

**WORTHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
WORTHINGTON, MA 01098**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
2/11/2016**

**R.H. CONWELL BUILDING
6:30 PM**

MINUTES

Members present: Chair John McDonald, Maria Bebee, Debbie Carnes, Alex Lak and Alison Todd.

Administrative/Staff: Principal Gretchen Morse-Dobosz, Superintendent Craig Jurgenson, HRSD School Nurse Rhonda Patrick, Secretary Gail Bergeron and Janitor Paul Dunlevy.

Guests: Selectman Charley Rose, Alia Woofenden, Tom Wisnauckas and Christy Knox.

1. Call to Order at 6:37 P.M.

Next agenda item was moved up.

5.2 Vote on whether to purchase and keep in school Narcan

- School Nurse Rhonda Patrick of RHConwell stated that Narcan doses can be purchased at CVS at 2 for \$19.99 and can be stored in a locked case along with other medical supplies.No refrigeration is needed. Nurses are trained to administer the dose.
- There are no negative effects or liability issues. It is only used when someone is passed out and due to time limits on administering the drug, it's preferable to have on hand. Maria made a motion to approve having Narcan on the premises, providing we have the proper protocol in place for administering and storing it. Alison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Audience Participation:

3. Routine Matters

3.1 Approval of past Meeting Minutes:

- 12/14 minutes were reviewed. Maria made a motion to accept the minutes as edited. Alex seconded. Debbie abstained due to previous absence. Motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Correspondence:

- Sullivan, Hayes and Quinn PC announced that the lawsuit against Worthington via Gateway and their proponents was dismissed.
- MA Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association distribute trees at a cost of \$100-150 per lots of a hundred, for the schools to use as a fundraiser. Gretchen will inform the PTO.
- Request by Town Clerk to submit annual report by March 26.

3.3 Superintendent (Craig Jurgenson)/Principal Update (Gretchen):

- Successful Math Family Night last Thursday.
- Paul Dunlevy was welcomed as newly hired Janitor for RH Conwell
- Local astronaut from Shelburne spent half the day with the 5th and 6th graders who were studying space.
- Unexpected fire alarm last Wednesday. Evacuation and relocation to town hall went very well. Everyone responded quickly and appropriately.
- RH Conwell is offering Reading and Writing workshops in March (Literacy month). Authors Mr.B, Amy Gordon and Tasha Lowe will conduct the workshops at the end of the month.
- Payroll: W2s had errors concerning Mass Teacher Retirement.

Superintendent:

- Concerning RH Conwell's request to have payroll tasks performed at HRSD: Charley Rose stated that the Selectboard is aware of the problem and are working on a solution. Craig stated that the HRSD payroll staff is behind because the School Business Manager is out on medical leave. They will look at restructuring tasks and Worthington's needs will play into that.
- Central Berkshire School District voted in the affirmative to let Cummington withdraw from the School District.
- 2 snow days occurred last week. One day was a problem and one worked out well. It's all about keeping the kids safe.
- The Chiefs of Police of HRSD's school districts met at Hampshire Regional to discuss the opioid problem.
- The Governor's effort to raise the cap on Charter Schools raises issues concerning the western part of the state being more affected by this than the eastern part.
- The recent bomb threats in Mass. have raised concerns at HRSD. They are looking at evacuation drills and processes and are reaching out to local police.
- Craig will check on the foundation budget to find out what advocacy is going on at the meetings.

4. Finance Items

4.1 Budget status

Gretchen will email the most current budget to Joe Boudreau at least once a month.

- Preschool: As of 2/5, \$20,325 has been collected from tuition. Expenses are \$4,900 a month for payroll and \$8,000 has been used out of the revolving account. Eleven students are expected to enroll for 2017. Real numbers won't be known until mid-April.
- Line 41&42: Regular and SPED Elementary Transportation real numbers came in higher than budgeted. Two buses are always in use. One has wheelchair accessibility.
- Line 2: If payroll is sent to HRSD Central office, \$6,500 will be added to the budget.
- Line 7: Reduced by half because most of the needed software has been acquired.
- Line 12: Increase of \$3,000 because original salary was on low side.
- 19 & 21: Increase is due to readjustment and 1½% increase.
- 45: Elementary SPED Tuition has not been expended. It was decided to keep as is. If unused it will go back to town.
- 20: Two paraprofessionals were hired. Two are getting paid through school budget; one is getting paid through pre-school revolving fund. Possibly overfunded.

These items should be thought about in next couple of weeks.

4.2 Need for special school committee meeting

- Public Hearing is scheduled at regular meeting on March 10. A special meeting will be held on February 24 at 6:00 P.M.

Policy

4.3 Vote on whether to participate in school choice in 2016-17

Alex made a motion to vote to approve to participate in school choice. Alison seconded. Numbers per grade will be determined on or before May 1st. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business/Future agenda items

6.1 Cummington elementary tuition discussion

- Christy Knox would like to talk about the possibility of establishing a tuition agreement. Cummington would need this before their town meeting. Cummington would want to form an agreement with Worthington and are willing to negotiate.
- Berkshire Central School District: The separation agreement was voted on unanimously. The School Committees voted 14 to 1 to allow Cummington to withdraw.
- Christy passed out a current student placement as of Oct. 1, 2015 and the class size projections. The majority of students to be enrolled would be kindergarteners and a trickling of other grades.
- Cummington's Finance Committee voted to recommend that the town vote to support pre-school for next year.
- Christy will find out how many parents are interested in sending their kids to Worthington in an upcoming meeting in March.

Alex made a motion that the sense of the committee is in favor of pursuing negotiations with Cummington for a tuition agreement for K through 6. Alison seconded. Motion passed unanimously

7. Adjourn: Alex made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 to sign the warrant. Alison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne C. Lemieux