

Whately School Committee Meeting  
Whately Elementary School  
Tuesday, September 24, 2019

MINUTES

Present: Chair Katie Edwards, Vice Chair Robert Halla and Secretary Maureen Nichols;  
Principal Kristina Kirton; and Superintendent Darius Modestow

Katie Edwards called the meeting to order at 8:19 am.

Superintendent Modestow called for nominations for Chair. On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, Katie Edwards, was nominated Chair. Robert Halla moved, seconded by Maureen Nichols, to close nominations for Chair and appoint Katie Edwards as Chair. Approved 3-0-0.

The meeting was then turned over to Chair Katie Edwards who asked for nominations for Vice Chair. On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Katie Edwards, Maureen Nichols was nominated Vice Chair. Katie Edwards moved, seconded by Robert Halla, to close nominations for Vice Chair and appoint Maureen Nichols as Vice Chair. Approved 3-0-0.

On a motion from Robert Halla, and a second from Katie Edwards, Maureen Nichols was nominated as Secretary. Approved 3-0-0.

Chair Katie Edwards then appointed the following representatives:

Frontier Representative - Robert Halla

Union #38 Representatives - Robert Halla, Katie Edwards, Maureen Nichols

The Collaborative Representative - Maureen Nichols

Capital Planning Committee - Katie Edwards

Policy Review Committee - Maureen Nichols

Sick Bank Committee - Katie Edwards and Maureen Nichols

Negotiations Team - Robert Halla

On a motion from Maureen Nichols, and a second from Robert Halla, the Minutes of June 4, 2019 and the Special Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2019 were approved 3-0-0.

Shelley Poreda, Director of Business Administration, gave the Financial Report. 9 warrants were presented totaling \$63,114.51. Fiscal year 2019 was closed out with encumbrances totaling \$44,894.04 carried over to 2020. School Choice funds total \$237,885 of which \$45,000 was from the State for year 2019. Approximately \$192,885 was rolled over from prior years. Katie Edwards asked for School Choice print outs for the November meeting.

There was no Public Comment.

Katie Edwards suggested that the School Council be involved in the long term planning for the School. The Council could create 5-10 year projections to help protect the school budget. Katie will attend a School Council meeting to discuss the idea with the committee.

**There was no Unfinished Business.**

**Under New Business**, Superintendent Modestow spoke to the MASC/MASS Joint Conference scheduled for November 6-9, 2019. Maureen Nichols moved, seconded by Katie Edwards, to appoint Robert Halla as the School Committee's Official Delegate to the conference. Approved 3-0.

Superintendent Modestow spoke to the Safe Schools Grant. Whately was awarded \$25,000 to upgrade our key system. The funds will be used to provide greater building security through key fob systems, cameras, and other equipment used to keep our school safe and secure.

Policy KHC – Dissemination of Information and Policy IMGA – Dissection and Dissection Alternatives were brought to the table for a first reading. Discussion on having schools use less paper and instead include this information in newsletters and emails. The Dissection policy would establish a policy at the elementary school level.

The Settlement Agreement between the Whately School Committee and the Union #38 Instructional Assistants Association was reviewed.

Principal Kirton gave the Principal's Report. Students from all four elementary schools attended a week of STEM camp here at WES. Students learned coding with Dash robots, completed daily STEM challenges, built courses and challenges for nanobots and aquabots, played math games and so much more.

We began our year with an ice cream social. Many students and families took advantage of this opportunity to come say hello to their new teachers. The first day, students were welcomed back with a dance party.

We have welcomed several new staff members:

Amy Tibbetts – First Grade Teacher

Sarah Chapdelaine – First Grade instructional assistant

Grace Berggren – Pre-K instructional assistant

Christine Sirard – General Music teacher

Katie Miranda – Long – term substitute for string instruction

Miriah Freemole – Pre-K extended day coordinator

Fifth Grade students held a very successful mum sale.

We had our first All-School Meeting on Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The sixth grade wrote and performed a skit about being inclusive and making everyone feel that they are welcome.

Team of educators have been working since spring to develop the WES version of Genius Hour to be rolled out in November. Students will engage in project-based learning that will be student driven.

Summer work updates:

Gym floors refinished	New floors installed in 2 rooms	Air conditioners installed in office
Two classrooms painted	Office painted	Touched up rooms with water stains
Ceiling in foyer painted	Office window/doors frames painted	Bathroom vent covers painted
Stripped/waxed all floors	Replaced lights in foyer	Painted vestibule upper/lower wings
Cleaned out HVAC vents	Sprinkler work finished	Shampooed all carpets & rugs
Generator work finished	Exterior of Cafeteria & library window/door frames painted	

**Superintendent-Darius Modestow gave the Superintendent's Report.**

Wonderful Opening Ceremonies and we had a very successful opening of schools. He was very impressed with each of our schools' and teachers' unique traditions to create community and welcome new and old students and families back to school.

Negotiations for Union #38 Teachers Continues. The first mediation meeting was held on September 5<sup>th</sup>. This was the first available date for both sides since the June decision to go to mediation. The next meeting has been set for October 10<sup>th</sup>. Details of progress will be discussed in the executive session.

Superintendent evaluation will be discussed at the chairs meeting and likely be presented at the joint October 8<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

Our School Counsel suggest that legally you should use an FRSU38.org email address. Each member can receive an FRSU38 address so that any correspondence can meet the legal requirement to be archived.

The Capital Improvement subcommittee has received approval to take on a debt bond of approximately \$1.8 million to be used at Frontier.

At 9:22 am the Committee entered into Executive Session pursuant to the M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(7) in order to comply with the Open Meeting Law for the purpose of releasing Executive Session Minutes of November 6, 2017 and May 7, 2018.

ROLL CALL:

Katie Edwards  
Robert Halla  
Maureen Nichols

At 9:32 am the Committee entered into Executive Session pursuant to the M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining – Teachers.

ROLL CALL:

Katie Edwards  
Robert Halla  
Maureen Nichols

On a motion from Katie Edwards, and a second from Bob Halla, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 am. Approved 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lesenski  
Recording Secretary

Summary of Documents Presented:

1. Minutes of June 4, 2019
2. Special Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2019
3. Monthly Financial Report
4. School Choice Analysis – FY19
5. MASC Official Delegate Form
6. Settlement Agreement
7. Policies KHC & IMGA
8. Principal's Report
9. Superintendent's Report
10. Employment List
11. Opening Day Enrollment