



WOCSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. commits to ensuring that each scholar develops the social, academic, critical and creative thinking skills necessary to meet with success in college, career, citizenship and life. The responsibility for education is shared by student, family, school and community.

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MINUTES

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday, **October 18, 2017** in the Office of the Superintendent, 1460 Post Road, Wells, Maine.

School Committee members attending included: Helena Ackerson, Miranda (Pollard) Booth, Borianna Dolliver, Heather Sittig, Jason Vennard and Karen MacNeill. Student Representatives, Michael Wrigley and Hailey Smith, were not present due to a school commitments.

Administrators in attendance included: Superintendent, Jim Daly; Director of Instruction/Spec Svcs, Stacey Schatzabel; Director of Finance/HR, Ed McDonough; Director of Operations, Jay Moore; Director of Technology, Michael Richards; Director of Athletics 6-12, Pierce Cole; WHS Principal, Eileen Sheehy; WHS Asst. Principal, Joshua Gould; WJHS Principal, Robert Griffin; and WJHS Asst. Principal, AJ Dufort.

Others in attendance were: Cindy Roche, Tim Roche, Sean Roche, and Tammy Daly.

1. Call to Order/ Mission Statement

-Chair Ackerson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

-Chair Ackerson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Special Meeting

A. Discussion of letter of concern received by the WOCSD

-Supt. Daly reported that a letter had been received from a Lisbon High School parent regarding the Warrior mascot/logo and also student/fan behavior at the football game held on Friday, October 13, 2017. Supt. Daly asked the Committee to review the mascot selection saying it would be prudent to have dialogue to gather opinions from both sides. He reiterated this was not only a school issue but also a community issue, involving local, historical and cultural aspects.

Supt. Daly next addressed the second part of the letter that focused on allegations of racism against Native Americans. The author of the letter claimed the students/fans were disrespectful in their actions, which she claimed were a mockery of her family's culture. She requested an apology from the District.

A thorough investigation was conducted surrounding the game interviewing as many stakeholders as possible, including: Booster members, concession personnel, school personnel from other schools, local reporters present at the game, and police officers on duty at the event.

As part of the investigation, surveillance video, game film, and photos of the area were reviewed to gain a better understanding of the climate and the actions that took place.

The findings proved that the fan base displayed appropriate school spirit, typical at many area high schools. The cheerleaders had affixed red "W"s to their faces to support the team. No chants or hand-to-mouth gestures were observed by those in attendance. The SRO stated he did not hear any taunting or negative verbal comments that would be construed as racist. The team's break down dance at the end of the game was done in celebration of a victory as has been done since the mid-80's.

The investigation results showed that the students/fans did not knowingly or intentionally mock the Native American culture.

Supt. Daly said he was willing to meet with this parent to have an open dialogue to gain better understanding of viewpoints; however, there had been no response to his invitation.

He realizes that these accusations have affected not only the schools, but also the community as a whole and said he was "extremely proud of our community"!

Supt. Daly hopes the District can move forward and continue doing great things for our students and our communities.

4. **Adjournment**

- Chair Ackerson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

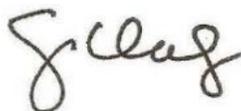
Motion to adjourn this meeting of the WOCSD School Committee at 6:14 pm.

Moved: *Pollard*

Seconded: *Sittig*

Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,



James P. Daly, Secretary
Wells-Ogunquit CSD School Committee