

WMS Panel

January 16th, 2020

Wellesley Police

Evan Rosenberg stepping down as SRO, he will be staying Wellesley as patrol officer.
He introduced Officer Wall as the new WHS/WMS SRO.

School Committee

Matt Kelly provided update on following items:

A. Budget

Discussions ongoing, consensus mostly achieved, not a lot of strategic investments.
Board of Selectmen gave guidance for 3.5% increase on all items except for Special Education.
\$664,000 Sped increase, rest of budget is at 3.9%. Budget is posted online
Expansion of computer science offerings at WMS & WHS
Annual hearing on budget is 1/21 6:30pm at police station.

B. HHU

Spring is the time to really pay attention
Feasibility study part one has been completed
Preliminary drawing of options has been done. Now through April SBC will be completing feasibility study to see if it will be Hardy or Upham.

C. Redistricting

Would not be implemented until school buildings were completed
There are two upcoming community forums:
1/22 at WMS
1/28 9:00 AM
There will be two maps for each school (Hardy & Upham), community will be asked to weigh in
2/26 is when the final vote will happen.

Principal Ito

Middle School vs Junior High School - many in audience attended Junior High
Robin Reese - Assistant Principal
(Other Asst Principal Kathy Gordon not in attendance)
Kate Mahoney - Guidance Counselor
She oversees the 6 counselors at WMS
Reviewing log of why students visit guidance, and it was a lot of stress, time management & issues with friends.

Mimi Ferrick

Special Education Department Head
Kathy Dooley
Technology Director for District
Backpack weigh in (should not be more than 20% of child's weight)
Chris Kasmedes (?)
One of two school nurses (Caroline Reading is the other not in attendance)
Signage - Vaping, hand washing
Drug & alcohol screening with 8th graders
Build resilience, self advocate
Provide a non-judgement free break, area for kids to have lunch

Joanne Grant

District Director of Fitness & Health
No health past 10th grade
Vaping is a big issue
Increasing anxiety especially among girls
Cell phone use, pornography
There's a school wellness awareness activity

Program just for those who identify as girls starting (from Dove)
2:45-3:30 pilot program Thursday

Kathy Poirier

SRO

Does Alice drills with all kids

Internet safety, cyber bullying

Question & Answer

Course selection coming up

Guidance website has important dates & families should go to the site.

Daily announcements are on website

Read newsletter

Concern about intruder drill

Officer Poirier told all to report any suspicious behavior to police (ie car following students)

Concern about computer use, also kids playing computer games especially with substitute teachers

Piloting composting and getting rid of plastic bottle in the cafeteria

RAD program for female safety

Power up safety program

Balance in regards to homework

There is a homework policy in the student handbook

Family engagement - Challenge Success speaker perhaps April

Group work challenges