

Whately School Committee Meeting
Whately Elementary School
Tuesday, June 4, 2019

MINUTES

Present: Chair Katie Edwards, Vice Chair Robert Halla and Secretary Maureen Nichols; Principal Kristina Kirton; The Management Solutions Representative Judy Houle; and Superintendent Darius Modestow

Chair Katie Edwards called the regular meeting of the school committee to order at 8:05 am.

On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the Minutes of May 7, 2019 were approved 3-0-0.

Judy Houle, representative from TMS, presented the Financial Statement. 7 warrants were presented totaling \$40,500.21. The gym floor and other building maintenance projects will be completed before the end of this fiscal year. Brief discussion on possibly purchasing small cafeteria tables/chairs for Kindergarten and Preschool students.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Unfinished Business, there were updates on the following:

- a. We have received a Comprehensive School Health Services grant for \$55,000. The grant will fund a part time nurse leader position. The nurse leader would provide professional development and information on available software and data collection. This is a 4-year grant and we can reapply for 2-year extensions for up to 10 years. In year 4 of the grant, we will be responsible for paying the salary of the nurse leader, which will be approximately \$40,000. We would no longer need to pay our nurse leader a stipend of \$12,000.

On a motion from Bob Halla and a second from Maureen Nichols, the Comprehensive School Health Service grant for 4 years was approved 3-0-0.

- b. Long Term Planning Committee: Brief discussion regarding establishing a Long Term Planning Committee at the district level for School Committee Chairs and Superintendent Modesto. Principal Kirton would like to establish a long term planning committee at WES, which would include School Council members.
- c. Update on Central Office staff changeovers: The committee will be meeting this week to review the applications for the Director of Facilities position.
- d. Non-union salary recommendations – This item was moved to Executive Session.

Global Leaders did a smartboard presentation of the many wonderful projects they did this year. Included were Asante Sana flower fundraiser, Festival of Lights presentation at our winter concert, the paper plate project with Tanzania, interaction with NMH students from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Afghanistan and Thailand. They also collected fleece blankets for Dakin Animal Shelter, shared information about the Chinese New Year, decorated and hosted a teacher/staff appreciation breakfast, traveled to Holyoke to present valentines to our Veterans and much more.

Under New Business,

The work on the sprinklers will begin right after school gets out. Once the sprinkler installations are completed in the gym, the gym floor will be refinished. New tile floors will be installed in the Nurse's Office as well as two classrooms. The main office and a classroom will be painted. New air conditioner units will be installed in the main office.

Under Reports:

Capital Projects – Sprinkler head project will be completed.

Committee/Chairman – Katie Edwards thanked Louise Law, Bob Lesko, and Lois Lively for their years of dedication to the district and wished them a happy retirement. Thank you to Judy Houle for her help this past year.

Mrs. Edwards also advised that hemp will be grown in the field adjacent to our driveway. Since hemp and marijuana look similar, she wanted to be sure we were notified.

Principal - Principal Kirton gave the Principal's Report.

We finished up MCAS testing on May 23rd. The PTO provided snacks for each day of testing. The students worked hard and demonstrated a great deal of stamina throughout the process.

On May 20th our 6th graders went to New York City. They visited the Tenement Museum and the Statue of Liberty and then had dinner in New Jersey. They had a great time and were excellent representatives of Whately Elementary School. It was a wonderful way to close out their Whately Elementary School experience.

We were very excited to welcome our incoming group of kindergarten students on visiting day. Children visited the classroom and took a ride on the school bus while parents met in the library to receive information and support for the big step these little ones are about to take. It was so exciting to meet the newest additions to the Whately family.

On May 24th we held a Memorial Day assembly. Members of the band played the Star Spangled Banner and Taps. The entire school sang patriotic songs that they have been practicing during lunch. Students in Kindergarten through grade three sang songs in Spanish that they have learned from Maestro Edgerly. The 2nd Grade presented the Veterans with flowers and a special wreath.

We had our annual Arts Night last Wednesday. Students sang, danced, and played instruments. After the concert, everyone was encouraged to view the art show.

Teams of teachers will meet throughout the summer to prepare for the coming school year. Mrs. Kirton formally thanked the School Committee, students, staff, families and colleagues for their support during her 1st year.

Superintendent - Darius Modestow gave the Superintendent's Report.

Negotiations for Union #38 Teachers continues

Next meeting is Wednesday, June 12th at 3pm.

Director of Facilities

Review of resumes and interview process is underway. Timeline for candidate selection is mid-June with a late July start date.

Superintendent Evaluation

The online evaluation will be sent to all committee members in early June. As discussed, the Superintendent will give a bulleted summary of items completed in this area prior to the four Standards and rating questions.

Summer Meeting

When the collective bargaining for Union #38 is completed, we will need to do a joint meeting to vote to accept the new contract. This may occur this summer or, based on the timing of the association vote, it may even take place in September.

Summer Administrative Retreat

The administrative team will be meeting four full days in June:

- June 20th: Administrative District/School Goals and Professional Development plan for 2020.
- June 21st: Work Day. Admin team working together to update and develop consistent forms, handbooks and website information. If successful, the admin team asked for a second workday in July.
- June 27 and June 28th: The Administrative team will participate in professional development from The Curriculum Management Solution Inc. CMSI will be providing training on evaluating curriculum and classroom instruction

At 9:26 am the Committee entered into Executive Session pursuant to the M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining session or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 am. Approved 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lesenski, Recording Secretary

Summary of Documents Presented:

1. Minutes of May 7, 2019
2. Monthly Financial Report
3. CSHS Grant – Scope of Services
4. Non-Union Salary Recommendations
5. Principal's Report
6. Superintendent's Report
7. Monthly Enrollment