

**Wellesley Public Schools
School Committee Meeting – Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Juliani Room, Town Hall**

The Open Session of the School Committee meeting convened at 7:30 p.m. Those present included Chair Suzy Littlefield, members Diane Campbell, KC Kato, Wendy Paul, and Ilissa Povich, Superintendent Bella Wong, Assistant Superintendent Salvatore Petralia, and Student Advisory Member Adam Chernew. Ms. Littlefield announced that the meeting is being recorded by the local news media.

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Appointments:**
Barbara Hayden – 1.0FTE WMS Social Studies Teacher – (effective 11/28/11)
- **Resignations:**
Sarah Pinchback – 1.0FTE WMS Social Studies Teacher
- **Leave of Absence:**
Margaret Walendin – 1.0FTE WHS School Counselor (effective 4/23/12 to 6/30/12)
- **Change in Leave of Absence:**
Ariane Oliver – 1.0FTE WMS Latin Teacher – Change in Leave (**1/31/12** to 6/30/12)

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Minutes** – Open Session, November 8, 29, and December 6, 2011.
- **Gifts:**
 - Fiske PTO** - \$225 Bus to Marino Farm
 - Hunnewell PTO** - \$139.03 – Classroom Books for 1G
- \$239.85 – 3 Raz Kids Subscriptions
 - Schofield PTO** - \$1,050 – Buses for Two Field Trips
\$2,058 – Video/Audio Intercom for Front Entry
 - WMS PTO** - \$2,880.14 – Library Books
- \$600 – Joh Camara/Malian Drummer – M.DiPietro's Class
 - Boys Basketball Hoop Club** - \$1,750 Donation to Boys' Basketball
 - Anonymous** – 4 Karbon Start Jackets - \$600 Value
 - Gerald & Elizabeth Devlin** - \$500 – Bridge Program
 - Joshua Littlefield** – Yamaha Tenor Sax - \$500 Value
 - Harvard Pilgrim Health Care**-\$500–Grant for S. Grossman, B. Greenberg & A Mazariegos

Upon a motion made by Ms. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Kato, the School Committee **VOTED** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Littlefield abstained from voting due to a possible conflict of interest.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Littlefield reported the School Committee held a listening session on January 4th to provide the community an opportunity to voice any concerns or comments they may have regarding the School Department. Several action items were developed from the meeting, including:

- A review of all CORI reports that have been received to date to determine if there are any records that result in an individual who may pose a danger to students. Ms. Povich reported the review has already been completed and no records were found that would warrant any concern. Ms. Povich commended Assistant Superintendent Salvatore Petralia for his efforts in conducting such a review so quickly.
- Post on website all feedback received to date on the proposal for Full Day Kindergarten. This will be posted within the week.

- A School Committee newsletter will be launched to provide timely updates on various topics of interest.

Ms. Littlefield indicated the School Committee toured the new high school, along with members of the SBC and the Board of Selectmen. The Dedication Committee is underway in preparation of the official dedication ceremony on May 19th.

Ms. Littlefield reported that School Committee members met with State legislators at this week's Selectmen's meeting. Representative Peisch indicated she expects Circuit Breaker will be level funded this year. In addition, there is a bill being formulated to allow schools to fingerprint both potential and current employees. This will help provide nation-wide information on individuals, as opposed to the CORI which only lists criminal charges in Massachusetts.

Ms. Campbell reported that the next meeting of the AdHoc Facilities Maintenance Committee is scheduled for January 11. Members continue to work on a final report in preparation for the Annual Town Meeting.

Ms. Paul reported she attended a Coffee and Conversation with the WMS principal and toured the new spaces in the Middle School, which were very impressive. She also attended the Bates Winter Assembly and was very impressed by the diversity of the musical interpretations by the students.

Ms. Kato updated the Committee on the WMS project indicated that the teachers are in the classrooms, however, there are some punchlist items still remaining. It also appears that the project will come in underbudget. Central Council members will be touring the new facilities next week.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Wong reported she has received a draft of the MASBO report and has submitted comments. She expects a final report by the end of the week or early next week. She indicated that a total of 11 mice have been caught at the Middle School and High School. The consultant has been discharged, however, the integrated pest management plan will continue to be in place, and the situation will continue to be monitored to ensure there is no infestation.

Student Congress. Mr. Chernew reported April 4, 2012 is Seminar Day. Student Congress is sponsoring an online survey concerning the traditions students would like to carry forward to the new school, and any traditions they would like initiated or dropped. He also indicated that Student Congress has been approached by faculty introducing the concept of an unweighted GPA, where the GPA would be based solely on the grade a student receives, regardless of whether or not the class is an honors class.

CITIZENS SPEAK - No one present wished to speak.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

CORI Policy Update There were no comments received on this issue. There was a suggestion from a Newton resident concerning running SORIs, a registry for sexual offenders as well as CORIs Mr. Petralia is reviewing this suggestion and will present information on this issue at a later date. This does not affect acceptance of the proposed CORI policy, but rather it would be in addition to this policy. Upon a motion made by Ms. Povich and seconded by Ms. Kato, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to accept the CORI Policy as presented at the December 20, 2011 meeting.

Security Camera System Policy. No additional comments were received. Mr. Chernew indicated that Principal Keough has discussed the proposal with the students at their class meetings. There are mixed reviews amongst the student body: some feel cameras make the school safer; others feel it is an invasion of privacy. After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Kato, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to accept the Security Camera System Policy as presented at the December 20, 2011 meeting.

WMS and WHS Program of Studies for 2012-13. Ms. Wong referred to the memo from Dr. McFall in the School Committee packet, which addresses questions raised after the presentation of the WMS and WHS Program of Studies at the last meeting. After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Povich and seconded by Ms. Kato, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to approve the WMS and WHS Program of Studies for 2012-13, pending budget approval, as presented at the December 20, 2011 meeting.

Update on Food Service Accounts. Ms. Wong provided background and an update on the food service accounts, the current outstanding balance, her recommendation and possible next steps for the Committee to consider. She provided the following information on outstanding debt:

- \$36,918.58 = the total of all old debt since 2001.
- \$3,501.98 = families who have left Wellesley
- \$3,282.85 = families who now qualify for free or reduced fee lunches;
- \$6,223 = families on active payment plans;
- \$342.30 = families who owe less than \$100.
- \$23,569.05 = balance that remains for accounts in excess of \$100.

Ms. Wong indicated there is approximately \$2500 in new debt for this year due to charges accrued by students who take advantage of the alternate lunches (5 maximum) provided to students with low or no balance in their account. It was noted that approximately 25 families are responsible for the approximate \$26,000 in remaining debt. Ms. Wong is recommending that the School Committee authorize the waiver of debt related to those families who have moved out of town or who now qualify for free or reduced fee lunches. She indicated some future steps to consider are to continue not allowing students with an outstanding balance to purchase lunch; pursue payment of debt through small claims filing; curtail student access to voluntary student activities; and work with Town departments to prohibit access to discretionary town permits. Staff must determine the cost of these steps, and what steps are appropriate. She plans to discuss this with Town Counsel to have a better sense of what is permissible.

There was concern that the low balance alerts are not working properly. School Committee requested a meeting with NutriKids to discuss the billing system and its functions. Mr. Chernew mentioned that there is an issue at the high school where students have used other student's PIN numbers without permission. He suggested that perhaps photo identification might be helpful. Ms. Wong acknowledged there may be some misuse of PIN numbers, but it is minimal. Parents are urged to check their accounts to ensure there are no excessive charges.

Academic Calendar 2012-13. The Committee reviewed the tentative Academic Calendar for 2012-13. There was discussion concerning the possibility of an earlier start date to avoid such a late end date. The draft calendar will be posted on the website for public comment.

Update on Superintendent Search. Ms. Kato reported that six proposals were received and four met the minimum qualifications of the RFP. Interviews have been conducted for the four firms that have

met the minimum qualifications. The Search Committee will be meeting on January 11, 2012 to finalize a recommendation, and the School Committee will meet on Thursday, January 12, 2012 to vote on the recommendation. Ms. Kato also reported that 75 responses have been received from community members expressing an interest in participating in the superintendent search.

CITIZEN SPEAK Franny Campbell, Barton Road resident and head cashier at WMS for 17 years, suggested it is helpful to have photo identification of the students in order to prevent overcharging. She indicated it is important that NutriKids be made to work to the best of its ability for parents, kids and the Town to avoid excessive balances on accounts, and suggested a review for parents on how to use NutriKids. In addition, Ms. Campbell noted the anomaly in the system where students who are eligible for free and reduced fee lunches, are then charged full price if they purchase a second or third lunch. She feels it is these balances that can become unruly and this issues needs to be addressed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 8:40 p.m., upon a motion made by Ms. Povich and seconded by Ms. Povich, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. The Chair polled each member and each voted aye.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Secretary