

WOBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY, 23, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Woburn School Committee was held on January 23, 2019 at the Joyce Middle School Conference Room, 55 Locust Street, Woburn, MA beginning at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Chisholm-Present, Ms. Crowley-Present, Mr. Demers-Present, Mr. Kisiel-Present, Mr. Metters-Present, Dr. Wells-Present, Chairman Mulrenan-Present

APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A motion was made to approve SC minutes 12.17.18.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made to approve SC minutes 1.2.19.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Rep. Ryan Qualey was present to report.

WMHS midyear exams started yesterday and will end of Friday.

The mock exam for AP English will take place this Saturday at WMHS as

Part of the Mass Insight Initiative.

Access testing for EL students will begin this week.

The Dating Game is back and will take place in the afternoon on February 15th.

Students in grades 11 and 12 will have the option of attending the dating game or

Participating in Try It Day. Try It Day will be activities that students can sign up for taught by staff outside of their content area. Some examples are cooking or a sport. The goal is exposing students to an activity or club they might not otherwise know about.

Future Tanner Night will be February 20th.

WCEF Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on June 15th at the Hilton in Woburn.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Ms. Sylvia Keating, a seventh grader at the Kennedy Middle School, came before the committee and shared her experience with the music program in the Woburn Public Schools. She was introduced to instruments in grade 5. She knew then she wanted to play the clarinet. In elementary school she got less than 20 music classes a year. In her six years as an elementary student, her class went through three different music teachers. The Joyce Middle School has the band teacher for three days while the Kennedy Middle School has band two days. Middle schools students at the Joyce are able to take band for a grade, while it's an activity at the Kennedy. Ms. Keating feels that students don't get a strong enough background in music from elementary school as it is. This leaves few elementary students interested in music and band, leading to fewer middle schoolers in band, which travels up to high school band. Students play many different instruments in high school band. The different instruments allows for a wider

range of sounds. When middle school band members graduate to High School and want to continue with band, they will most likely continue with the instrument they have been limited to. Limiting the choices of band instruments will not help our band program. We should be adding to the arts not limiting them. The Kennedy students deserve equal opportunities that the Joyce students have. We need more Fine Arts education in the elementary schools. Woburn does not make the same commitment to the Fine Arts that the surrounding communities offer their students, K-12. This is extremely visible to Ms. Keating when she attends band events and competitions with the Woburn Memorial High School Marching Band. She would like the committee to please consider what she has said tonight and do not continue to restrict our band and music program. If anything, please increase it so more students can have the opportunity. Ms. Keating thanked the committee for listening to her tonight.

Mr. Andrew Lipsett parent of a Malcolm White kindergarten student and also a high school history teacher in Billerica came before the committee tonight to talk about the need to invest in our schools, and the ways the public and the School Committee can work together to advocate for our students. He spoke of the positive changes he has seen in our schools the past several years, but noted we are not without our challenges. He said resources are available at both the local and state levels to fund the progress we need. We need strong advocacy from both the public and the School Committee. There are several avenues of advocacy that the School Committee could pursue, and which many of those in the community would support and welcome.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Concannon was present.

No formal report this evening. He was glad he came to hear the previous remarks.

REPORTS/PRESENTATION OF SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

A. Mayor Scott Galvin

Mayor Galvin was not able to attend tonight's meeting and will reschedule.

B. Kennedy Middle School Assistant Principal Kevin Battle

Mr. Kevin Battle has been selected as the MSAA Secondary School Assistant Principal Of the year. Mr. Battle emerged as the winner based on his passionate efforts in support of the students and staff at the Kennedy Middle School. He is a compassionate disciplinarian and team player. Mr. Battle will be recognized in July at the annual conference in Hyannis

Dr. Crowley reached out to staff members at the Kennedy for some adjectives to describe Mr. Battle. Some of those are; "kids relate well to him" "compassionate leader" "kind" "jokester" "fun loving" "a foodie" "patriot obsessed" and "a great person".

Dr. Crowley said as a Superintendent it is an honor to have him as part the leadership team.

Mr. Battle said Principal Carl Nelson won this award last year. He said it really is a school award. It would not be possible without having such a great staff. Mr. Battle thanked Mr. Nelson for setting the tone in the building.

A motion was made for a 2 minute recess to allow for a photo op.
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made to return to regular order of business.
Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

C. 2019-2020 Calendar

Due to the Labor Day Holiday being early in September this year, the Superintendent made a recommendation to the committee that teachers first day of school for SY19/20 will be Tuesday, September 3, 2019, for two days of professional development and students will begin school on Thursday, September 5, 2019. Dr. Crowley further recommended that a working group be established so that we have a 3-5 year plan so it is established when the first day of school would be so the community can plan accordingly.

Chairman Mulrenan opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. Wells said this issue is becoming a recurring nightmare where we keep talking about this issue. It strikes him if this was an athletic decision and said you will not start practice as early as other teams, everybody would be up in arms. We had teachers come before us to tell us this is important. Most other communities are starting before Labor Day. This is a clear example of how we can help our students. We are essentially taking four days away from our students that they won't get back. For some reason we can't get a handle on this, it is frustrating. The committee usually goes along with the recommendation of the Superintendent but it is frustrating we can't get the handle of starting before Labor Day.

Ms. Chisholm reminded the committee this is the 4th year we have been talking about this. Last year in the minutes we made the recommendation that the Superintendent come back with a permanent solution before Labor Day. That is what we voted to do. She doesn't know why this is even up for discussion. Ms. Chisholm said we had permanent plans to start school before Labor Day. She doesn't know what happened. At that point there was some concern it may impact bargaining. We found out MASC stated that it is this board that sets the calendar, we do not need a study group. We can ask for input and we have asked for it numerous times, numerous years and we get the same thing. Ms. Chisholm feels we should just vote on the start if you want to do this for next year. We didn't do it for this coming year because it was too late. We said last year we will be starting prior to Labor Day for the 2019-2020 school year. She does not know why this was lost in translation, but that's what was agreed upon by this board. She doesn't understand why this is up for discussion again. This is more than frustrating when these things come back time after time almost looking for a different answer than what we did.

Mr. Demers understands the member's frustration. It's important to also note that within those minutes a motion was made that the Superintendent or the Chair reach out to the teachers union to come up with a 3 year plan to change the start of the school year before Labor Day in collaboration with the WTA. The motion was amended to reflect that the goal will be to come up with a permanent plan for start of school before Labor Day. There was no date that this had to occur by. There was no announcement as to what year we would start this in; it was just that Woburn wanted to move in that direction. That is what that goal was. Mr. Demers and the Superintendent met with the teachers union after they had told them that they had conducted a survey. That survey concluded that 51% of the teachers were opposed and 49% were in favor. Because we were in negotiations that were starting to become pretty protracted at that time, it wasn't seen as something that we should unilaterally make a decision by ourselves on. That is why we are back here in this situation. To that note, Mr. Demers does understand and would be fully supportive if, in this motion or a motion on the Superintendent's recommendation, that we actually put in place a deadline for this working group to have completed its work to offer a recommendation so the committee will have the opportunity to finally vote, then announce, inform the general public, our staff, our administration what our decision has been made and then do this on 3 year cycles so we are not back here again every year making decisions like this. If there is change to the board, there could be sentiments or different beliefs or data that could change. We need to be a little bit more permanent in where we are going with this. If we are to move forward on this recommendation we need to put a deadline for the working groups efforts and recommendation to come out so that we can give a lot more surety to everyone involved. From parents, the bus companies, the union, everybody needs to be involved in this because it impacts a lot of people. Similar to the school start times, it impacts a lot of people, so there needs to be a lot of feedback and input taken from people before we make certain judgments.

Ms. Crowley is in favor of the Superintendent's recommendation.

She did ask that this topic to be put on the agenda at the first meeting and it was not done and we are now in the middle of January. She is not going to vote to all of a sudden to change school at the beginning of Labor Day and undermine parent's expectations; it is not in the best interest of the kids. She is fully in favor of starting school on September 5th for the kids and September 3rd for the teachers.

Ms. Crowley made a motion to go with the Superintendent's recommendation of teachers first day of school for SY19/20 will be Tuesday, September 3, 2019; students will begin school on Thursday, September 5, 2019.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Kisiel

Mr. Demers asked if Ms. Crowley would be amenable to including a date/deadline so that a working group can come up with a 3 year plan on the date for school start. Mr. Demers would suggest April 1st as the deadline.

Ms. Crowley said yes and the working group should include union representatives.

Mr. Demers said the easier procedure would be if Ms. Crowley wanted to withdraw her motion and then submit a motion that included a working group with a specific deadline.

Ms. Crowley withdrew her motion and submitted a motion that the start date for teachers will be September 3, 2019 and students will start school on September 5, 2019 and agree to set up a working group with a specific deadline to discuss start times and start dates for the next 3 years and to include union representatives.

Dr. Wells thinks this motion is too broad to try to do start time and start date. He is willing to do the start date but the start time is too radical. The start date is run of the mill stuff.

Ms. Crowley withdrew her motion again and resubmitted her motion with the working group only dealing with start date only and April 1st deadline and union representation included in her motion.

A motion for Ms. Crowley at the recommendation of the Superintendent for the start date for teachers will be September 3, 2019 and students will start school on September 5, 2019. A deadline of April 1st for other dates moving forward and also to include WTA discussions.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Demers.

Mr. Kisiel wanted to know about the working group that is being set up for the start date, what is meant by a working group, do we have a number. Will this be a 5 person, 10 people?

Dr. Crowley said it needs to be representative of teachers, administrators, school committee and a parent.

Ms. Chisholm said this working group needs to come back with a recommendation to the committee. The school committee is the one who votes for the calendar.

Dr. Wells, what exactly is this group going to discuss, from what he has heard tonight, the union is slightly against this. Is this the proper method to make headway with the entire union body in terms of they will only have one or two representatives? If the Superintendent believes so, Dr. Wells will support it.

Dr. Crowley said he has good dialogue with the union and feels he can make a lot of headway on this issue.

Dr. Wells understands the importance of dialogue and notification. He thinks we keep circling this issue. Dr. Wells thought the Superintendent had a more permanent plan last time.

Dr. Crowley stated that was his predecessors plan and thinks there is some confusion between plans.

Mr. Mulrenan stated we have a resolution for the start of this coming September, we have a motion before us, we have a couple of amendments to that motion, we have a second on that motion on the Superintendent's recommendation.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor - 4 Opposed - 3
Motion passes 4-3

Ms. Chisholm-no, Ms. Crowley-yes, Mr. Demers-yes, Mr. Kisiel-yes, Mr. Metters-no, Dr. Wells-no, Chairman Mulrenan-yes

Mr. Mulrenan wants the public to be clear and stated:

At the recommendation of the Superintendent the start date for teachers will be Tuesday, September 3, 2019 and students will start school on Thursday, September 5, 2019. A deadline of April 1st for the working group to come back to the committee with a recommendation of school start date.

D. Advanced Placement Discussion

A handout prepared by Ms. Callanan was given to the committee and is included with these minutes. Dr. Crowley mentioned the handout was put together at the request of the committee. Ms. Callanan wanted to give the committee some information for their deliberations specific to advanced placement. Dr. Crowley read Ms. Callanan's proposal to the committee.

Essentially, in 2017-2018 the cost to the district to pay for AP was approximately \$30,000 and the estimated cost to the district in 2018-2019 will be approximately \$32,000 as more students take advanced placement. The district is partnered with Mass Insight a professional development training program. AP tests will be given throughout the spring on Saturday's in preparation of the AP exam which is generally administered in May. Students and families don't currently pay for to take AP exams and students and families do pay for dual enrollment courses. So AP does cost \$96.00 per test and does count and can count as a college credit. Conservatively, at UMass a 3 credit course can cost \$1500.00 so there is great economic value to advanced placement as well as dual enrollment. Ms. Callanan's rationale for changing the policy, the operating theory, is paying for the exams will make the students take the test more seriously and the funds

used to pay for the exam would then be reallocated to pay for MassInsight professional development for staff, Saturday sessions for AP students, and the mock exams. The proposal for discussion is that students and families would pay for the AP exam beginning in the 2019-20120 academic year. The AP courses are rigorous, so students put in a lot of work when they take the class and the expectation would be that they would take the exam. Those students that require financial assistance would be given financial assistance so finance would not be an impediment to any student to take an AP class. If the student opted out of taking the exam the credit could be changed from an AP to honors which would have an impact on the GPA weighting. The student would be required to write a short response explaining why they are not going to take the exam. Students not taking the AP exam will be required to sit for and take a final exam. The inference is if you take the AP exam now, you do not have to sit and take the final exam.

Dr. Wells is concerned about the students having to write a response about why they are not taking the exam; he is worried about the shaming. He will leave that up to the educators. It is not clear to him that now they are taking a final exam; his understanding is the AP exam in and of itself is not a final exam. If students opt out of the AP they would take one more exam. It is not clear to Dr. Wells how this would work. He thinks these are educational issues that administration should look at them and work them through. He does not think it is necessary as a school committee to get involved. He thinks they should just point out these issues and administration will work on them. The financial assistance is a broad term and we have to be careful in determining who qualifies. There should be some language on that. In general he is with Ms. Callanan in paying for the exam. If students and families pay for it then they are invested in it more.

Ms. Chisholm absolutely disagrees with this 150%. We do not charge anyone to play sports, to join clubs; we do not make them pay to join the band, no charge to take a bus. For a direct educational thing we are going to make them pay for? This is such discrimination in her opinion. The parents and families who take school seriously and push their kids to excel are being penalized for doing their job. We are punishing those parents; we get to tell them you get to pay for an exam because you are pushing your kids to do what is right. For the kids who don't want to go to school, we pay for their Saturday school, we give them extra help. This test is mandated for these kids to get those extra credits in school. If they don't take it they don't get that \$1500.00 break at UMass. This for academic purposes; this is what high school is for. This is a budgeted item we were proud to put in the budget. She feels this is absolutely wrong on so many points.

Mr. Kisiel thought the PSAT was part of this proposal initially. That is something that people pay for now. Mr. Kisiel feels it is important for the public to know.

Dr. Crowley said the PSAT cost is \$15.00 for the free/reduced student and \$30.00 for the non-free and reduced and you have to pay for the proctors because it is taken on Saturdays.

Mr. Kisiel feels that this might turn away some kids from taking the AP course. He doesn't like the writing of the letter.

Ms. Crowley, Woburn does not run the exams. What is Ms. Callanan going to do with this money she is getting from us not paying for the AP exams?

Dr. Wells said Ms. Callanan spoke of Mass Insight who helps boost the program.

Ms. Crowley feels our offerings of AP courses are not the best. Mass Insight will improve our AP program. Ms. Crowley would like to pilot this for one year with a school committee oversight.

Mr. Demers said the intent is to charge students for an exam that is offered from an outside organization for their advancement in college. The money that is used for this will be revamped to Mass Insights, which will better our teachers and improve the student results. If a student could not afford to take the exam there will be assistance. Dual enrollment is parallel to this exam and the student is charged. They are getting college credit for their course work. Some students can't use the AP score to possibly test out of core subjects as they enter college. Mr. Demers said we do cover a lot of things. But there are things that the student pays for on a day to day basis. What other communities charge, we are given for fee. Mr. Demers is generally in support of this. He would like to know a little more.

Dr. Wells, the difference between not charging for athletics -sports is a school activity. The AP is something beyond high school; the AP exam is as well as dual enrollment. Things that are happening within our schools, the student generally does not pay. This is different than charging for things that are happening at schools.

In his mind, this is different. He thinks the question is if they are getting an A or B in class why aren't they getting a 3 or 4 or 5 on the AP exam and are getting 1 or 2's. There must be a good reason why the student is not getting a good grade on the AP exam. He feels Ms. Callanan knows what she is doing and he does support her. There has to be a good reason why some students are not getting a good grade on the AP exam.

Ms. Chisholm said you are guaranteed something with the dual enrollment, you just have to pass. You do not have to pass with a 4. Again, we are hitting the families of the kids who are taking education seriously. You have the football team, buying helmets, putting them on a bus. There is a cost to that. There is a cost for clubs, we pay the advisor. If these kids are not doing well on these tests, maybe we should look at who is teaching them and why they are not prepared enough. We should worry about every kid. This is an educational thing and this is wrong on all accounts. If the kid is not taking this exam serious, maybe they should. We can find this money somewhere else. We don't want to

shame a kid at lunch but we want to shame an AP kid to write a response for not taking the AP exam. You would not tell the parents of the kids who didn't pass the MCAS you have to pay of the MCAS.

Mr. Metters commented that he does appreciate the time and thoughtfulness in the design of this. He believes Principal Callanan is motivated for the right reasons. He feels the primary motivator is to find the resources creatively to participate in Mass Insight. That cost is \$20,000. The offset is about \$32,000 in terms of AP exams. She is looking at it in terms of that will provide us the resources to apply all the benefits of Mass Insight.

Mr. Metters had the opportunity to work at the Boys and Girls Club as Executive Director for a number of years. He remembers when the dues were raised from \$12.00 to \$24.00 per year. He vividly remembers having a conversation with a mom who had 4 boys who told him she could not afford that. You think, wait a second; we are going from a seemingly low amount to a still low amount compared to the value. The value proposition didn't change but the impact on her budget certainly did and in that case it doubled. At that point Mr. Metters made a decision. Better that 99 kids take advantage of a very loose and liberal scholarship opportunity than one child who truly needs it is denied access to the Boys and Girls Club.

The policy was all that was needed was a verbal notification from a responsible adult to testify that child did not have the means to pay all or part of their dues.

Philosophically on a personal and professional level Mr. Metters could not vote for this.

Mr. Kisiel commented he does not see anything regarding the PSATs in this proposal. He does remember it being brought up in subcommittee.

Ms. Crowley said we could sit on this and see if there is \$20,000 in the budget for this and if not the proposal could be a last resort. We could wait for budget season, we could table this.

Dr. Wells said if we don't make a decision now, what happens if we don't find the money at budget time. Also, is the payment made directly by the student to the exam company? There was some concern on collection.

Dr. Crowley said it goes through the schools.

Ms. Crowley suggests maybe some committee members need reassurance that the committee did everything they could first before charging students.

Dr. Wells, \$20,000 can be found. It is really a question of trade off, it comes from somewhere. At some point we need to say we are going to pay for it or not pay for it and move on.

Mr. Demers thinks based on the comments some of the members have made this evening, it looks like we have the votes to make it a priority in our budget. He would be

hopeful we could find the \$20,000 within our discretionary area. He said we should be making the difficult decisions in a budgetary setting as opposed to levying a fee.

Mr. Metters thinks for planning purposes, we need to make a decision tonight. We need to look at how we can fund Mass Insight. If we don't get additional resources it comes down to prioritizing.

Ms. Crowley made a motion that the school committee adopts the recommendations of Principal Callanan starting in 2019 school year that the Woburn Public Schools will no longer cover the charge of AP exams.

Dr. Wells seconded the motion.

Dr. Wells pointed out there are a number of issues that need to be straightened out. The committee needs feedback regarding these issues such as writing of the letter, final exams. These things need to be reported back to the committee when they are ironed out. The committee can also change its mind if these things aren't correct to their satisfaction.

All in Favor - 3 Opposed - 4
Motion Fails

Ms. Chisholm-no, Ms. Crowley-yes, Mr. Demers-no, Mr. Kisiel-no, Mr. Metters-no,
Dr. Wells-yes, Chairman Mulrenan-yes

E. Lease of the Joyce Middle School Roof for Solar

Mr. Kisiel made a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools, in the name and on behalf of the School Committee, to negotiate and enter into a lease of the roof of the Joyce Middle School, 55 Locust Street, Woburn, for the installation and operation of solar photovoltaic facilities for electric generation.

Dr. Wells seconded Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

F. Out of State Field Trip Proposal

WMHS Drumline to Salem, NH for NESBA Competition.

Ms. Chisholm made a motion to approve.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Subcommittee

Dr. Wells said they met this evening.

A motion was made to approve the list of bills.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made to approve the balance of accounts.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Baldassarres meal debt plan was discussed. Dr. Wells wanted to know the economic implications for giving the students who qualify for a reduced lunch and will now be given a free lunch, what that cost will be. That dollar amount is \$14,000.00.

The subcommittee asked for clarification on the balance of accounts for the recent accreditation review. That account was over by 143%. The subcommittee asked where that difference is coming from. The subcommittee wants to be clear that this money does not come from any of the accounts that impact academics. The principal should work to make sure that money is coming from the office account.

Mr. Demers will represent the committee on the bus contract.

Dr. Wells will represent the committee on the food lunch contract.

Resource Utilization Subcommittee

Mr. Kisiel said they met on 1/14/19.

They had a discussion on the possibility of Solar Panels on the Joyce Middle School roof. They talked about the old Wyman and splitting the deed between the city owning and selling off the castle and the school district retaining ownership of the newer part. The \$25,000 feasibility was discussed. Who will be paying? The Mayor indicated he would talk with Administration to straighten that out.

The punch list of the new Hurd Wyman is still being put together.

Personnel Subcommittee

Ms. Chisholm said they met this evening.

The committee received several updates from HR Director Ms. Judi O'Neil.

Woburn Public Schools job postings are listed on School Spring/Talent Ed.

Ms. O'Neil is working on our diversity initiatives for our district through Mass. Partnership for Diversity in Education. Ms. O'Neil is attending monthly meetings. Assistant Principal Mr. Steve Martin is now an active co-participant. Ms. O'Neil is working on plans for our own WPS diversity committee.

She is working on an Employee Handbook with her committee. She is hoping this will be available to our staff September 2019. The school committee requested that a member of the union also be included on this committee. As of now there is not one. This will be reviewed by our attorney and the school committee prior to its completion.

Ms. O'Neil made comment that she is a one person team and would like to have an assistant put in this year's budget.

An update of licensure for teachers was discussed. A letter was sent to all staff about these new changes.

Dr. Baldassarre spoke on the need for additional staff. He will present this at budget time.

There was some discussion on the timing of our budget. We are at a disadvantage from looking at candidates. Towns have their budget passed prior to ours. Without the assurance of funding it is difficult if not impossible to hire staff.

Dr. Wells commends the diversity outreach. Is there any goal setting and follow up are we increasing our diversity?

Mr. Demers commented that Ms. O'Neil is looking at job fairs, who would reach out to the diverse communities. Our district never had a HR Director and commended Ms. O'Neil for doing a great job. He knows she is putting implementation in effect.

Mr. Metters commented on what Ms. Chisholm said on the budget and our timing. We are very late compared to other districts. We want the best possible teachers and if we have to delay offers until spring or summer that puts us at a disadvantage.

Dr. Wells asked if we could advertise saying we anticipate opening.

Supt. Crowley commented we did that last year but they still want a concrete job.

Curriculum and Professional Development Subcommittee

Mr. Demers said they have scheduled a meeting for next Friday.

Getting a bigger dive into Mass Insights and what they can offer the district. Also, how we can do better with our music program here in the district.

Dr. Wells mentioned the differences in the middle schools. He would like to go deeply into this.

Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Crowley said they have not met.

Student Services and Achievement Subcommittee

Mr. Metters said they met this evening.

They discussed SpEd updates and how our district had 37 move-ins this year.

This does have a great impact on our budget.

Our educators have more significant training. There will be another cohort of 25 for TCIS training at the Malcolm White in February.

SEPAC has been getting good attendance at their meetings.

Their next meeting will be on Feb. 5th.

On March 27 there will be a SEPAC College Fair 6:00-8:00pm.

Communication and Community Relations Subcommittee

Mr. Mulrenan said they have not met.

Mr. Mulrenan wanted the committee to know that Mayor Galvin expresses his appreciation and gratitude for the great support from our students, staff and administration at the Martin Luther King Day celebration.

Dr. Crowley commented that he attended. It was the first time the city partnered with local religious organizations. It was well attended. There was musician from WMHS who was fantastic. Also, a student who represented the Embrace program at the high school talked about the celebration of diversity that is alive and well in the Woburn Public Schools. There were a number of speakers echoing Dr. Martin Luther King's message.

CORRESPONDENCE

A correspondence was received from MASC regarding the steps to move the Superintendent's evaluation forward.

Mr. Mulrenan will follow up with this.

Chairman Mulrenan received a letter from Ms. Jennifer Baker Jones.

He is unable to open this through his email.

Mr. Mulrenan will forward that to Ms. MacLeod.

A copy of the letter from Ms. Jones is submitted with these minutes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The WMHS Drama Club will be having their first annual book sale on Friday, January 25, 2019, 5:00-7:00 pm.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Our new State Representatives

Rescheduling of Mayor Galvin

Past WMHS student, Ms. Molly Kupris

Policy pending on the table to be lifted in 30 days from 1/9/19

This policy is important - regarding the lunch school policy

Dr. Wells start time - a plan for a timeline

An update from Ms. Thifault on our school logo

Mr. Metters would like the student from Embrace who spoke at the Martin Luther King Day celebration be invited to speak to the committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion was seconded, all in favor. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean MacLeod

Recording Secretary

January 22, 2019

Jennifer Baker Jones
4 Sherman Terrace
Woburn, MA 01801

Members of the Woburn School Committee
C/O Michael Mulrenan, Chair
55 Locust Street
Woburn, MA 01801

Dear Members of the School Committee,

I am writing regarding two issues related to the teacher contract negotiation – I regret that I will not be able to attend the Citizens Participation portion of your meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 23 due to a conflict, but I wanted to submit my items for your consideration.

First, I would like to advocate for the inclusion of more music and arts programming for students in the elementary schools. It devastates me that the amount of time spent on music and arts in the Woburn Schools is no different than the amount of time spent on these programs 35 years ago, when in the years between my schooling and that of my children there have been innumerable studies on the importance of arts education for young children. We are bested by all of the communities surrounding Woburn. With the contract under negotiation, this needs to be rectified with weekly music and weekly art classes throughout the school year.

Second, I am writing to stress that parents in our community want our teachers to have a new contract as soon as possible. The course of the last contract negotiation was detrimental to our schools and the spirit of community that Woburn values so highly. I know that the School Committee isn't the sole negotiator in the contract, but I hope you will advocate for a swift resolution to the negotiation as being in the best interest of our students. I am impressed with the improvements made in the schools in the last year and I can see how these improvements are making a difference at our school. We need to show our teachers that our city values their role in these improvements and encourage their continued progress. We can say we support the teachers, but we must actually support them with a new contract.

Thank you for your service to the City and our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Baker Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Baker Jones
Parent
Malcolm White School