with parents hosted by Hanson Middle School principal William Tranter to address parent concerns. The Open House date for elementary schools was discussed. Traditionally, Whitman-Hanson open houses were scheduled prior to the first day of school. It was announced at the parent meeting that open house at Indian Head and Duval Elementary Schools may occur after the first day of school in order to allow ample time for teachers to prepare their classrooms. Several parents had major concerns not having open house prior to the first day of school. Mr. Szymaniak discussed alternative dates with principals that were present at the School Committee meeting. It was noted that the Conley Elementary School in Whitman will hold its' open house on August 28. Several parents in attendance commented regarding the importance of an open house for a student and meeting the teacher before the start of school. After continued discussion, Mr. Szymaniak pledged to find a balance. The Administration will consider alternative open house measures for the Indian Head School such as an open house with an ice cream social to showcase the new Indian Head playground with a subsequent open house after the first day of school. Other alternatives may include a 'Meet the Principal' and guided tours during the summer months. The new Duval Principal, Darlene Foley, anticipates conducting a staff survey over the summer regarding open houses at Duval Elementary School. The Duval School open house will be held on August 28, 2018 for Duval School. Modifications and dates for open houses at the elementary schools will be announced through email and social media over the summer.

Search Committee Updates – Assistant Principals (Indian Head and Whitman Middle Schools)

Dr. Whitner announced the assistant principal searches for Indian Head School and Whitman Middle School are ongoing.

Summer Programs

Dr. Whitner reviewed the various summer programs, included the special education (ESY) extended school year program, summer enrichment, ELL support program through North River Collaborative, high school summer school, science camp, and sport camp programs and their locations.

Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

Dr. Whitner reported that the Town Administrators in Whitman and Hanson have been notified of the request to place the proposed Amended Regional Agreement on their Board of Selectmen agendas to facilitate a vote of the community at the October Special Town Meeting in each town, if possible, to approve the amended Regional Agreement. The final Amended Regional Agreement, dated June 6, 2018, has already been approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as reviewed by Christine Lynch, Governance and Facilities Program Manager at (DESE). The new Superintendent will follow up to

insure the proposed Amended Regional Agreement, dated June 6, 2018, are placed on upcoming Board of Selectmen's meeting agendas in both towns to vote to place as a warrant articles as requested at October 2018 Special Town Meetings, if possible.

New Business

Job Descriptions – Chad Peters

Director of Technology Services, Chad Peters, presented three job descriptions related to the Technology Services Department for departmental duty and responsibility clarification.

VOTE: Mrs. Taylor motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the Associate Director of Technology Services job description, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mrs. Taylor motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to approve the Data Specialist job description, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mrs. Taylor motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to approve the Information Systems Specialist job description, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Vehicle Efficiency Policy/Green Communities Initiative for the Town of Hanson

Chair Hayes reported that at their last meeting, the Hanson Board of Selectmen tabled discussion of Vehicle Efficiency Policy under the Green Communities Initiative until more information became available for discussion.

VOTE: Mr. O'Brien motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to table the Vehicle Efficiency Policy discussion to a future meeting until more information becomes available. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Gifts

Former Whitman-Hanson employee and continued supporter of Whitman-Hanson Athletics, Sue Moss gifted photography equipment to the Regional High School Art Department to be used in photography classes.

VOTE: Mr. Cullity motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to accept the photography equipment items donated by Sue Moss as one Canon EOS 50D body and one Canon EF-S 24mm f2.8 lens, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Warrants

Warrants signed at the regular School Committee meeting were as follows.

Accounts payable:

061318FS	\$41,652.93
061318AP	\$167,354.96

Payroll:

P62118	\$1,219,012.78
P6210B	\$847,946.92
P6210C	\$844,117.89
P6210D	\$844,117.89
P6210E	\$844,649.77

Subcommittee Reports

VOTE: Mr. Howard motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to table all Sub-committee reports of the School Committee to a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hayes indicated the School Committee may meet once more in June to discuss a property for sale adjacent to the high school.

Executive Session

Chair Hayes declared the Committee would be going into executive session for the following purposes:

A: Purpose # 6 : To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body – Land adjacent to WHRHS.

B: Purpose # 3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Updates for Units B, C, and D.

Chair Hayes declared no votes will be taken once out of Executive Session except to adjourn the regular School Committee meeting.

VOTE: Mrs. Taylor motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; roll call voted to go into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Hayes - Yes

Robert Trotta - Yes

Robert O'Brien, Jr. - Yes

Michael Jones - Yes

Daniel Cullity - Yes

Christopher Howard - Yes

Christopher Scriven - Yes

Alexandria Taylor - Yes

Steve Bois - Yes

VOTE: Mr. Cullity motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; roll call voted to come out of Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Hayes - Yes

Robert Trotta - Yes

Robert O'Brien, Jr. - Yes

Michael Jones - Yes

Daniel Cullity - Yes

Christopher Howard - Yes

Christopher Scriven - Yes

Alexandria Taylor - Yes

Steve Bois - Yes

Meeting Adjournment

VOTE: Mr. Cullity motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Signature of School Committee Secretary

Meeting Materials and Handouts:

Meeting Agenda June 20, 2018

Meeting Minutes June 6, 2018

Regional Agreement Amendment Letter to Boards of Selectmen, Whitman and Hanson

Revised Agenda 6/20/2018/Memo/Minutes of 6/06/2018

Job Descriptions – Technology Department

Associate Director of Technology

Data Specialist
Information Systems Specialist
Vehicle Efficiency Policy
Donation of Cannon cameras request
MASC/MASS Joint Conference Registration