

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of May 9, 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, Alexandria Taylor, Robert O'Brien, Jr., and Steve Bois arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Members absent: None

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 April 23, 2018

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of April 23, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Student Advisory Report

Student Council Representative, Marah Burt, was not present to report.

Mr. Small recognized National Teachers and Nurses Appreciation Week and thanked faculty and staff members for their dedicated service to the District.

Superintendent's Report

DECA Presentation

Student members from the Regional High School DECA program presented highlights of the 2017-18 DECA program. High school seniors, Jason Harding, Vincent Consolini and Marc Benjamino, discussed qualifying for the marketing, business and sports and entertainment competition conferences attended this year and the Whitman-Hanson Chapter results. The students shared their personal achievements and benefits as participants in DECA. At the National Competition this year, Mr. Benjamino was the recipient of an ROTC scholarship. DECA Club Advisor, Nina Consolini, spoke to the students acquiring presentation skills and practical use, helpful as adults in mainstream employment. Mrs. Consolini was also acknowledged at the Conference for fifteen years of service as a DECA Advisor.

Dr. Whitner announced the Art in Bloom event will take place on Tuesday, May 15 at 5:30 in high school library to be followed by the middle school Spring Concert in the Dr. John F. McEwan Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Whitner and School Committee Chair, Bob Hayes, recognized Kevin Lynam, who has served as a School Committee member for six years since 2012. Dr. Whitner thanked Mr. Lynam for his service to the students and staff of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District.

Town Meeting Results

Dr. Whitner was pleased to report that the overall local assessment increase of 9.5% was voted approved in both towns at the Annual Town Meetings held on May 7, 2018 in the towns of Hanson and Whitman. In addition, all warrant articles submitted by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District were voted approved and included several capital improvement articles. Dr. Whitner reported that the proposed Regional Agreement Amendment was passed over in both towns pending minor language review by each town's legal counsel. In order to address questions and concerns and to move this to a Town Meeting vote at October special town meetings, consultants from the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools will be contacting the town's legal firms to follow-up. MARS Consultants are Stephen Hemman, Stephen Donovan, and Mac Reid will be available as we continue to go through the process to amend the current, antiquated agreement.

Graduation Information

Dr. Whitner announced the upcoming graduation dates for School Committee attendance. The Community Evening School Graduation will be held on May 31 in the Dr. John F. McEwan Performing Arts Center (PAC) at 6:00 p.m. On June 1, 2018 the High School Commencement will take place in the high school gymnasium at 6:00 p.m. School Committee members should report to Central Office at 4:30 p.m. for a short reception before the high school graduation ceremony. On June 5, the Kiwanis Banquet will be held in the PAC at 6:30 p.m.

North River Collaborative Report

Dr. Whitner presented the 2018 March Quarterly North River Collaborative which identified various programs available through the Collaborative. Although the Maquan School is closing, North River Collaborative will continue the lease agreement for classroom space at Maquan until closing. However, one North River program will be re-located to a classroom at Duval Elementary School due to declining enrollment and space availability. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 8. Mr. Steve Donovan is the new Executive Director for the North River Collaborative.

Superintendent's Goals for 2017-18 SY

Dr. Whitner presented her goals update and accomplishments for the 2017-18 school year. Also included for the School Committee Members were the forms to complete for the Superintendent Year-end Evaluation. Dr. Whitner added that the selected 'SMART Goals' are aligned to the three pillars of success established for the District: Pillar I - Every Child Every Day with Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies; Pillar II - A Cohesive PreK-12 System of Teaching and Learning; and Pillar III - Safe and Secure Schools. The Superintendent's goals are also in alignment with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) evaluation standards/requirements.

SMART Goal 1: To monitor and evaluate the accomplishments of Pillar #2: A Cohesive PreK-12 System of Teaching and Learning in the context of the Curriculum Directors' instructional leadership at the elementary, middle, and high schools. Strategies and resources utilized to meet end goals in specific areas of professional development, Atlas Rubicon, OECD, reading, student achievement have been successful. Work continues with curriculum directors who work directly with elementary teacher leaders. The District will continue its plight to garner support for a tuition-free full day kindergarten program. Three potential math curricula are being reviewed to replace Envision Math at which time will be presented School Committee for approval. Incoming Assistant Superintendent, George Ferro, is working with curriculum directors to establish new curricula, expand foreign language and history programs, and continue to implement additional 1:1 PED's for students.

SMART Goal 2: To provide leadership in the transitions involved in the closing of the Maquan Elementary School (Pillars #2 and #3). With the continued support of the towns and community, the transition and closing of the Maquan School is progressing and on schedule. Special education sub-separate classrooms will be re-located to the Duval Elementary School.

SMART Goal 3: To improve our capacity to use academic and behavioral data to design and implement a sustainable system focused on social and emotional learning (Pillar #1). The District is participating in exSel Network, led by George Ferro, to attend trainings with staff and move forward next year with a wellness committee. The services of Deni Howley have been successful this school year.

SMART Goal 4: To develop a long-term financial plan that extends funding for schools beyond level services (Pillars #1, #2 and 3). Efforts to develop long range financial plans to re-allocate financial resources and fund mandates by working with legislators will continue.

Dr. Whitner added the Pillars of Success for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District are evident and clear and the District continues to move forward with planning. It is anticipated that with the cooperation and support of the community, the District will move ahead of a level services budget in the future. . Dr. Whitner thanked the School Committee for their continued support over the years.

Chair Hayes requested the superintendent end cycle evaluation results be submitted to the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent before the next meeting for tallying.

Search Committee Updates

Jeff Szymaniak reported on administrator Search Committee updates. The high school principal vacancy was re-opened in an effort to draw additional qualified candidates. The High School Principal Interview Search Committee re-convened on May 8 and moved forward three new candidates to meet with Superintendent Dr. Whitner, Rosamond Dorrance, Mr. Szymaniak and Mr. Ferro, prior to any site visits. As Mr. Ferro moves into the Assistant Superintendent position in Central Office, Karen Downey is spearheading the search for the Whitman Middle School principal vacancy and interviews are scheduled for May 14 and 15. William Tranter is facilitating the search for a new Indian Head School principal, vacated by Beth Wilcox, and interviews are scheduled for May 15 and 16. The Duval School principal vacancy to replace Julie McKillop will be managed by Karen Downey. Mr. Szymaniak added the goal is to have all leadership positions filled by the end of May.

FY2018 Budget Update

Christine Suckow reviewed the revenue and expenditure reports with the Committee. Interest income has exceeded projections. It is anticipated a transfer request will be requested in June. Transportation reimbursement was reportedly at 68% per Dr. Whitner. Mrs. Suckow reported on expenditures, noting the current 2017-18 LEA budget remains frozen. Updates to the Chart of Accounts, to be in line with DESE reporting, are in progress. Overages in the substitute and special education lines are being monitored closely.

Dr. Whitner added to her Goals Report and indicated that the current collective bargaining process is proceeding well and the Whitman-Hanson Education Association (WHEA) has planned a meeting to ratify the Unit A Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) on May 23, 2018. The School Committee may ratify Unit A at their meeting on May 29, 2018. Additional Negotiations Sub-committee meetings are being scheduled for the remaining units at this time.

Old Business

FY2019 Budget

Christine Suckow reported the FY2019 LEA budget will be loaded into Munis program by mid-June, allowing schools to place orders for the upcoming school year. Whitman resident, Dawn Byers, spoke to the town meeting results and support of a level services budget; however, advocated for additional student services in the foreign language department and encouraged the community to continue supporting all student services.

Maquan School Closing and Transition

Chair Hayes reported the Maquan Elementary School closing is progressing on schedule.

New Business

School Committee Re-Organization Meeting Date Change Proposal

Chair Hayes proposed a date change to the School Committee re-organization date from May 21, 2018 to May 29, 2018 due to several School Committee member schedule conflicts.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to re-schedule the School Committee re-organization meeting from Monday, May 21, 2018 to Tuesday, May 29, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Cell Tower Proposal

Mike McCue, Hanson Town Administrator, presented a proposal to place a cell tower at the site of the Hanson Middle School. Mr. McCue began by thanking the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee and staff and appreciated the cooperation in working towards a FY2019 budget. Mr. McCue agrees that conversations early in the budget season are the best approach for next year. In addition, Mr. McCue reported he attended a public hearing on the use of the old Plymouth County Hospital on High Street in Hanson. He offered an invitation to the District to participate in the conversation looking forward on the use of the property.

Mr. McCue reported he has developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the placement cell tower at the location of the Hanson Middle School. The Town of Hanson recently amended their by-laws to site a communication tower on any publicly-owned property, regardless of zoning. This allowed him to move forward with an RFP for a cell tower. The proposed location will not be placed on the Hanson Middle School structure, but placed somewhere on the property at a location to be determined. Mr. McCue is seeking the approval of the cell tower from the School Committee. Mr. McCue added any proposal on any property will need to go to town meeting and requires a two-thirds vote for approval. Mr. McCue added this is not only an attempt to make revenue, but to also resolve tele-communication issues citing several 'dead zones' within the town which inhibit first responder and public safety contact resulting in major consequence during storms and emergencies. Unofficially, two companies have approached Mr. McCue as well as two major carriers to install on the tower. Mr. McCue fielded questions from the School Committee related to potential health concerns and will consider sponsoring a STEAM class related to the use of technology of the tower. Mr. McCue agreed to report back to the School Committee with more succinct information through a supplementary presentation.

VOTE: Mr. O'Brien motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to approve the Hanson Town Administrator, Michael McCue, proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the installation of a cell tower at the Hanson Middle School at a location on the property to be determined, pending a supplementary presentation with more succinct information to the School Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Land Parcel for Sale - Adjacent to W-H Regional High School

Chair Hayes reported the District was approached by Conway Realtor with the availability of 5.6 acres of land for sale located adjacent to the Regional High School, and to see if there was any interest on the District's part, to purchase the land prior to offering it to the general public. The Committee considered the purpose of the land which reportedly is wetlands and may not be buildable, but could be purchased as a buffer to the residential area near the high school. The Committee discussed authorizing a more in-depth exploration of the parcel and its potential purpose.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to investigate the potential purchase of a parcel of land adjacent to the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School currently for sale; in addition, determine if the owner would consider a donation of the land. The motion passed unanimously.

School Physician Appointment 2018-19

The Superintendent requested the Committee re-appoint Dr. David Belcher as the School Physician for the 2018-19 school year.

VOTE: Mr. Bois motioned; Mr. Small seconded; voted to appoint Dr. David M. Belcher as the School Physician for the 2018-19 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

School Calendar Updates

The Superintendent presented a second draft of the 2018-19 SY Academic Calendar that included the scheduled early release, professional development, and school committee meeting dates for the Committee's approval.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to approve the second draft of the 2018-19 Academic School Year Calendar, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Surplus Request - Facilities Department

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to declare the 1984 International 470 chassis and cab as surplus because the former sander is no longer in use. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

Warrant Sub-Committee

Warrants presented at School Committee were signed.

Accounts Payable:

042618AP	\$1,303.50
050918FS	\$39,173.51
050918AP	\$1,162,210.73

Payroll:

P51018	\$1,289,030.28
P42618	\$1,166,499.85
M42618	\$-671.93

Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

The Regional Agreement Amendment was reported on earlier in the meeting.

Policy Subcommittee

There was nothing new to report.

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Small reported that the Facilities and Capital Projects Sub-committee met earlier in the evening. Mr. Small updated the Committee on facilities matters and projects. The Facilities Department is resolving roof leaks occurring at the high school. It is believed that birds are causing damage to the roof. Also, the chiller and is in need of repair. All capital items approved at Annual Town Meeting. Indian Head Elementary continues to experience brown water from flushing the mains and that is being monitored.

Legislative Update

Mr. Small reported the Senate will meet on May 10 for a hearing to Amendments 3: Regional School District Foundation Budget Commission, and Amendment 4: Statutory Requirements to fully fund circuit Breaker at 75% and Regional School Transportation reimbursement at 100%. Mr. Small urged the community and fellow School Committee members to contact Senator Michael Brady at Michael.Brady@masenate.gov to support the amendments as outlined. Mr. Bois reported he placed his letter to support the amendments on the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools social media page.

Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

The status of the progress of the proposed amended regional agreement was reported on earlier in the meeting.

Pilgrim Area Collaborative Representative Report

Mr. Bois reported at the last two meetings the final contract with the new executive director who will begin November 1, 2018 to replace Maureen Gaughan. Mr. Bois also reported the annual budget increase over FY18 was 0.5%.

Dates to Remember

Chair Hayes announced important upcoming event dates.

- Friday, May 25, 2018 – Last Day for Seniors
- Monday, May 28, 2018 – No School – Memorial Day Observed – Central Offices closed
- Tuesday, May 29, 2018 – School Committee Re-organization meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- May 31, 2018 – Community Evening School Graduation – PAC – 6:00 p.m.
- June 1, 2018 – High School Commencement – HS Gym – 6:00 p.m.
- June 5, 2018 – Kiwanis Banquet –PAC – 6:30 p.m.
- June 6, 2018 – School Committee Meeting – HS Library – 7:00 p.m.

Executive Session

Chair Hayes stated the Committee would be going into Executive Session to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Furthermore, no vote will be taken except to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Mr. Cullity motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; roll call voted to go into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. Robert Hayes - Yes, Frederick Small - Yes, Michael Jones - Yes, Daniel Cullity - Yes, Kevin Lynam - Yes, Robert Trotta - Yes, Christopher Howard - Yes, Alexandria Taylor – Yes, Steve Bois – Yes, and Robert O’Brien, Jr. - Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. O’Brien seconded; roll call voted to come out of Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. Robert Hayes - Yes, Frederick Small - Yes, Michael Jones - Yes, Daniel Cullity - Yes, Kevin Lynam - Yes, Robert Trotta - Yes, Christopher Howard - Yes, Alexandria Taylor – Yes, Steve Bois – Yes, and Robert O’Brien, Jr. - Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment

VOTE: Mr. Lynam motioned; Mr. Small 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:

- Meeting Agenda May 9, 2018
- Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2018
- Superintendent’s Goals – End of Year Update
- Superintendent Rubric At-a Glance
- Revised 2018-19 Academic Calendar – handout at SC meeting
- Email regarding parcel of land
- Memo from Ernie Sandland regarding surplus

- Copy of Notification to Towns of local assessment vote on 4/23/2018

Additional Handouts:

- North River Collaborative Quarterly March 2018 Report
- YTD Budget Reports
- 2018-19 SY Academic Calendar
- Superintendent Year End Evaluation (folder)
- Service letter to School Committee Member, Kevin Lynam
- Resignation of Julie McKillop, Duval School Principal