

**Wellesley Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
January 29, 2019
Hunnewell School Gym
28 Cameron Street**

The meeting was called to order at 5 pm. Those present included Committee Chair Matt Kelley, Vice Chair Melissa Martin, Secretary Linda Chow, and members Michael D’Ortenzio, Jr. and Sharon Gray; Superintendent David Lussier, and Assistant Superintendents Joan Dabrowski and Cindy Mahr. Mr. Kelley announced that the meeting is being recorded by local media.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one present wished to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Gifts Acceptances
- Declaration of Surplus Items:
 - Student Services – Testing Materials that are obsolete
 - MS Math Dept. - Textbooks not relevant to curriculum
 - MS Woodshop – Old Machinery (Planer, Jointer, table saw)
 - WHS – Textbooks and test prep books

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Mr. D’Ortenzio, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The Committee reviewed an approval form for a WHS trip to New York City to attend a performance of King Kong on February 2nd. Dr. Lussier explained that the form was created by the educator in a timely manner, but was inadvertently delayed during the approval process and did not reach the Superintendent’s office until just recently. Since the trip is out of state, it requires Committee approval. Dr. Lussier informed the Committee that he and Dr. Dabrowski are in full support of the trip and all arrangements for the trip have been finalized with the exception of Committee approval of the form.

The Committee noted its Policy IJOA regarding Field Trips states that approval forms for trips must be submitted 30 days in advance of the trip. In order to approve the trip, the Committee needed to suspend its policy. Upon a motion made by Mr. D’Ortenzio, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to suspend Policy IJOA, Field Trips, for the New York City trip.

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Mr. D’Ortenzio, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Chow, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to approve the New York City trip to attend a performance of King Kong, scheduled for February 2, 2019.

FY20 BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Committee continued its review and discussion of the FY20 budget proposal including the Administration’s response to the Committee’s budget discussions and consensus reached at the January 22nd meeting.

Dr. Lussier informed the Committee that the recommendations being presented this evening have been reviewed with the Administrative Council with the understanding that this is not the end of the process, and there may be additional adjustments necessary. Dr. Lussier then shared the staff's feedback on the Committee's recommendations from the January 22nd meeting, most of which the Administration is in agreement, and presented recommended adjustments in other areas as follows:

In Salary and Other Compensation

Include Director of Library and Innovation (.40FTE add and redefinition)

Include WMS Scholars Program (.20FTE)

Include WHS Academic Resource Center (.20FTE)

Include Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (1.0FTE)

Eliminate the Director of English Learners increase of 0.20FTE

Reduce the WMS and WHS Adjustment Counselor Request by 0.20FTE (.10FTE each)

Reduce Assistant Athletic Director Request from 0.40FTE to 0.20FTE

Reduce WHS Main Office Secretary to 4 hours/day for 180 days

In Expenses

Include elementary Mathematics Dreambox Software

Increase Transportation and Pre-School Offsets (no fee increase) – using a different assumption of the revenue received.

Purchase FY20 Athletic requests in FY19 with 900 Worcester St. delayed funds

Utilize FY19 savings to purchase FY20 instructional materials/medical supplies/toner

Committee members asked clarifying questions relative to the Administration's recommendations, specifically concerning the change in assumptions for the transportation and pre-school offsets; how recommendations were prioritized; the impact of not expanding the ELL Director's position; and the hours of coverage that will be provided by the additional high school secretary position;

Mr. Kelley informed the Committee that he, Ms. Martin, Dr. Lussier, and Ms. Mahr are meeting with the Advisory liaisons on Friday, February 1st, to discuss elementary sections, and review the process and timeline for making staffing decisions.

The Committee discussed the staff's recommendations and expressed its desire to receive intermittent reports on the effectiveness of the initiatives, including the Director of Equity, if approved by Town Meeting. It was in unanimous agreement that the proposal presented at the 3.65 guideline is thoughtful and responsible, meets Committee goals, addresses critical needs, and level service demands. It is believed that the 3.0 percent guideline provided by the Town is not reflective of the needs and the excellence expected of the District.

HUNNEWELL PROJECT SHORTLIST OPTIONS**Hunnewell School**

Ms. Gray continued review of the four shortlist options, focusing on the new construction options which include removal of the entire building, including the 1938 section and starting new with the site. One option includes the potential preservation of the oak tree in the courtyard. The SBC is considering a proposal to officially engage with an independent arborist to examine the tree in great detail and determine its viability during and after construction. The group reviewed both options and the pros and cons for each proposal.

Ms. Gray indicated the Hunnewell staff members are in favor of the first option which is a 2-story building, with classrooms oriented towards green space—a request derived during the educational visioning process, and specialist spaces that are connected to public spaces in classrooms. In addition, the floorplan is compact, with little travel distance for students between learning spaces, excellent access to community spaces, in particular the gym and cafeteria, and with loading and service areas located towards the front of building, which does not interfere with the public library building. This option, however, includes the removal of the oak tree and there is some concern with having the gym in the front of the building.

Committee members discussed orientation of the learning and play areas versus community spaces; the importance of the school being centrally designed for students; and whether the structure will be 2 or 3 stories. Losing the oak tree is a con in this option, but of primary importance is pursuing the best building for educational purposes.

The second option was reviewed which provides similar specialist spaces connected to public spaces, community access to the building, and potentially saves the oak tree. Preservation of the oak tree and the location of the loading and service areas push the building farther back on the lot, resulting in the majority of the open space in front of the building and part of the building being located outside the 'buildable area'. This will require special permitting from the Town, causing potential delays to the project.

Dr. Lussier is concerned with the amount of open space in front of the building in the second option, noting it will not be usable from an educational perspective. Educators prefer outside learning spaces to be located behind the building towards the brook for educational as well as security reasons. In addition, this option does not seem to provide centralized learning spaces, and the access and egress to the gym and cafeteria is also of concern.

There was discussion concerning the impact of retaining the historic section of the school, with major considerations being how well this option will function from an educational standpoint, and whether the old section can be adequately insulated as tight as the new section to achieve maximum energy efficiency. Ms. Gray announced the energy modelling will begin in the next 3 or 4 weeks. Dr. Lussier is concerned with this option from an educational programming viewpoint and believes it would not even be a consideration if the oak tree was not a factor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one present wished to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 6:35 pm, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Kelley
Chair

Documents and Exhibits Used:

Trip Approval Form – NYC 2-2-19
FY20 Budget Summary Sheet