



Winthrop School Committee
Winthrop, Massachusetts

A regular meeting of the Winthrop School Committee was held on Monday, March 25, 2019 in the Neil Shapiro Center for Performing Arts, Winthrop High School, 400 Main Street, Winthrop, MA. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Fabiano, Mr. Martucci, Ms. Powell, Ms. Swope, Mr. Vecchia, Mr. Perrin, Mr. Capobianco

Also meeting with Committee:

Lisa Howard, Superintendent of Schools

Patricia Hames, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Susan Eccles, Office Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Powell led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

- A Moment of Silence was held for retired Special Ed Teacher Melody Allen, who recently passed away. Ms. Allen retired in 2016 with 30 years of service.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GENERAL INFORMATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Delegates & Visitors

The Winthrop Middle School Quiz Bowl Team were presented resolutions for competing in the Malden Catholic Quiz Bowl and coming in First Place. Citations were presented to Christian Buonopane, Kate Dickinson, Alexander Daigneault, Benjamin Prew, Christopher Raney, and John Tracy. Citations were also presented to Coaches Christopher Farnsworth and Amy Gallagher.

Mr. Vecchia made a Motion to approve the resolutions presented to the Quiz Bowl Team. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.

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

MINUTES

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve the Minutes of February 25, 2019. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.

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

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve the Minutes of March 11, 2019. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.

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

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Mr. Fabiano made a Motion to approve Warrant SVW19-15 in the amount of \$204,483.56.

Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.

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

Mr. Vecchia made a Motion to approve Payroll Warrant SPW19-14 in the amount of \$683,521.14 Ms. Swope seconded the Motion

Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-abstain Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Perrin-abstain, Mr. Capobianco-yes. The Motion passes with two abstentions.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The following requests were before the committee for approval: Winthrop Youth Lacrosse, Lacrosse Games; WINARC, Special Olympics.

Ms. Powell made a Motion to approve the use of building requests as presented and waive the rental fee for WINARC. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

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

GENERAL REPORTS

Sub-committee Reports

Athletic Sub-committee

The Athletic Sub-committee met on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 5:00m. The meeting was held in the Principal Conference Room 102 at Winthrop High School. Members in attendance were James Fabiano, Tino Capobianco and Gus Martucci. Also, in attendance were Jen Powell, Matt Serino, Phil Lundberg and Vasili Mallios. The committee discussed athletic transportation and the cost of outsourcing vs. running the transportation service. Discussing took place regarding Middle School sports. There is a high interest based on a survey conducted, particularly wrestling, cross country and outdoor track. The committee also discussed the Miller Field fee structure and suggestions to adjust it if possible. The committee voted 2-1 to approve middle school sports for the FY20 school year, contingent upon participating and cost.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lisa Howard provided the following report:

Winthrop High School's Wellness Week is scheduled for April 8th to April 12th. During the week there will be several speakers and organizations visiting the school, providing information regarding substance abuse, physical health, mental health, healthy relationships and inclusion (Spread the Word).

Murphy the Therapy Dog from Winthrop Middle School's MASS Start Program visited our high school students today. Murphy comes to the middle school a few days a week to provide social-emotional support (and endless smiles) for students.

Superintendent Lisa Howard, Town Nurse Meredith Hurley and Police Chief Terry Delahanty met to discuss planning for staff, students and parent discussions and trainings relative to depression/suicide, safe choices, trauma identification, etc., and the potential of engaging the Riverside Training Center to work with our Threat Assessment Teams.

The WHS Robotics Club, founded by juniors Elizabeth Collins and Trinity Rist, has joined the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics competition as Rookie Team 7795. In keeping with Viking tradition, the team is named Norse Code. FIRST Robotics Competition pairs high school students with adult mentors (primarily engineers and teachers) to design and build robots that compete against one another in a high-energy environment. This varsity sport for the mind combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of students are challenged to

raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program ROBOTS to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. Norse Code's debut competitions are scheduled for March 15th & 16th at Reading High School and March 22nd & 23rd.

Students from Mrs. Daigneault's STEAM course presented their yearlong science research and engineering design projects at the Massachusetts Region IV Science Fair at Somerville High School on Saturday, March 9th.

Ms. Delsio and Ms. Kelley accompanied 16 members of the WHS Student Council to the MASC (Massachusetts Association of Student Councils) Annual Conference in Hyannis last week. During the three-day conference the students participated in many Leadership Workshops and listened to several influential keynote speakers.

The students in Mrs. Daigneault's STEAM Class participated in a Virtual Reality Escape the Room Challenge. The students were tasked with designing their own virtual reality room with their cell-phones using the unique FUSE curriculum. The STEAM students displayed their VR projects to the HS main office admin and staff and received great positive feedback.

The students in Mr. Cross' Food and Nutrition course celebrated "Pie Day" (3.14) by making mini-pies. The students baked both lemon and licorice tarts with the help of the Peer Mentors.

The students from the Viking Longships Project (VLP) are trying to start a field of Blacksmithing in their class. Blacksmithing is the process of using a forge to heat up metal and shape it. VLP students Ty Calinda, Julia Marcoccio, and Ivy Crespo met with the Fire Captain from the Winthrop Fire Department and the Town Building Inspector for approval of future project ideas. They will be presenting to the school committee in the near future.

Congratulations to the following students who competed in the Massachusetts Regional History Day Competition in Stoneham: Sophomores Ayat Walid **and** Fatima Marhni received "Honorable Mention" in the Group Website category for their project on Jane Addams.

In conjunction and collaboration with the Town of Winthrop's Belle Isle Marsh Project, senior Eric Gillis prepared and wrote a grant to the Sons of Norway Foundation. He requested financial support for the Viking Longships Project's 14'X24' Viking replica longhouse, constructed by students in the Project 12 years ago. Corrie Maki Knudson, Director of the Sons of Norway Foundation, awarded a grant of \$1000.00 for the Viking Longship Project.

Congratulations to the WHS Drama Society on advancing to the semi-final round of the METG State Drama Festival. Members of the cast and crew of "Golem"

Important Dates:

- March 27 ELA High School
- April 3 NEASC Visit High School
- April 5 WMS Drama Spring Showcase
- April 6 WMS Drama Spring Showcase
- April 7 Youth Art Show EB Newton Cultural Center
- April 8 School Committee Meeting
- April 10 Unit A Teacher Negotiations
- April 10th Spring Concert Middle School
- April 11 Youth Art Show EB Newton Cultural Center
- April 12th Wellness Fair Middle School
- April 15th April 19th = April Vacation
- April 22 School Committee Meeting
- April 24th ELA MCAS (session 1) Middle School
- April 25th ELA MCAS (session 2) Middle School
- April 28 Annual Viking Color Run Deer Island Harborwalk

Personnel

The following vacancies have been posted: WHS Winter Athletic Coaching Positions; Long-term Part-time Pre-K E.S.P., WPG.

NEW BUSINESS

ATC Playground

The committee is in the possession of a quote from Ultiplay in the amount of \$141,200.00, at the recommendation of the Buildings & Grounds Sub-committee.

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to present the Ultiplay quote to the Town Council as a capital improvement request. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

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

Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Public Schools

The committee was provided with a resolution in support of full funding for public schools. Vice Chairman Brian Perrin read the resolution:

“Whereas, free public schools available to all students without exception are foundational to our democracy and are required by the state constitution; and

Whereas, all of our students, no matter where they live, deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child and provide them with a rich school experience that addresses their academic, social, and emotional needs;

Whereas, the state’s foundation budget formula, which determines state aid to each district, has been woefully out of date for years, thereby underfunding our districts by more than \$1 billion a year for essential educational services, and

Whereas, an updated foundation budget formula would bring the Winthrop Public Schools up to \$1,177,991 for additional state aide your district would receive each year under a new formula in additional state aide each year, allowing this district to move closer to providing all students with the education to which they are entitled as residents of the Commonwealth, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Winthrop School Committee urges the Legislature to approve and fully fund a new foundation budget formula by May 1, 2019”.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to approve the Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Public Schools. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

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

Proposed 2019-2020 School Calendar

The 2019-2020 school calendar as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, was presented to the committee for approval. There will be some tweaking with half days and start and end times. The committee will be provided with that information once it has been established.

Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to approve the 2019-2020 school calendar as presented. Ms. Powell seconded the Motion.

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

Request for Memorial Bench

There is a written request for a Memorial Bench to be placed on Miller Field.

Mr. Martucci made a Motion to refer the request for a memorial bench on Miller Field to the Buildings & Grounds Sub-committee. Mr. Vecchia seconded the Motion.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chromebook Policy

The Chromebook Policy is tabled and remains under Unfinished Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Mr. Fabiano announced WINARC's 4th Annual Deer Island Walk is on May 5th
- Mr. Capobianco announced the 3rd Annual Viking Color Run is on April 28th at Deer Island
- Ms. Powell announced the Winthrop Middle School Spring Showcase is April 5th, 6th and 7th at the Neil Shapiro Center for Performing Arts

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:56m, Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Mr. Martucci seconded the Motion.

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

ADJOURMENT

At 7:28pm, Mr. Capobianco made a Motion to adjourn. Ms. Swope seconded the Motion.

Mr. Fabiano-yes, Mr. Martucci-yes, Ms. Powell-yes, Ms. Swope-yes, Mr. Vecchia-yes, Mr. Perrin-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 25, 2019
- Minutes of March 11, 2019
- Warrant SVW19-15 in the amount of \$204,483.56
- Payroll Warrant SPW19-14 in the amount of \$683,521.14
- Expenditure Report
- Use of Building Requests
- Job Postings
- Ultiplay Parks & Playgrounds, Inc. Quote
- Resolution in Support of Full Funding for our Public Schools
- Proposed 2019-2020 School Calendar
- Request for Memorial Bench on Miller Field
- Calendar of Events
- Flyers

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