

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of March 20, 2018

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

Meeting convened: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 8:37 p.m.

Members present: Robert Hayes, Frederick Small, Michael Jones, Daniel Cullity, Kevin Lynam, Robert Trotta, Christopher Howard, Robert O'Brien, Jr., Alexandria Taylor, and Steve Bois arrived at 7:04 p.m.

Members absent: None

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 7:00 p.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2018

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of March 7, 2018, as amended. The motion passed unanimously 9-0-0.

Student Advisory Report

Student Council Representative, Marah Burt, reported on student activities. Dollars for Scholars announced their fifth annual "Bowling for Dollars for Scholars" will be held on Saturday, March 24, and Sunday, March 25, from 12 Noon to 4 PM at the Hanson Bowladrome. The High School Cheer Team won the Division 2 State Championship on March 19. Eight students performed at Hanover High School for the SEMSBA Music Festival March 18. The Whitman-Hanson National Honor Society induction ceremony is being held on Thursday, March 15 in the Performing Arts Center at 6:0 p.m. For the fourth year in a row, WH Student Council was recognized as a gold council of excellence by MASC (the state organization). Spring Sports begin on Monday March 19. The 3rd Annual Best Buddies' Road Race will be held Saturday, April 7 at the high school. The high school spring concert will be held on April 10 at 7:00 p.m. Parents and students are invited to attend a free seminar on "Paying the College Bill," which will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dr. John F. McEwan Performing Arts Center. This seminar is offered through MEFA, the Commonwealth's authority on planning, saving, and paying for college. An experienced MEFA representative will provide an overview of the college payment process, including the details of financial aid award letters, using payment plans, different financing options, and how to minimize debt. The Credit for Life Fair will be held on April 5. The School Counseling Office is sponsoring a field trip for juniors to the Boston National College Fair on Friday, April 13th. The Hanson PTO is hosting a basket raffle/ silent auction night on April 27.

Public Hearing on School Choice Participation for 2018-19

Chair Hayes announced the Committee will open the Public Hearing on School Choice Participation for 2018-19.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Jones seconded; roll call voted to open the Public Hearing on School Choice participation for the 2018-19 school year. Robert Hayes - Yes, Frederick Small - Yes, Michael Jones - Yes, Daniel Cullity - Yes, Kevin Lynam - Yes, Robert Trotta - Yes, Christopher Howard - Yes, Robert O'Brien, Jr. - Yes, Alexandria Taylor - Yes, and Steve Bois – Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Whitner presented information illustrating current revenue and costs associated with sending and receiving school choice students. She noted a decrease in the number of students since 2016 enrolling in school choice programs out of district. The current revenue is used to fund six full time high school teachers. The Choice program is also beneficial to students who may move during high school, and are allowed to stay in district to complete high school and graduate with their classmates

Principal Szymaniak recommended participating in school choice for the upcoming school year for the same high school grades as in previous years. Mr. Szymaniak stated the high school can accommodate up to twenty spots for Grade 9, twenty spots for Grade 10, as well as any high school student moving out of district that may elect to remain enrolled in the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School. Mr. Szymaniak reported on program enhancements through school choice revenue. This includes special education programs as well. Mr Szymaniak reported that many area schools also participate in the school choice program. Students in the School Choice Program must provide their own transportation. There is consideration for floating school choice participation for other grade levels as student enrollment figures are on the decline in the towns of Whitman and Hanson. He reviewed the application process with the Committee.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; roll call voted to participate in the School Choice Program for the upcoming 2018-19 school year as follows: Twenty spots for Grade 9, twenty spots for Grade 10 and any high school student moving out-of-district who may elect to remain enrolled in the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School. Robert Hayes - Yes, Frederick Small - Yes, Michael Jones - Yes, Daniel Cullity - Yes, Kevin Lynam - Yes, Robert Trotta - Yes, Christopher Howard - Yes, Robert O'Brien, Jr. - Yes, Alexandria Taylor - Yes, and Steve Bois – Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; roll call voted to close the Public Hearing on School Choice participation for the 2018-19 school year. Robert Hayes - Yes, Frederick Small - Yes, Michael Jones - Yes, Daniel Cullity - Yes, Kevin Lynam - Yes, Robert Trotta - Yes, Christopher Howard - Yes, Robert O'Brien, Jr. - Yes, Alexandria Taylor - Yes, and Steve Bois – Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Letter to the legislators

Dr. Whitner presented letters to be signed by the full Committee, as proposed by the WHRSD School Committee, quantifying unfunded and underfunded state mandates and associated lost funding to be sent to local state representatives. The letter will be copied to the Governor's Office, the Office of the State Auditor and be signed by all members of the School Committee.

Search Committees: High School Principal and Assistant Superintendent

The Superintendent provided information about the search for a High School Principal and an Assistant Superintendent. Both postings closed on March 16, 2018. Dr. Whitner will report back after meeting with Mr. Szymaniak.

Safety and Security Update

Principal Szymaniak reported on the Remembrance Gathering at the high school on March 15, planned by high school students, to honor the seventeen lives lost in the violent shooting at the Margery Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018. The event was originally scheduled for March 14 but was postponed to March 15 due to school day snow cancellation. About 900 students

participated in the student led gathering which included a walk of silence to the front of the building, the calling out of each victim's name, and placing out a stone painted in the Parkland school colors in the front of the building. A short period of time was used for reflection for the lives lost in the Parkland shootings. Dr. Whitner reported both middle schools also offered a time of silence for students who wished to participate.

Dr. Whitner reported that also held that evening (March 20) at 6:30 p.m. in the Dr. John F. McEwan Performing Arts Center at the high school, was a documentary titled "Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age." The documentary explores the impact of screen technology on kids and offers parents and families proven solutions that work with kids to help them achieve a healthy amount of screen time.

Old Business

2018-2019 Budget Discussion

The Committee discussed the FY2018-2019 budget proposal and assessments to Whitman and Hanson. Chair Hayes reported the recent School Committee vote to transfer \$450,000 from Excess & Deficiency (E&D) to the LEA budget for FY2019 brings the remaining deficit to \$2,224,821 or, an 11% assessment increase.

Also presented, was an assessment schedule to include tuition-free, full-day kindergarten, as requested by the Committee at the previous meeting. Chair Hayes noted that if tuition-free, full-day kindergarten were included in the operating budget, an assessment increase of 13.65% would be necessary. The start-up cost for full day kindergarten is approximately \$540,000.

Christine Suckow reported no new revenue information at this time except that state auditor, Suzanne Bump is actively pushing for 85% regional transportation reimbursement, currently reimbursed at 73%.

Chair Hayes indicated each percentage increase of 1%, equates to \$202,589 in additional revenue. The School Committee is charged with setting the assessment this evening.

The Chair reported an 11% assessment increase would be an increase of \$1,333,078 to the Town of Whitman and \$895,404 to the Town of Hanson.

With tuition-free, full-day kindergarten included in the operating budget and assessment the towns at a 13.65% increase would be an increase of \$1,654,229 to the Town of Whitman and \$1,111,115 to the Town of Hanson.

Mr. Bois expressed supporting an 11% increase to the local assessment. He understands cost-free full day kindergarten is not included in the proposed budget and discussed any consideration to start up and introduce the program mid-year or for the next school year. Because funding cost-free full day kindergarten is an ongoing expense, it would be difficult to propose and would need to be voted as an operational override that increases the assessment base. The Superintendent also discussed meeting target share linked to Chapter 70 funding. An increase to the assessment base would put the towns closer to target share and possibly increase Chapter 70 funding per student in the future. The Committee discussed whether to set the assessment at 13%, in an effort to include funding full day kindergarten, or at an 11% increase to cover the deficit of the proposed budget. Mr. Trotta added the responsibility of the School Committee is to garner funding for the prioritized programs for students. Cost free full day kindergarten has been a noted priority of the Committee for years. The Committee discussed various opportunities to seek an operational override to fund cost-free full day kindergarten. Also noted were risks involved in proposing assessment increases with a percentage of funding pending an override that may not pass, therefore losing the possibility of full funding. The Committee discussed strengthening the budget in order to sustain a kindergarten program in the future. Further deliberation focused on priorities of providing staff and programs for social and emotional student needs. Dr. Whitner named underfunded reimbursement for transportation and circuit breaker, accountable

for some of the decrease in revenue. Several School Committee members were in favor of setting the assessment at a 13% increase to cover the proposed budget deficit as well as fund the first year of cost-free full day kindergarten. Mrs. Suckow agreed to contact the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for actuals with regard full day kindergarten Chapter 70 funding. There was discussion of the option to lower the assessment at an upcoming meeting if voted at 13.65% increase.

VOTE: Mr. Bois motioned; Mr. Jones seconded; voted to set the local assessment to the towns at an increase of 13.65% and approve the operating assessment to the Town of Whitman at \$13,773,119 and the operating assessment to the Town of Hanson at \$9,251,152 for the FY2019 budget in accordance with the PK-12 Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Agreement, Section IV, Para. D and E and, M.G.L. c.71, § 16B. The motion failed 4-6-0. Mr. Howard, Mr. Lynam, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Small, Mr. Cullity and Mr. O'Brien opposed.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Lynam seconded; voted to set the local assessment to the towns at an 11% increase and approve the operating assessment to the Town of Whitman at \$13,451,969 and the operating assessment to the Town of Hanson at \$9,035,441 for the FY2019 budget in accordance with the PK-12 Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Agreement, Section IV, Para. D and E and, M.G.L. c.71, § 16B. The motion passed 7-3-0. Mr. Hayes, Mr. Bois and Mrs. Taylor opposed.

Maquan School Closing Update

Dr. Whitner reported the Town of Whitman voted to approve the appropriation of funding for the Maquan School closing project (\$110,000) at the Special Town Meeting on March 12, 2018. Progress is being made with clean up and organization at the Maquan and Indian Head School.

Academic Calendar 2018-19 SY

Dr. Whitner discussed considerations for the upcoming 2018-19 academic school year calendar. An item of consideration is a student start date after Labor Day for the upcoming school year to allow additional time for the Maquan School transition projects. In addition, a request was received from the Town Clerk of Hanson post the State Election Day on November 6, 2018 as a No School Day. The elections will be moved to the Hanson Middle School. A draft of the 2018-19 SY Academic Calendar will be presented at the April 11, 2018 School Committee meeting.

A motion made by Mr. Small and seconded by Mr. Bois, to post Election Day, November 6, 2018 as a No School Day, was withdrawn. It was the consensus of the School Committee to support having no school on Election Day, November 6, 2018.

Warrant Articles for Town Meetings

Chair Hayes reported that the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee met on March 19, 2018 and voted unanimously to approve the Amended Regional Agreement, subject to approval by legal counsel at DESE, in each town and by the District, as presented. Christine Suckow confirmed a placeholder warrant article has been sent to the towns for the Annual Town Meeting in May 2018 as "Article S10 To see if the Town of Whitman will approve the amended Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Regional Agreement dated to be determined, which is on file in the Town Clerks' Office or take any other action relative thereto." Proposed by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District School Committee.

For the Town of Whitman:

Chair reported that after recent meetings with the town officials, they developed a number of warrant articles for the Committee's approval.

VOTE: Mr. Bois motioned; Mr. Small seconded: voted to place as a warrant article for 2018 Whitman Annual May Town Meeting: Article S10: To see if the Town of Whitman will approve the amended Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Regional Agreement at a date to be determined, which is on file in the Town Clerks' Office or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District School Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hayes reported that the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee voted to approve the Amended Regional Agreement at their last meeting, and is subject to approval by legal counsel at DESE, in each town and by the District. The full School Committee will eventually vote on the Amended Regional Agreement, once it has been reviewed by the aforementioned stakeholders.

VOTE: Mr. Bois motioned; Mr. Small seconded: voted to place as a warrant article for 2018 Whitman Annual May Town Meeting: Article S11: To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate \$35,892 to pay Whitman's share of the for costs to update interior and exterior cameras to ensure safety for students and staff at the Regional High School (estimated costs \$ 60,000), or take any other action relative thereto. Proposed by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District School Committee.

Note: all expenses for the Regional High School are assessed based on student enrollment: Whitman's enrollment is presently 59.82% of the student body for the region.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was added the local police departments may have ability to monitor the high school in real time via a mobile access web-based app.

Vote to Borrow

Chair Hayes read into the minutes, a Vote to Borrow \$500,000 for HVAC improvements at the Hanson Middle School.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded: voted that the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District hereby appropriates \$500,000 to pay costs of designing and carrying out HVAC improvements at the Hanson Middle School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

FURTHER VOTED: That within seven (7) days from the date on which this vote is adopted the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Board of Selectmen of each of the member towns of the District, as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized, as required by the District Agreement and by Chapter 71, Section 16(d), of the General Laws. The motion passed unanimously.

Town of Hanson

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded: voted to place as a warrant article for 2018 Hanson Annual May Town Meeting: Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash or available funds for the repairs at Indian Head Elementary and Hanson Middle Schools or take any other action in relation thereto. Proposed by the Whitman Hanson Regional School District. Explanation: Indian Head and Hanson Middle School replacement of deteriorating exterior doors and card access. Estimated \$25,000. Indian Head replacement of acoustic tiles in gymnasium which are stained and the attenuation is very poor and needs to be replaced. Estimated \$25,000. Total Estimated \$50,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded: voted to place as a warrant article for 2018 Hanson Annual May Town Meeting: Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$35,000 from Free Cash or available funds to reimburse the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for the removal of

asbestos and re-tile in rooms 100 and 101 to remove and replace the walls at Indian Head Elementary School or take any other action in relation thereto. Proposed by the Whitman Hanson Regional School District. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded: voted to place as a warrant article for 2018 Hanson Annual May Town Meeting: Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and/or transfer from available funds to various department Capital Accounts for the following items or take any other action in relation thereto. Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee & Board of Selectmen.

Dept./School	Item	FY19 CIP Report	Funding Source
School – Indian Head	Playground	\$225,000	Free Cash
School - Indian Head	Upgrade card access at Front Entrance	\$35,000	Free Cash
School – Indian Head	Repair Memorial Hall Exterior Entrance	\$50,000	Free Cash

Explanation: Playground: To replace and install playground to meet the current safety standards, to meet the enrollment standards and to meet the ADA requirements.

Explanation: Upgrade card access at Front Entrance: To increase security at the front entrance. Install card access to interior front entrance doors, move interior doors and walls, install new ceilings, counter and reconfiguring office area with a security window to ensure safety for staff and students.

Explanation: Replace siding, remove lead paint, replace exterior trim, repair columns, new lighting, repair front stairway and platform, re-paint façade.

The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded: voted to place as a warrant article for 2018 Hanson Annual May Town Meeting: Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to Capital Accounts for the following Whitman Hanson Regional High School items or take any other action in relation thereto.

Line	Dept.	Item	FY19 CIP Report	Town Admin. Recommendation	Funding Source
1	School - High School	Roadway Repair	\$84,378		Taxation
2	School - High School	Resurface Outdoor Track	\$90,405		Taxation
3	School - High School	Update Interior/Exterior	\$24,108		Free Cash

		Cameras			
		TOTAL	\$198,891		

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded: voted to place as a warrant article for 2018 Hanson Annual May Town Meeting: Article 13: To see if the Town will approve the \$500,000 borrowing authorized by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District to pay costs of designing and carrying out HVAC improvements at the Hanson Middle School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or to take any other action relative thereto. Proposed by the School Committee Explanation: The Project shall consist of providing a high efficiency variable refrigerant flow (VRF) heat pumps air conditioning system for the Second Floor Classrooms and Learning Spaces at the Hanson Middle School located at 111 Liberty Street, Hanson MA. The Middle School was constructed in 1998, is approximately 157,000 square feet and consists of two floors. The existing building classrooms are heated and ventilated through the use of hot water classroom unit ventilator units, and currently do not have air conditioning. As part of this project scope, indoor ductless wall mounted or ceiling mounted AC units shall be installed within the classroom and shall be piped with insulated refrigeration piping to outdoor grade or roof mounted air cooled heat pump condensing equipment. Multiple indoor units shall be connected to each outdoor condensing units to maximize system sizing, efficiency and diversity. A new direct digital control system shall be provided to control and monitor the VRF system. All newly installed systems shall be fully tested, adjusted and commissioned. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded: voted to place as a warrant article for 2018 Hanson Annual May Town Meeting: Article 21: To see if the Town of Hanson will approve the amended Whitman Hanson Regional School District regional agreement date to be determined, which is on file in the Town Clerk’s office or take any other action in relation thereto. Proposed by the Whitman Hanson Regional School District. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Gifts

There were no gifts or donations presented for approval.

Field Trips

High School out-of-state field trip request for Business Related Arts Department students to the University of Rhode Island Experiential Learning & Leadership Internship Program.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to waive the nurse requirement and approve the out-of-state high school field trip to the University of Rhode Island Experiential Learning & Leadership Internship Program on May 2, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

Warrant Sub-Committee

Warrants presented at School Committee were signed.

Accounts Payable:

031418FS \$22,298.30
031418AP \$874,636.92

Negotiations Sub-Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

Chair Hayes reported earlier in the meeting.

Policy Sub-Committee

The Sub-committee meeting will be re-scheduled.

Facilities and Capital Improvements Sub-committee Report

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Legislative Update

There was nothing new to report.

Pilgrim Area Collaborative Representative Report

There was nothing new to report.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Meeting Materials and Handouts:

Packet materials:

- SC packet e-mailed included: Meeting Agenda for March 14, 2018
- Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2018
- Updated copy of FY2019 assessment detail/percentage increase –(includes E&D transfer)
- Draft letter to state legislators
- American Association of Superintendents Association (ASAA) and the I ♥ Public Education Resolution

Additional Handouts:

- Updated Agenda and Memo for re-scheduled meetings (previously snow dates of 3/14 and 3/21)
- Field Trip request – High School
- Updated copy of FY2019 assessment detail/percentage increase – (includes E&D transfer)
- Proposed Warrant Articles
- Full Day Kindergarten Assessment Detail page
- School Choice matrix