

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of November 8, 2017

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

Meeting convened: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 10:17 p.m.

Members present: Robert Hayes, Frederick Small, Robert Trotta, Michael Jones, Steve Bois, Christopher Howard, Kevin Lynam, Robert O'Brien, Jr., and Alexandria Taylor arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Members absent: Daniel Cullity

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

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2017 Regular School Committee Meeting

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of October 18, 2017 School Committee, as presented. The motion passed 6-0-2. Mr. Lynam and Mr. O'Brien abstained.

STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

Student Council School Committee Representative was not present to report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Drug Use Report and Survey Results

Representatives of the District Attorney's Office, Edward Jacobs, and Brockton Area Opioid Prevention Collaborative Coordinator, Gabrielle Peruccio, reported on the Drug and Alcohol Survey results conducted at the middle schools and the high school last spring. Mr. Jacobs reported this is the fourth year of a five-year grant. The grant funds drug-free community initiatives in Whitman, Hanson, Brockton, Rockland and East Bridgewater. Ms. Peruccio presented survey results and trend analysis for Whitman-Hanson students participating in the survey in grades 8-12. Analytical findings and statistics were shared with the Committee. The survey looked at trends in alcohol, cigarette and drug use for students in Grade 8-12 (past 30 day use), risk measure (if the substance seems harmful to the student) and perceived peer and parent disapproval between 2016 and 2017. Findings indicate the perception of risk anticipates the student behavior or prevents it. Principal Szymaniak discussed how the administration at the high school will use data to inform community about substance abuse and strategically campaign to students by posting some of the trend analysis information around the high school. The District Attorney's office requested approval to continue administering the survey to students in grades 8-12 for an additional year. Ms. Peruccio added the data will also be used to inform communities about substance use (regionally) as well as strategize on how to address substance use in the schools.

VOTE: Mr. Lynam motioned; Mr. Small seconded voted to approve to continue administering the Drug and Alcohol Survey Evaluation to grades 8 -12 for one more year, as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Miles for Meals Donation to Food Pantries

The National Honor Society and Student Council sponsored the Miles for Meals 5K to benefit the food pantries on September 30. Through runner registrations, raffle sales and business donations, we raised a total of \$4,000 – or \$2,000 for each food pantry. Regan Hayes, NHS President presented checks to the Whitman and Hanson food pantries

OLD BUSINESS

Narcan Discussion

In response to a discussion at the last School Committee meeting regarding a proposal to training in Narcan for administrators, Whitman Police Chief Scott Benton, Whitman Fire Chief Timothy Grenno, and Hanson Police Chief Michael Miksch presented their support of the initiative.

Chief Grenno referred to the issue of Narcan a discussed at recent safety/security meeting with the school district and police and fire officials. A main safety concern is accidental exposure to students or staff of the drugs carfentanil and fentanyl. These drugs are used to cut heroin but may cause an overdose if transmitted airborne or by touch. Narcan reverses the effect of an opioid overdose. Chief Grenno supported the training for school nurses and administrators, adding that administering the Narcan is basically similar to using a nasal inhaler. Furthermore, the only side effect of administering Narcan may be vomiting, if administered to quickly. In addition, administering Narcan is covered under the Good Samaritan Act so there is no liability if trying to help another person. It was recommended to keep the supply of Narcan in the nurse's office rather than in the unlocked AED storage units. Dr. Whitner reported administration is in early discussions with WHEA and considerations of implications with staff and collective bargaining agreements. The Superintendent will work with the police and fire chiefs for guidance on training and supply. Chief Miksch reported the cost of one dose of Narcan is around \$40. He discussed the risks of accidental exposure. Narcan may be administered in two ways; using a foam atomizer or, nasal spray. Units are sold in pre-dosages of 4 milligrams, typically sold in packs of two, or 8 milligrams. Supplies for police and fire are purchased through a state bid.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to move forward with Narcan availability and training for school nurses and administrators once further review by the Superintendent, building administrators and first responders is complete. The motion passed unanimously.

E-Gaming Proposal

Principal Szymaniak presented a proposal to form an after-school student activity e-gaming club at high school for the 2017-18 school year. Mr. Szymaniak reported over thirty students have expressed interest in e-gaming. E-gaming (e-Sports) is a form of competition using by video games. Most commonly, eSports take the form of organized, multiplayer video game competitions. Mr. Szymaniak specified the after-school club would be done in a controlled, supervised environment. High school teacher, Bill Glynn, has expressed interest in being the advisor for the new club. In addition, students have secured some funding to start up a club through a recent Panther Education Trust (PET) fundraiser. The technology requirements were also discussed and verified.

VOTE: Mr. O'Brien motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to approve an e-gaming club as an extra-curricular activity for 2017-18 SY. The motion passed unanimously.

MASC/MASS Joint Conference 2017 Report

The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Kyle Riley, and Committee members reported on the 2017 MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Dr. Whitner reported that the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District was well represented at the Conference. Dr. Whitner moderated a panel discussion on virtual courses for Southeast Regional Collaborative. The WHRSD RADAR team participated in a panel session on New Tools for Planning and Budgeting: Resource Allocation and

District Action Reports (RADAR). Chris Howard reported on the session with guest speaker, Bill Daggett, President, International Center for Leadership in Education. Mr. Riley attended sessions on supporting students and social and emotional learning. Chair Hayes attended a session on School Law and Open Meeting Law (OML) changes that went into effect on October 6, 2017.

Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Kyle Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, reported on his first Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting. SEPAC meetings are held monthly and discussions include periodic speakers, special programming affecting students and communications for parents.

Budget Report and Whitman Middle School Warrant Article– FY2017-2018

Christine Suckow, Executive Director of Business Services, presented year-to-date November 2017 revenue and expenditure reports. No significant changes since last report on October 18, 2017. Mrs. Suckow announced the District Treasurer, David Leary, will report to the full Committee at the December 13, 2017 regular School Committee meeting. Chair Hayes announced he met with the independent auditors and anticipates findings will be presented at the January School Committee meeting.

The October 26, 2017 Warrant Subcommittee meeting minutes were presented for approval.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; to approve the Warrant Subcommittee meeting minutes of October 26, 2017 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine Suckow indicated the Town of Whitman is holding special town meeting in December and presented two articles to be placed on the Warrant.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; to approve the placing a warrant article on the Town of Whitman Special Town meeting to be held in December 2017 as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to fund the capital cost to replace (2) Roof Top Units at Whitman Middle School, which are no longer working and need to be replaced , or take any other action relative thereto. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine Suckow reported on the current status of moving the preschool to the high school. She discussed the proposed re-configurations of three high school classrooms to accommodate the preschool program. The cost will be split between the towns (Whitman at 59.82% and Hanson at 40.18%). An article will be presented to the Town of Hanson in the spring. The article for the Town of Whitman was presented for approval.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; to approve the placing a warrant article on the Town of Whitman Special Town meeting to be held in December 2017 as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$26,536 (Cost = \$44,360 x 59.82%) from Free Cash to reimburse the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for preliminary costs associated with moving the Pre-Kindergarten program from the Maquan School to the Whitman Hanson Regional High School, or take any other action relative thereto. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine Suckow confirmed the article represents costs of the initial phase of the preschool program move other costs may be incurred, for example, bathroom remodeling, etc.

Christine Suckow reported that the Mayflower Municipal Health Group (MMHG) will host a breakfast meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., at the Monponsett Inn, Halifax. There will be a discussion on important health insurance topics including but not limited to; overview of the rate setting process, strategic plan discussion for FY19 and beyond, and solutions for municipal employers. School committee members are invited to attend.

Central Office Administration – Future planning

The Superintendent announced her plans to retire from the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District. The Superintendent will remain as needed during the transition of a new superintendent. Dr. Whitner talked briefly of her career spanning 24 years in the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District. Dr. Whitner plans to work with the School Committee for a smooth transition and determine the process for hiring a new superintendent and assistant superintendent. She thanked the School Committee and for their support. Chair Hayes thanked Dr. Whitner for her dedicated years of service, her many accomplishments and thanked her for the various roles she has held as an employee of the District since 1994. Chair Hayes reviewed several options in a superintendent search and will discuss the search process and the next steps that will be taken at the December School Committee meeting.

Closing of the Maquan Elementary School - Update

Dr. Whitner reported the transition team has been meeting regularly and continue scheduling each phase of the closing. The parent forum, held on October 19 for parents of students who will be transitioning from Indian Head grade 5 to Hanson Middle School next year, went well. Plans for classroom re-configurations at the Indian Head School are in progress. Areas will be checked for lead paint and asbestos. Mr. Riley reported on the preschool program move to the high school, noting plans for possible drop off pick up routes, separate entrance for the preschool program and playground options are underway. Dr. Whitner informed the Committee that because not all projects related to the move can be done while school is in session; the goal is to phase in as much as possible prior to the end of the school year. The remaining work will be performed during the summer before the opening of school for the 2018-19 school year. A punch list and itemization will be presented at the December School Committee meeting. Chair Hayes added insuring communication of ongoing plans to parents and all stakeholders is essential.

NEW BUSINESS

School Calendar 2018-19 Proposal from Town of Hanson

The Superintendent reported a notice from the Office of the Town Clerk in Hanson was received regarding the November 2018 state elections. Due to the closing the Maquan Elementary School, state elections will be moved to the Hanson Middle School in the 2017-18 school year. The Clerk requested the Committee consider designating November 9, 2018, Election Day, as a no school day. A motion was made by Mr. Small and seconded by Mr. Bois to mark November 9, 2018 as a no school day. However, after a brief discussion, Mr. Small withdrew his motion. The Superintendent and School Committee discussed options as a half day and/or professional development day on November 9, 2018. After additional considerations, it was the consensus of the Committee to table the request.

VOTE: Mr. O'Brien motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to table the request not to have school on November 9, 2018, Election Day.

Surplus Declaration

In anticipation of the closing of the Maquan Elementary School, it will be necessary to surplus outdated materials such as encyclopedias, old science texts, and reading series no longer used in class. Dr. Beth Wilcox submitted a request to declare identified outdated materials at both Maquan and Indian Head Schools as surplus, as needed.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to declare any identified outdated materials at both the Maquan School and Indian Head School as surplus, as needed. The motion passed unanimously.

Gifts/Donations

Hanson PTO \$30,000

The Hanson PTO organized a Boosterthon Fun Run fundraiser at the Maquan and Indian Head Elementary Schools. Due to the generous donations and fundraising efforts, the PTO raised \$30,000 for the schools.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to accept the donation from the Hanson PTO in the amount of \$30,000, as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hayes thanked the Hanson PTO for their efforts and very successful fundraiser.

State Street Corporation \$750 to Maquan and Indian Head Schools

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to accept the donation of State Street Corporation Program of \$750 to Maquan/Indian Head Elementary Schools, under an employee volunteer charities exchange program through State Street Corporation and Erin Barata. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruno Malinowski one time donation of \$10,000 to High School

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to accept the donation of Bruno Malinowski one time donation of \$10,000 to High School, as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Warrant Subcommittee

Warrants signed this evening:

110817FS	\$38,122.31
110817AP	\$1,235,130.63
P11097	\$1,326,811.88

Policy Subcommittee

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2017. The Sub-committee will continue a review of current policies as recommended by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Small reported on additional items discussed at the Facilities Subcommittee held earlier in the evening. The Sub-committee addressed safety and hazard issues with horses on high school property. It was determined signs would be place prohibiting horses. The high school crosswalk signs installation is ongoing. The Indian Head School air handler has been delivered and will be installed soon.

Legislative Update

Mr. Jones reported the criminal justice reform bill is in the news.

Pilgrim Area Collaborative

Mr. Bois reported the Pilgrim Area Collaborative will hold a budget subcommittee meeting on October 30. Dr. Maureen Gaughan, PAC Executive Director, announced her retirement.

Negotiations Subcommittee

Chair Hayes reported the Negotiations Subcommittee will hold an executive session this evening.

Regional Agreement Amendment Committee (RAAC) Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in HS library. The October meeting was postponed due to a power outage in both towns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair announced the Committee will be going directly into Executive Session for the purposes of a) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Whitman Hanson Education Association because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair has so declared, and b) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements – Approval of Executive Session Minutes (G.L.c. 30A, Section 19A).

Chair Hayes announced no votes will be taken once the Committee comes out of Executive Session except to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; roll call voted to go into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. for the purpose a) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Whitman Hanson Education Association because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair has so declared. And b) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements. Approval of Executive Session Minutes (G.L.c. 30A, Section 19A).

**Robert Hayes – Yes
Frederick Small – Yes
Robert Trotta – Yes
Christopher Howard – Yes
Michael Jones – Yes
Steve Bois – Yes
Alexandria Taylor – Yes
Kevin Lynam – Yes
Robert O’Brien, Jr. - Yes
The motion passed unanimously.**

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; roll call voted to come out of Executive Session at 10:17 p.m.

**Robert Hayes – Yes
Frederick Small – Yes
Robert Trotta – Yes
Christopher Howard – Yes
Michael Jones – Yes
Steve Bois – Yes
Alexandria Taylor – Yes
Kevin Lynam – Yes
Robert O’Brien, Jr. - Yes
The motion passed unanimously.**

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Meeting materials and handouts:

- Meeting agenda November 8, 2017
- Meeting minutes October 18, 2017
- Notice from Hanson Town Hall - Election Day 11/9/2018
- Surplus – Maquan School Memo
- Gifts/Donations: Hanson PTO \$30,000; State Street Corporation \$750 to MQ and IH; Bruno Malinowski one time donation of \$10,000 to High School
- YTD November 2017 Encumbrances and Revenue Reports
- Warrant Articles – Town of Whitman Special Town Meeting December 11, 2017
- Warrant Sub-committee meeting minutes October 26, 2017