

WALPOLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF MEETING –AUGUST 29, 2019

(Please visit the WPS website for detailed and official meeting minutes.)

- The School Committee (SC) unanimously voted to approve a Walpole High School trip to France from April 19, 2020 through April 26, 2020.
- The SC unanimously voted to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Walpole Teachers Association (WTA) and the SC for the period September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2022.
 - The SC and Administration are thankful to the WTA negotiating team for their professionalism and collaboration.
- The SC unanimously voted to affirm a 2% cost of living increase for all non-union employees.
- Assistant Superintendent Bill Hahn gave an update regarding submission and reporting of discipline data. Mr. Hahn indicated when the data is released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), we will highlight and clarify reporting categories and provide an opportunity for the community to ask questions.
- Dr. Gough described SPARK Kindness, a nonprofit organization with the goal of building kind, empowered and inclusive communities. SPARK stands for Successful Positive Authentic Resilient Kids. Their mission is to “build a kind, resilient and welcoming community where no one feels alone, bullied, unsupported or unconnected.” We will partner with SPARK Kindness to bring a 3-phase (typically 3 year) program to Walpole.
- Chairman Buckley gave an update on the Foxboro train line. The trains are scheduled to begin running in October. The pilot program will have 16 trains on this rail line. The Walpole Police Department has been providing train safety training.
- Chairman Buckley also mentioned that Walpole residents are advised that Walpole’s mosquito virus risk level raised from moderate to high today as a result of the EEE virus being found in a horse in Medfield. The Town has submitted another request into the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project to provide aerial spraying in the Town. The Town would like to remind all Walpole residents that although EEE is rare it is a very serious disease. When you are outside you should use mosquito repellent with DEET in order to protect against mosquitos. More information can be found at www.walpole.k12.ma.us or on the Town webpage at www.walpole-ma.gov
- Chairman Buckley provided a letter from the Norfolk County Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s Office is asking for volunteers from SC members across Norfolk County for a newly formed Task Force to collaborate on issues around student substance abuse and mental health issues. Mr. Buckley asked if a member of the SC would consider joining this Task Force and let him know by the next SC meeting.
- Mr. Breen indicated Walpole has concluded the MSBA eligibility period and has met all deadlines/guidelines set by the MSBA. Walpole hopes to be invited into the Feasibility Study to come up with a preferred solution to building needs. The MSBA will inform Walpole by December 11 if we are invited into the Feasibility Study phase.
- Dr. Gough announced two walk-through opportunities of the school buildings. The tentative dates are Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, September 20 at 8:30 a.m. The walk-throughs will start at Bird Middle School and also include Walpole High School and an elementary school.
- Dr. Gough gave the SC an update of staff changes including redirected, replaced, and transferred staff.
- Mr. Hahn provided a summary of all summer Professional Development undertaken by staff and administration.
- School Business Administrator Michael Friscia provided an update for Fiscal Year 2019.
- The SC held a first reading of revised Policy JLC – Student Health Services and Requirements. The SC will be provided with a summary from the School Nurse Leader regarding the changes.
- The next regular SC Meeting will be September 12, 2019.