

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of September 12, 2018
Held at the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School
600 Franklin Street, Whitman MA

Meeting convened: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 7:56 p.m.

Members present: Robert Hayes, Robert Trotta, Frederick Small, Michael Jones, Daniel Cullity, Christopher Howard, Christopher Scriven, Steve Bois (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), and Alexandria Taylor (arrived 7:05 p.m.)

Members absent: Robert O'Brien, Jr.

Administrators present: Jeffrey Szymaniak, Superintendent of Schools
George M. Ferro, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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 August 29, 2018

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the meeting minutes of August 29, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Student Advisory Report

The Superintendent reported he recently met with Student Council Representative, Marah Burt, to discuss her proposal for increased student participation at School Committee meetings. A Superintendent's Council will be developed and Council students will meet with the Superintendent each week prior to a School Committee meeting to consider current event topics for School Committee meetings.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Szymaniak reported suspicious activity occurred in the Town of Whitman involving two middle school students. On September 12, 2018, after getting off their bus, two Whitman Middle School students observed a male in a white van, drive by them stop, reverse, and took a picture of them. They immediately went home and reported this to a parent who notified Whitman Police. The Whitman Police Department is looking into the incident.

Cell Tower Report

Mr. Szymaniak reported Town Administrator Mike McCue was unable to attend the School Committee meeting. The proposal to install a cell tower at the Hanson Middle School was tabled until further notice.

Duval Elementary Parking

The Superintendent reported a capital project request to re-purpose an unused playground to a parking lot to alleviate parking issues was sent to Whitman Town Administrator, Frank Lynam on September 7, 2018. The proposal is anticipated to be discussed at the next Whitman Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Dear Mr. Lynam:

I am writing to inform you of the ongoing parking issues at the Duval Elementary School. In speaking with the new Duval School principal, Dr. Darlene Foley, there are currently only 65 parking spaces on the property.

However, most days, there are 80 to 95 adults that require a parking spot.

At this time and to address the issue and improve the flow of traffic around the building during arrival and dismissal, teachers need to park in the small playground area. Parking in this area prevents teachers from parking on Regal Street and on grassy areas around the building. After significant consideration, we determined a solution to resolve the issue would be repurposing the small playground permanently into a parking lot. The small playground is not used during the school day. The swing set that is located there will be moved to the larger playground, where it will surely be used by children during recess.

The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District respectfully requests the Town of Whitman consider repurposing the small playground at the Duval Elementary School into a parking lot for staff and visitor parking, and to relocate the swing set to the larger playground area.

The Director of Facilities anticipates the estimated cost to install a parking lot is \$28,000 and \$5,000 to relocate the swing set. We are sending this letter requesting authorization of the expenditure and with the understanding that the Town of Whitman will reimburse the district from appropriations at the next town meeting or special town meeting for a capital project.

As always, the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District appreciates the support of the Town of Whitman with its capital projects. If you have any questions, please contact Ernie Sandland or me at your convenience.

*Sincerely,
Jeffrey Szymaniak
Superintendent of Schools*

Mr. Szymaniak reported the cost of the project is approximately \$30,000. However, has not been confirmed with the Facilities Director.

Maquan School Closing

Mr. Szymaniak informed the Committee he and Assistant Superintendent, George Ferro, assessed the Maquan School building and determined additional time is needed to return the building to the Town of Hanson. The Facilities/Maintenance Department has worked to organize surplus and logistically store items until the turnover. However, additional time is needed to complete the process. Mr. Szymaniak recommended the Committee vote to extend the turnover date from September 30 to October 31, 2018 in order to accommodate the remaining work and winterization of the building. Chair Hayes added the Hanson Re-Use Committee for the Maquan School building was notified of the current development and the request to extend will go to the Board of Selectmen for a vote.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to extend the Maquan Elementary School turnover date to the Town of Hanson from September 30, 2018 to October 3, 2018, as discussed. The motion passed unanimously 9-0-0.

Entry Plan

Mr. Szymaniak reported he presented his Entry Plan to faculty on Opening Day. The Superintendent is seeking more individual input from the Committee and requested School Committee members schedule a time to meet at their convenience. The Entry Plan will be posted on the District website. As the Superintendent gathers input and insight from all stakeholders in the community, he will use the information to identify the strengths and areas requiring improvement to drive the Strategic Plan forward. In addition, the information will help drive conversations and planning the new Strategic Plan and the Superintendent's Goals for the school year 2019-2020.

Student Services

Superintendent Szymaniak reported on the state of the Student Services Department which encompasses special education, English Language Learners (ELL), early childhood education, homeless transportation, counseling, etc. The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District has an ever growing ELL population. During the summer, the English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher resigned. Fortunately the tutor

obtained his license as an ESL teacher. However, due to the number of ELL students, the District must hire an additional ESL teacher to provide appropriate services to the ELL population, as required by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education DESE and MA General Law (MGL).

Mr. Szymaniak reported he attended the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting on September 11 and participated in the meet and greet with building principals and administration. The SEPAC has several meetings planned already and include identifying and providing resources to families and a meet and greet with Fire and Police Department administration in November. The SEPAC has also created a Facebook page.

Mr. Szymaniak reported plans for a new Superintendent Newsletter are progressing. In a non-traditional fashion, the Superintendent plans to present virtual reports using a GoPro camera for on the spot visual updates. In addition, the Superintendent will host a "Supt's Corner" TV show quarterly on the local cable station.

New Business

Athletics

Athletic Director, Bob Rodgers, proposed establishing an Athletic Hall of Fame for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District. Mr. Rodgers presented the benefits of a Hall of Fame and keeping ties to past and present accomplishments, alumni remaining connected to the school district, and aspiring young athletes to something special. Mr. Rodgers requested permission to advertise for a committee of community members to assist with the design the athletic hall of fame that would consist of coaching staff, administrators, retired coaches, and former and current student athletes. Newly inducted Hall of Fame members would be honored in the high school athletic hallway and on the new virtual scoreboard screen. Mr. Rodgers is considering three to four nominations to get the Hall started with an induction ceremony planned for March 2019. He will issue a press release announcing the plan.

VOTE: Mrs. Taylor motioned; Mr. Small seconded; voted to approve the proposal to establish a Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Athletics Hall of Fame. The motion passed unanimously 9-0-0.

Athletics - Sports Teams Donations Received

Mr. Rodgers presented a list of donations to the Whitman-Hanson sports teams received mostly last year. The donations provided teams with equipment, uniforms and other items gifted over the last year.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to approve donations received by the Athletic Department in the 2017-18 school year totaling \$71,789, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Surplus Requests

Director of Science Curriculum Request

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to declare outdated Science Department textbooks and materials, as presented. The motion passed unanimously 9-0-0.

Director of Math Curriculum Request

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to declare outdated Mathematics Department textbooks and materials, as presented. The motion passed unanimously 9-0-0.

Field Trips

Habitat for Humanity Shantytown

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to approve the overnight high school field trip for the Habitat for Humanity Shantytown fundraiser at the Regional High School on October 18-19, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously 9-0-0.

Model U.N. Conference

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to waive the nurse requirement and approve the overnight, out-of-state high school field trip for the Model U.N. Conference to Brown University, Providence RI from November 9-11, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Experiential Learning and Leadership Internship

VOTE: Mr. Scriven motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to waive the nurse requirement and approve the out-of-state high school field trip for the Experiential Learning and Leadership Internship program to University Rhode Island in Rhode Island on October 17, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Cheerleading Competition

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to waive the nurse requirement and approve out of state, overnight high school field trip for the Cheerleading Team to Orlando, FL to compete in Nationals on March 14-18, 2018, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Boys' Basketball Annual Trip

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; voted to waive the nurse requirement and approve out of state, overnight high school field trip for the Boys' Basketball annual trip to Florida on December 24, 2018-January 1, 2019, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Global Awareness Program Overseas – Ireland and England

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted approve overseas, overnight high school field trip for the Global Awareness Program overseas trip to Ireland and England during April 2019 school vacation week – (Actual departure and return dates TBD), as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

Warrant Subcommittee

The Committee approved warrants signed at the School Committee meeting.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to approve and sign Accounts Payable warrant #091218AP in the amount of \$882,389.37; Accounts Payable Warrant #091218FS in the amount of \$34,117.99; and the Payroll Warrant # P91318 in the amount of \$1,224,526.83, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Subcommittee

There was nothing new to report.

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Small reported the Subcommittee has not met recently. Mr. Small requested a Facilities Subcommittee meeting be scheduled during the month of October, preferably at a school site location other than the high school. Mr. Szymaniak agreed holding Facilities Subcommittee meetings quarterly would be beneficial.

Legislative Representative

There was nothing new to report.

Pilgrim Area Collaborative

Mr. Bois reported the Board of Directors will meet on September 25. The first regular meeting will be held October 4. Dr. Dympna Thomas will become the new Executive Director on November 1, when Dr. Maureen Gaughan officially retires on October 31, 2018.

Negotiations Subcommittee

Chair Hayes reported negotiations will begin for Unit B (administrators) on September 19, 2018 at their initial negotiations meeting. It is anticipated Units C (administrative assistants) and D (paraprofessionals) will vote on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ratify their respective Collective Bargaining Contracts, Unit C on September 19 and Unit D on September 26. The MOU's will be brought to School Committee for ratification vote thereafter.

Executive Session

Chair Hayes announced the Committee will go into Executive Session Committee to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; and 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. No votes will be taken except to adjourn.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Howard seconded; roll call voted to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the purpose to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; and 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.

The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Hayes - Yes

Robert Trotta - Yes

Fred Small – Yes

Michael Jones - Yes

Daniel Cullity - Yes

Christopher Howard - Yes

Christopher Scriven - Yes

Alexandria Taylor - Yes

Steve Bois - Yes

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Bois seconded; roll call voted to come out of Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Hayes - Yes

Robert Trotta - Yes

Fred Small – 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 7:56 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Lindberg

Signature of School Committee Secretary

- Meeting Materials and Handouts:
Meeting Agenda for September 30, 2018
- Meeting Minutes August 29, 2018
- Letter to Town of Whitman regarding Duval Elementary School capital request
- Superintendent's Entry Plan
- Surplus request from Science Department
- Surplus request from Math Department
- Field Trip Requests, Athletic Department (2): Vote to waive nurse requirement and approve Cheerleading Team to Orlando, FL to compete in Nationals March 14-18, 2018 and Boys' Basketball annual trip to Florida December 24, 2018-January 1, 2019; and High School (1) Global Awareness Program overseas trip to Ireland and England during April 2019 school vacation week – (Actual departure and return dates TBD).
- Summary of donations to Athletic Department 2017-18
- High School out of state field trip request for Experiential Learning and Leadership Internship Program to University of Rhode Island on October 17, 2018 – waive nurse requirement.
- High School overnight field trip request for Habitat for Humanity Shanty Town on October 18, 2018 at the High School
- High School out of state field trip request for Model U.N. to Brown University, Rhode Island on November 9, 2018 – waive nurse requirement