

**WOBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
December 10, 2019**

A Regular Meeting of the Woburn School Committee was held on December 10, 2019 at the Joyce Middle School Conference Room, 55 Locust Street, Woburn, MA beginning at 7:00pm.

There was a moment of silence for former educator Ms. Judy Brown.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Crowley-Present, Mr. Demers-Present, Mr. Kisiel - Not Present, Mr. Metters-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairman Mulrenan-Present.

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A motion was made to approve the 11.25.19 SC Minutes.
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative not present.

Ms. Callanan emailed Superintendent Crowley to read.

World Language NHS Inductions took place on 12/4/19; 35 students were inducted.

Term II progress notices will be posted to student portals on 12/19.

Winter sports are up and running.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

There were none.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Concannon was present, and no formal report was given.

REPORTS/ PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

JMS STUDENT LED PLAY - ANNIE

Mr. Qualey and Mr. Harnden accompanied high school students Ms. Tara Metters, Ms. Melissa Murphy, and Ms. Meaghan Dever. The students were here tonight to tell us about their student led play Annie Jr. Tara is the acting director, Meaghan is the music director and Melissa is the choreographer. There are 39 kids from the Joyce Middle School who are part of the cast, there are 60 kids total involved, and this includes the tech crew.

Tara began by saying one of her primary goals was to expose middle school students to musical theater at a younger age, promoting the arts in Woburn and hopefully translating this into high school. They want to create a positive, engaging and encouraging environment for all students. She feels it is very important to keep the arts alive in our schools.

Meaghan spoke about fundraising. They organized a go fund me page in June and raised \$1,500.00. In November, they had another fundraiser through Chipotle and raised \$300.00. The funds are used for the rights of the show, buying props and costumes. There have been many teachers who have helped them organize, gave advice and eased their nerves. Meaghan thanked, Ms. Parillo, Ms. DiPersio and Mr. Cudmore, and Ms. Caldwell for donating their time. A friend of theirs has connections in construction, his name is Alex Iannian and is helping with the sets. Melissa thanked Joyce Advisor Mr. Harnden and High School Advisor Mr. Bridgeo.

There has been a lot of community support and support from Principal Qualey.

Ms. Callanan has been helpful in letting them use the high school auditorium. Ms. Thifault helped them with tips and advice. Ms. Reed has been helpful with them how to work with middle school students and the use of her classroom.

Mr. Thomas will be helping them during the show, he will be in the light booth. The high school tech crew along with the Joyce students will be working together and hopefully the middle school students will learn something from them.

Students presented a short video and some clips of the rehearsal. One of the dances and songs the kids learned in one day.

Mr. Harnden, grade 7 History teacher at the Joyce Middle school, spoke of when the students came to him last June and wanted him to be their advisor for this project. They were all professional and very prepared. They really want to improve the arts and feel starting at the middle school, they would be more prepared when they enter the high school and the program will be better. These girls will not even be here when the current grade six students enter high school, they will have graduated. They are currently in the theater program at the high school. This project is not about them, they are passionate about the arts and want to improve the program for years down the road.

Dr. Wells asked the students why they chose a musical as opposed to a play. Tara said a play might seem easier but when they get to the high school, she wanted the students to have a full musical experience. It is best to have the experience of learning music together, learning to be on stage by yourself is also unique. It also drew a lot of dancers given them an opportunity.

Dr. Wells asked about the male roles. Tara said there are 5 or 6 males in the cast and more in the tech crew. There is this sort of stigma with boys and theatre, and they are trying to end this too by incorporating everyone.

Dr. Wells asked them what they have learned from the middle school students.

Tara is seeing them grow as actors and actresses, but also sees them growing as a person and this has been great. Melissa is seeing new friendships being formed. It is nice to see them branching

out because they are in different grades. Meaghan said she has a better understanding of what their directors go through.

Mr. Metters asked them for the date of the performance.

One performance on Friday, February 7th at 7:00PM at WMHS.

Tickets are \$7.00. Anyone who donates \$25.00 or more will be given a free ticket.

Mr. Metters asked the girls to comment a bit on their background.

Tara was in her first musical when she was in second grade and continued throughout middle school. She has been taking voice lessons for a long time.

They are all in the Chorus and A Capella choir at the high school and have been doing musicals at the high school for three years.

Meaghan has been taking music lessons since she was very young and this is something she is passionate about.

Melissa has been dancing since she was 4 and is still currently dancing. She has taken piano for a very long time.

All three of the young ladies have been doing musicals at the high school for the last 3 years and share the same passion about the arts.

Mr. Metters asked them about Google Classroom.

Tara commented that every student involved with the play has an email. They can access the schedule or reach out if they have any questions.

Mr. Metters asked in addition to attending the play how can someone be supportive.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/jms-musical-20192020-annie-jr> *It is never too late to donate. Hi! We are a group of high school students raising money to put on a production of Annie Jr. the Musical at our old middle school, The Joyce Middle School. We want to give younger students a chance to get involved with the arts before high school and instill a love of theater and music in young minds. The money we raise will be used to purchase the rights of the show as well as to help us fund the making of our sets, props, and costumes. Thank you for supporting the arts in Woburn, your contribution is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Meaghan Dever, Melissa Murphy, and Tara Metters.*

Ms. Crowley said they should be very proud of themselves and asked what motivated them to start this project.

Meaghan said this project will help the middle school students to be more prepared when entering high school.

D. Wells asked the girls if they would like support money wise from the committee. The girls said yes, they would appreciate the support.

Dr. Crowley said it is inspirational to see students taking the initiative to make a change.

CONTENT SPECIALISTS/PLC LEADERS

Elementary Curriculum Coordinator, Ms. Courtney Young, updated the committee on the work of the Content Specialists. They have been working with classroom teachers and student support during the W.I.N. (What I Need) Block.

Dr. Crowley introduced Ms. Young and commented on the powerful work they are doing.

Also, in attendance, Kerry Moynihan, Content Specialist at the Shamrock. Ms. Moynihan has been with WPS for 8 years; general education and special education. She likes her new position.

Ms. Young began by stating we had 7 content specialists come at the beginning of this school year. All of them came from within our district.

Our content specialists are supporting two large initiatives that we have this year. One being our WIN Block and the other is our PLCs.

WIN BLOCK: What I Need

WIN (What I Need) is an inclusive model for providing students with the intervention or extensions needed to support their learning. Data is used to identify needs, set goals and monitor progress towards these goals. This block includes direct-instruction as well as student-led groups.

PLC: Professional Learning Community

These are staff led groups working collaboratively in ongoing processes of collective inquiry and action research in order to achieve better results for the students they serve. PLCs operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous, job-embedded learning for all. The work during PLCs supports the instructional planning of the WIN Block.

Every student has eyes on them. Students are working on exactly what they need to. They are making sure every student is progressing at their level. Not only students who are struggling but students who are on target.

Information is getting back to buildings a lot faster. There is a point person, there is a structure, and they can monitor and check in with supporting staff in finding anything that they need to make this as powerful as it has been.

PLCs are an evolving process. Right now, we are looking at them at how they power WIN block, which happens every single day in every single school. This is also a place staff can come with any problem in practice that they are working on. For example, new standards in social studies need to be looked at and they can help Ms. Young goes through them.

Ultimately, in the WIN Block, all students at every grade level are placed into a group. It could be a group skill based that is either enhancing, intervening, or maintaining a skill.

What is great is that we are relying on data beyond what we have always looked at. We have our math and our reading Dibels assessment that we have always given, and our DRA's are given three times a year. We also have integrated the use of a phonics screener that we are using K-5, so we are really dissecting the needs of decoding of students. We just did a big look at MCAS

scores and we have a lot of groups homing in on the skills there. We are taking in a lot of data points earlier. Some of the things the specialists are doing are focusing on building literacy rooms. We have staff that are providing models for read aloud, modeling lessons, running professional development. Staff are providing book clubs for students and book swaps.

Ms. Moynihan commented the WIN Blocks look the same in every school.

Dr. Wells comment at budget time the SC got feedback in what was needed and there was some staff that didn't feel this is the way to go.

Ms. Young and Ms. Moynihan have gotten positive feedback. Ms. Moynihan said her teachers told her this is something they look forward to every day, and they are seeing the student growth.

Dr. Wells asked if the WIN Blocks are being held in the classroom.

Ms. Moynihan said for the most part they are in the classroom. A lot of small work gets done.

Dr. Wells asked in terms of follow up for next year, to see how effective this is, what are they looking at for milestones or targets.

Ms. Young said the two data outcome they have followed and tracked have been our DRAs or reading assessment and our Dibels math and reading. We will be able to look at that data over past years and now. We look at as a leader group, once a month progress. They are now looking at this data monthly.

Dr. Wells asked about the measurements they are using, do they capture both ends, under and overachieving. Ms. Young said yes, we can also measure growth.

Mr. Demers asked Ms. Young is there is a strength in differentiated instruction?

Courtney yes, we are thinking of differentiation for all taking on the responsibility, all hands-on deck. What has been great is we have EL and SpEd teachers who are able to be a part of this team effort.

Ms. Moynihan said they are dissecting data in a way they have not before and are looking at it a bit deeper.

Mr. Demers commented on a curriculum meeting discussion earlier. He said the proof is in the pudding. He appreciates all their hard work.

Ms. Crowley likes that the content specialists are peers and not a boss.

She is wondering about the larger elementary schools and asked if they believe it is harder to get them into small groups.

Ms. Young said they did a lot of work in terms of what they needed in order to have the numbers and so they worked with scheduling, the numbers were the same across buildings for different reasons. They looked at what was available every single day in every single building.

Ms. Crowley asked if there a need to add more PLCs to each content.

Ms. Young said the PLCs support all content. There are some grade levels that show math is needed in the data. They have the flexibility to make the change according to the data.

Mr. Metters asked if they have the resources they need now and what is needed to go to the next level. Ms. Young said they sat down and made a timeline from September through January.

They made sure the system looked the same in all buildings and had a good structure.

Come January they can dive in to see what resources are needed to make things readily available. What are the resources and what trainings are needed?

Ms. Moynihan received feedback from teachers going from a grade 5 to a grade 3 classroom feel they don't have all they need.

Mr. Metters commented that it looks like they need professional development.

Dr. Crowley asked Ms. Young to talk about the connection block and what it means at the elementary level.

Ms. Young said last spring as a group they looked at the elementary scheduling. They did a lot of work to consolidate to see where every specialist was. There were some days that a specialist had days they did not have any instructions. With that time, they were able to pair up a specialist with a grade level. For example, our first graders across the district are getting an extra art class every 4th week. Another example is our third graders do climate change and are now working with the art teacher, investigating climate change through artwork.

Fourth graders study mapping all year long, the music teachers have been going in to teach them melody mapping. Second graders are working with phys ed, learning dances from around the world. Our classroom teachers stay for the block, whatever the students are learning in art, they are making the connection back into the classroom. It is about seeing everybody in every different situation. Every single grade level is with a different area.

Mr. Metters commented when they were working with negotiations one of the things that was wanted was more of the arts. He said it sounds like we got more than what we thought we were getting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Subcommittee

They will be meeting on December 18th.

Resource Utilization Subcommittee

Mr. Kisiel was not present.

Personnel Subcommittee

Recreation Commission Representative should be put on the agenda.

Curriculum and Professional Development Subcommittee

Mr. Demers said they did not meet but the previous meeting minutes that were presented covered a lot of updates.

Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Crowley said they have not met.

Student Services and Achievement Subcommittee

Mr. Metters said they met on 11/27/19.

Circuit breaker audit identified up to \$127,000.00 of potential reimbursement.

Audit underscores the need for additional training.

Preschool serving 200 or so students, classrooms will be needed,

Summer Programming looking at a 2-coordinator model.

80 students are currently in out of district programs.

Ms. Ryan is considering for next year's budget:

Preschool Team Chair

Elem. Coordinator or Secondary Coordinator

BCBA

Community Liaison has been hired

EL coordinator has been hired

SEPAC will hold a meeting on 12/11/19 @ 6:30 PM at the Joyce.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Crowley received a congratulatory letter from Governor Charles D. Baker notifying him that Woburn Public Schools has been awarded an FY20 Teacher Diversification Pilot Program grant in the amount of \$9,000.00.

In our efforts to diversify our workforce to allocate these funds as a signing bonus.

Dr. Baldassarre worked hard preparing for this grant.

Dr. Crowley read an article written by Assistant Principal Kevin Battle which was published in the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

This article is about building relationships between our students and administrators.

Dr. Wells asked that the SC send a correspondence to City Council asking them to look at the issue if there is a tie. Look at the charter.

Ms. Chisholm seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Inauguration will take place on Monday, January 6, 2020.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Mulrenan made a motion was made to cancel the December 17th SC meeting.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

Dr. Wells commented the Superintendent is responsible to submit a three-year plan to the state. Make this an agenda item.

Chairman Mulrenan took a minute to present a small gift to Mr. Metters and Mr. Demers to thank them for all their work as school committee members. He gave each of them an opportunity for closing remarks.

Mr. Demers thanked everyone he has worked with over the past 6 years. It has really been a privilege to come to these meetings. He has never been more confident that our district is moving in the right direction. He thanked the committee for being the great people they are and the support they have given him and our students.

Mr. Metters has 30 years with or on behalf of the committee. It has been a privilege, he appreciates the community that has been supportive of him. This is a transitional point, and he is appreciative of his wife Maura. When he was elected to the committee, Tara was just finishing second grade and now she is a junior in high school.

Idealist without illusion. He always tried to put the kids' needs first. He has the privilege to work with all the members around this table. Also, Margarete and Dennis before Joe and Ellen came on board. Mr. Metters wished Colleen and Andrew good luck

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean MacLeod

Jean MacLeod

Recording Secretary