



Winthrop School Committee
Winthrop, Massachusetts

A regular meeting of the Winthrop School Committee was held on Monday, February 26, 2018 in Harvey Hearing Room, Town Hall, Winthrop, MA. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Martucci, Ms. Powell, Suzanne Swope, Mr. Vecchia, Mr. Capobianco
Mr. Fabiano and Mr. Perrin were not present.

Members of the High School Student Council led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held for the victims of the Parkland, Florida school shooting.

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa A. Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Susan Eccles, Office Manager

Patricia Hames, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to take the meeting out of order to New Business to allow the High School Student Council to address the committee with their overnight travel request. Mr. Martucci seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

WHS Student Council Overnight Travel Request

Members of the student council were present to request permission to travel to Hyannis for the annual Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Annual Spring Conference.

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve the Student Council's overnight travel request. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

DELEGATES & VISITORS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2018. Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve Warrant SVW18-14 in the amount of \$187,811.42. Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

Ms. Powell made a Motion to approve Payroll Warrant SPW18-14 in the amount of \$668,343.12, and Payroll Warrant SPW18-15 in the amount of \$670,591.84. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-abstain, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. The Motion passes with one abstention.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve the budget transfers in the amount of \$23,307.58. Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve the proposed FY19 Operating Budget in the amount of \$21,675,488.00. Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

BULDINGS & GROUNDS

The following requests were presented for approval: Arthur T. Cummings PTO; Movie Night, WINARC, Special Olympics. Both organizations are requesting the committee to waive the rental fee.

Ms. Powell made a Motion to approve the ATC PTO's use of building requests as presented and waive the rental fee. Mr. Martucci seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve WINARC's use of building request as presented and waive the rental fee. Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

GENERAL REPORTS

Sub-committee Reports

Budget Sub-committee

The Budget Sub-committee met on January 30, 2018 and February 5, 2018 at 4:00pm. School committee members present were Jennifer Powell, James Fabiano and Gus Martucci. Others in attendance were Lisa Howard, Susan Eccles, Karin Chavis, and Barbara Flavin. The FY 19 Budget was discussed. The committee voted unanimously to approve the FY19 Operating Budget in the amount of \$21,675,488.00.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lisa Howard addressed the committee regarding school safety: As you are all aware we were faced with yet another school related tragedy with the parkland Florida School Shooting. Unfortunately, this has become all too common in our world. It is important for you and the parents to know that we do have solid protocols in place and that we are confident in the security of our schools. We have an excellent open and fluid relationship with the Fire and Police in the Town and they continuously provide us with support and information related to the safety of our schools, students and community. With each new unfortunate event we do get together with colleagues, police, fire and others to continuously update and adjust our plans where needed.

This week I participated in a roundtable discussion with the Superintendents from Revere, Somerville, Chelsea, Malden, Medford, Saugus, Everett and Boston (Asst. Super and Safety Director). We are all in a Text Group that was put together a few years ago for the purpose of sharing common issues such as school cancelation and topics

that may be specific to our area of the state. We reached out to Tom Scott (the Director of the MASs Assoc. of School Superintendents) and asked him to participate in our discussion in hopes that we could put together a common response to families, students and staff on a few topics that have developed over the past 2 weeks.

Our focus was related to the following:

- How to respond to the notion of Walk Outs (when they are planned, what Districts are planning for each date, are we in support of any of the dates)
- What are we sending out to our parents for support information on how to talk to their children?
- What information is being shared with communities about security of the schools in each town
- What type of changes are schools intending to make (if any) and when?
- What information is being shared with staff (are Districts reviewing protocols as a reaction or seeing their scheduled plans)
- Can MASS help with template letters that Districts can send to legislators regarding proper funding and that support for addressing the emotional/social and mental health needs of our youth in school.

This sharing of ideas and support of each other was very productive and we will be reconvening this week for further discussion as we all left the table with tasks to accomplish and bring back to the group.

On the WPS's side, here is what has been accomplished in reaction to the latest tragedy.

- An email to all staff was sent out by me on 2/15 regarding Florida with resources
- An email was sent to all parents via Connect Ed with a link to assist with how they may speak with their children on 2/15
- The Parent email regarding resources was posted on Facebook 2/15
- A follow up email was sent the Friday before Vacation to all staff
- All Safety Protocols have been collected and reviewed by me. Each building has conducted evacuations, hold in place and lockdowns multiple times this year. Principals are reminding staff to follow protocols and ask questions if needed
- We have scheduled Jackie Lamonte (the District Attorney's Office) to do a Parent Session on "Student Safety, Internet Usage and Child Abuse" on May 1, 2018. This was a follow up to Screenagers and we have added the aspect of child abuse as the result of the hockey coach incident in Marblehead
- Monday at 3pm I met with the Administration to review all Safety Protocols and Plans. We reviewed the dates of all completed drills (evacuation, hold in place and lockdown) and drills that are scheduled for the future. We discussed parent communication related to the Florida Tragedy. We discuss the need for any additional training for students or staff.
- I met with Chief Delahanty and Chief Flannigan to review all the safety updates and improvements that have been put in place over the past few years including the Middle High School.

WE DO NOT COMMUNICATE THE SPECIFICS OF SECURITY INCLUDING DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY OR RESPONSE PROTOCOLS WITH THE PUBLIC AS HAVING A PUBLIC RECORD OF THE INFORMATION WOULD PUT OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF AT RISK.

As you are aware there are many groups and coalitions organizing events to support actions as a result of the Florida tragedy:

- Wednesday March 14 Women's March Youth Empower announced a National School Walk Out
- Saturday March 24 a student led group organized March for Our Lives on the Boston Common
- Friday April 20 The Network for Public Education and others are encouraging people to take a #enoughisenough stand against violence as it marks the Columbine tragedy

- This week I participated in a meeting with the North Shore Superintendents to discuss our thoughts on how to react to the social media flood on School Walk Outs. We are combining thoughts and ideas about how best to advise our students and have their voices heard. Mr. Crombie has gathered a student group to discuss thoughts and create suggestions on how to have our student's voices heard at a plan to get the information to the State House in a meaningful way that will effect change. He will be meeting with the group to discuss plans for the 14th that will not support a "walk out" but will support a plan to have our students and staff heard. I will meet with the Union

Facilities & Maintenance

The bathroom on the first floor has a plumbing issue that requires and insurance investigation. We have shut the bathroom down to avoid any use of specific toilets that would result in further damage.

Cummings School Playground: As you are aware the ATC Playground has had some aspects of use shut down and some minor repairs completed. Given the continuous of the playground and the level of suggested repairs for safety, I will be submitting a Capitol Improvement request to the Town Council for a full replacement of the Playground. We have received a quote to do a renovation of the playground as well as a quote to retrofit a new surface and repair and replace several pieces of equipment. The quote to retrofit was \$106,000 and replace was \$225,000. Nancy White from Playground Inspections of New England provided the quotes. There is a line item in the proposed FY19 budget that will allow for repairs and salvage of a portion of the playground for the 2018-2019 year, however this is not a guarantee that the playground will be usable next school year. The goal of the School Department is to have a usable and safe play space but realistically without substantial funding from the Town, we may be shutting down the space prior to the close of this school year. We review the space weekly using a protocol provided by Playground Inspections of New England, which will determine the continued use of the space from now until a renovation or shut down.

PERSONNEL

Kelly Flynn, Grade 2 Teacher, has submitted her letter of resignation.

The following job vacancies have been posted: Interim Athletic Trainer and Fall Coaching positions.

NEW BUSINESS

School Committee Training Date

Glen Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees will be conducting a new school committee training session on Thursday, March 1st at 4:00pm. The training will be held in the Principal Conference Room at Winthrop High School.

Superintendent Contract

The Superintendent Contract Sub-committee will schedule a meeting to be held next week.

First Reading of the revised Substance Use Prevention & Education Policy

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to waive the first reading of the Substance Use Prevention & Education Policy. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Mr. Capobianco announced the band fundraiser "Band Together" will be held on Saturday, March 10th at Winthrop Lodge of Elks.

- Mrs. Powell announced Winthrop High School Drama Society is hosting the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild Drama Festival on Saturday, March 3rd. WHS Drama will perform “Faustus” this Thursday at 8:00pm at Winthrop High School.
- Mrs. Powell announced “Vaping & E-Cigarettes Community Forum” will be held on March 18th at 6:00pm at Winthrop High School.
- Mrs. Howard announced that Boys’ and Girls’ Hockey are in the state playoffs, as well as Boys’ Basketball.
- Mrs. Howard also gave kudos to Athletic Director Matt Serino who earned high marks on an unannounced MIAA observation “great announcement about attendee’s expected behavior, beautiful gym, well-staffed, family friendly, AD runs a tight ship”
- The Superintendent announced that Jackie Lamont from the District Attorney’s office will hold a forum on March 1st at 6:30pm, regarding the safety of children. Topics covered will be social media and child abuse. This forum is for parents only.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:23pm, Mr. Martucci made a Motion to adjourn. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Capobianco-yes. A unanimous vote

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hames
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Documents used in this meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes of February 12, 2018
- Warrant SVW18-14 in the amount of \$187,811.42
- Payroll Warrant SPW18-14 in the amount of \$668,343.12
- Payroll Warrant SPW18-15 in the amount of \$670,591.84
- Budget Transfers
- Proposed FY19 Budget
- Expenditure Report
- Buildings & Grounds Requests
- Arthur T. Cummings Playground Repair Estimate
- Resignation Letter
- Job Postings
- WHS Student Council Overnight Travel Request
- Chemical Health Violation Policy
- Substance Abuse Prevention & Education Policy #IHAMA
- Smoking on School Premises Policy #ADC
- Calendar of Events

The above non-confidential documents can be found in the Superintendent’s office, upon request.