

**WALPOLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Walpole Town Hall, Superintendent's Office
December 13, 2018 – 11:00 a.m.**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Ms. Muccini, Mrs. Syrek

WALPOLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Superintendent of Schools, Lincoln D. Lynch III, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent, Bridget A. Gough, Ed. D.
Retired Assistant Superintendent, Jean E. Kenney, Ed. D.
Director of Pupil Services, John Queally, Ph.D.
Out of District Coordinator, Christina Pyne

CLIFFORD HOME:

Lesli Suggs, President and Chief Executive Officer
Rene Dickhaut, Principal
Andrew Zides, Special Education Coordinator
Matthew McCall, Vice President/Treatment Programs
Rebecca Reed, Campus Director
Jennifer Murphy, Clifford Academy Teacher
Jeannine Brown-Smith, Attorney/Consultant

CALL TO ORDER: The Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by School Committee Member Ms. Muccini.

The Clifford Home (the “Home”) reviewed the proposed structure of Clifford Academy, indicating that the new school would provide behavioral, therapeutic, and academic services for approximately 40 students maximum. The age range will be confined to 12 – 18 years of age. Clifford Academy anticipates a three year progress of enrollment from 2019 – 2021.

In response to a question about student grouping, Rene Dickhaut indicated that students would be grouped in age-level bands such as 6-7, 7-8, and high school may have individual specialized course groups. This structure is based on another school operated by The Home for Little Wanderers in Plymouth. The plan is not to exceed 10 students in any one grade level.

Matthew McCall explained that there are three divisions within the Longview Farm/The Home structure: The day school - Clifford Academy (6-12), The Residential Education setting in which students both live in the group home and attend the special education school on site, and the Group Home from which students may attend school in their previous residence district or attend Walpole Public Schools.

Rebecca Reed indicated that within the group home, there is a day person responsible for communication for each unit. This is an increase in personnel from the previous one person for the entire group home.

Both male and female students will be housed in the Group Home and both genders will attend the day school at Clifford Academy. The Clifford Academy will serve students with social, emotional, and behavioral disorders. The staff will use the “More than Words” program/curriculum. The goal is to enable some to return to their district schools. There will be vocational training to enable students to graduate on track with a set of skills. Students will “max out” at age 18. The school may also enroll EL

students and the staff will examine curriculum for them. All teachers will be SEI endorsed and licensed per DESE.

The principal provided an update to the ELA curriculum at the meeting. There will be a reading specialist on site to address support for students with reading difficulty. The staff will use a thematic approach using multiple texts. The primary program for all curricula will be purchased from Pearson publishing. The students will participate in quarterly reading and math inventories to determine instruction and support.

The vocational training will include horticulture, small machinery, and culinary elements. The Signal Success curriculum will form the basis of instruction. The school is currently partnering with the Medfield Animal Shelter. Staff have contacted the Norfolk County Agricultural High School about a possible partnership. They have also contacted Tri-County Regional Vocational High School. The staff are encouraging greater parent involvement in the school.

The staff members advised Walpole Public Schools that they have multiple conference rooms, a gymnasium, and a Project Adventure course that may be accessed by Walpole Public School programs in the future.

The representatives of Clifford Academy were thanked for their attendance and information and were advised that the School Committee members would review the information and place the approval request on the agenda for the January 10 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Geosits Vice Chairman