

Whately School Committee Meeting
Whately Elementary School
Tuesday, November 13, 2018

MINUTES

Present: Chair Katie Edwards, Vice Chair Robert Halla and Secretary Maureen Nichols;
Principal Kristina Kirton; The Management Solutions representative Mark Chapulis;
and Interim Superintendent Darius Modestow

Katie Edwards called the meeting to order at 8:06 am.

On a motion from Bob Halla, and a second from Maureen Nichols, the Minutes of October 4, 2018 were approved 2-0-1.

Mark Chapulis, representative from TMS, presented the Financial Statement. He indicated that the year-end report has been filed with DESE. The school committee requested current balances for School Choice, Early Childhood and employee salaries be provide at the December Meeting. The moving of funds to cover "overdrafts" in line items was discussed.

Warrants totaling \$51,213.65 were presented.

There was no Public Comment.

Under Unfinished Business, there was discussion on the location of the Pre-K Playground. There was also a discussion on the Accessible to All swing. The cost of a swing would be between \$400 - \$600 depending on the size and materials. The committee agreed that the swing was not needed at this time and will look into it in the future.

Bob Lesko, Director of School Facilities, provided an update to the sprinkler project. The town allocated \$74,000 for the sprinkler project. Unfortunately, no bids were received on this project. Over the summer, \$20,000 was spent repairing the pipes. The pressure drop sprinklers will cost approximately \$38,000. This company will not do the work if we need to pay prevailing minimum wage and the cost will increase as well. We have drop sprinklers but the small amount of water remaining in the system has caused corrosion. We are looking into a nitrogen generator that would fill the pipes with nitrogen and eliminate the corrosion due to water being left in the pipes. The nitrogen generator would cost approximately \$24,000.

Bob indicated that the generator pad has been poured between the back parking lot and the garage. The town will dig a trench and an electrical contractor will finish the installation. The generator runs on diesel fuel and is large enough to power the entire school.

The new phone system is working and purchase orders have been created to finish the installation of new analog clocks and tying the intercom system to the new phone system.

Roofers will come to tighten the screws of the metal roof.

Under New Business, there was discussion of a possible marijuana growing business being located in close proximity to the school. Maureen Nichols, Katie Edwards and Principal Kirton attended the recent Zoning Board meeting and indicated that scrubbers to eliminate/reduce odor were discussed

along with the requirement that a formal survey be done to determine the distance from the greenhouses to the school. The business will require the approval of both the Planning and Zoning Boards to proceed.

Principal Kirton presented the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan Goals:

1. Educators will deliver instruction that is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.
2. 85% of students will demonstrate 1 year's growth or more in writing based on the Lucy Calkins Learning Progression. 100% of students will demonstrate growth.
3. Educators will consistently follow a system for identifying and addressing student needs that is clear and consistent to provide targeted support, intervention or enrichment in a timely manner.
4. Students will receive instruction in the tools and strategies that foster social and emotional well-being.

Principal Kirton provided a brief description of the Polly Bath initiative.

Under Reports, Principal Kirton presented the Principals' Report. She spoke to the many wonderful events that have occurred including 4th Grade students skyping with student in India, four international students from Northfield Mount Hermon visiting our classrooms, an awesome Veterans Day celebration and the fabulous PTO Halloween party.

Interim Modestow presented the Superintendents' Report. He spoke of attending a three-day Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) conference. Mr. Modestow and Mrs. Nichols recently attended a four-day conference in Hyannis. The Christian Lane property should be sold in December and the remainder of files must be removed from the building. Space has been located at Frontier for storage and the hope is to organize the files prior to the move.

On a motion from Bob Halla and a second from Katie Edwards, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 am. Approved 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Lesenski
Recording Secretary

Summary of Documents Presented:

1. Minutes of October 4, 2018
2. Monthly Financial Report
3. Principal's Report
4. Superintendent's Report
5. Employment List
6. Monthly Enrollment