

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**AGENDA**  
**January 20th, 2016**

- I. Agenda Changes
  
- II. Adoption of Minutes
  - 1. September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015
  - 2. October 21<sup>st</sup> 2015
  
- III. School Board Updates
  
- IV. Enrolment Numbers
  
- V. General Information
  - 1 Executive Update
  
- VI. Next Meeting Date: February 11th, 2016  
(Changed Meeting Date)
  
- VII. Adjournment

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 20th, 2016**

Mr. Shreaves advised that there was not a quorum present to conduct any business and asked the Town Manager and School Superintendent if they would provide a report.

Present: Mayor Jim Hudson; John Edwards, Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; Mrs. Laura Abel, School Superintendent and Dudley Olsson, Chairman West Point School Board.

**I. Agenda Changes**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

**II. Adoption of Minutes**

There was not a quorum present to adopt the minutes.

**III. School Board Update**

Mrs. Laura Abel, School Superintendent presented a copy of a letter that was sent home to parents explaining the process on closures, delayed openings and early dismissals due to inclement weather. Mrs. Abel then discussed some of the items from the attached Executive Update

Mrs. Abel gave the current status on the HVAC and boiler at the School Board office and advised that it is currently cost \$4.00 per square foot to heat and cool the building when it should only cost \$1.25. Areas of the building remain cold most of the time and that busted water pipes are still an issue. Mrs. Abel stated that this is a CIP project that should be addressed before it becomes a critical issue. The air quality is not good in the building, in the summer it is very damp and in the winter it is very dry.

Mr. Shreaves asked what the square footage is of the building.

Mrs. Abel advised that she does not have that information with her and that she would let the Town know that information.

**IV. Enrolment Numbers**

Mrs. Abel presented the attached Average Daily Membership numbers and advised that when the Budget was prepared this year the enrolment number used was 780 but the current number is 765. While working on the FY 2016-17 budget we will be using 770 as the enrolment number.

Mr. Hudson asked if Mrs. Abel knew why the enrolment number was down.

Mrs. Abel advised that the lower number is not from the tuition paying students that the lower number is from students that live in Town.

**V. General Information**

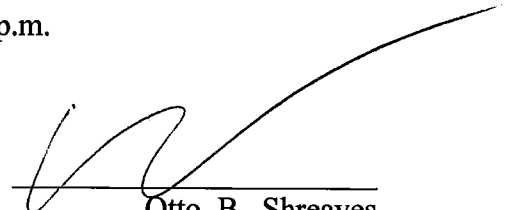
Mr. Edwards advised that the Executive update attached is the one provided by Mrs. Abel in December 2015.

**VI. Next Meeting Date: February 11th 2016**

Mr. Edwards advised that the February meeting has been changed from February 17<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.


**VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Otto B. Shreaves  
Chairman

ATTEST:



Karen M. Barrow  
Town Clerk

**Town of West Point Education Committee**  
**Executive Update (November and December, 2015)**

It has been several months since we last met so I thought it might be helpful to provide the committee with a brief overview of the good things going on in West Point Public Schools.

Recognitions:

- Willow Pedersen was one of 5 nominees in Virginia to be considered for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Award to recognize outstanding Career and Technical Education students. (This category of the scholars program was new this year.) --- We will know this spring if she is selected.
- The 2015 edition of the WPHS yearbook was awarded Trophy Class in Virginia High School League competition. This is the highest honor for yearbooks and equivalent to winning a state championship.
- WPHS One Act Play team won districts and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the region earning them a trip to state competition in Charlottesville where they placed 4<sup>th</sup>.
- WPMS has been selected as a Virginia "School to Watch." This is a huge honor and recognizes WPMS as one that other schools should emulate as a model for providing an exemplary educational experience. (This is NOT just based on test scores. Required a site visit by a team of examiners.)
- Two WPMS students, Maddie Britt and Jenna Kirkland, were recognized by the national Future Business Leaders of America in the areas of Career Exploration and Web Page Creation. The entire school was identified for their Community Service efforts.
- WPES held a wonderful joint Grandparent's Day and afternoon Veteran's Day Assembly. Both events were very well attended and the school did a great job personalizing both events. Grandparents loved to see what the students were learning and the veterans were very moved by the heartfelt recognition of their service to our country.
- WPPES first graders presented a Thanksgiving Show that was adorable and packed the house!
- WPES, WPMS and WPHS all presented winter holiday concerts that were outstanding and filled the auditorium. Kudos to Mr. Reed, Ms. Raef and Ms. Redmond for helping our students shine and showcasing incredible talent.
- WPHS band and chorus students were selected to perform at Disney World as part of park's ongoing holiday program. The trip was completed the first week of December and our students received several compliments on their positive behavior and excellent manners. Nice to know that we are producing good citizens as well as good students.

Items of Interest:

- WPPS is continuing to expanding our collaboration with the YMCA and we will again offer spring water safety classes to all WPES 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. In addition, this year the "Y" is offering free membership to all WPMS 7<sup>th</sup> graders to support healthy lifestyles and provide afterschool activities. Dr. Daniel has been working closely with the "Y" to get this program off the ground.
- The Board has approved the spring 2016-17 overseas trip to Portugal and Spain for WPHS students who elect to participate. Students will be traveling to China this spring.
- The Board approved continuing our partnership with the Royal Duke of York Academy in England to produce a joint drama/musical production. This is an every other year event. The plan is for the exchange to occur in November 2016. Last year was the inaugural event and it was a huge success for both parties. The production selected for this year is Phantom of the Opera (the school version.)
- The WPPS Leadership Team met with the WP WestRock Leadership Team to discuss how we can develop closer relationships and benefit each other's interest. The meeting took place at the mill where they treated us like visiting dignitaries and also provided a great "behind the scenes" tour of the plant as well as lunch. The dialog was very productive and we intend to continue discussions after the new year. Leigh Anne is scheduling a follow-up meeting.
- We have been exploring opportunities to increase our energy efficiency so that we maximize the benefit of our updated HVAC equipment and energy saving windows. Very interested in an Energy Support Services program offered through Honeywell that can help us improve utilization of our energy computer control system as well as shaping user behaviors to reduce energy costs. --- More to follow.
- WPMS 7<sup>th</sup> graders collaborated with the Town Manager and Mayor to prepare essays for the VML "If I Were Mayor" essay contest. Before the students began writing, Mayor Hudson and Mr. Edwards met with the students to explain their jobs and provide background information about the town. The essays have been submitted and we are keeping our fingers crossed to see if any of our students receive recognition. --- Mr. Edwards has been provided copies of all of the essays to see what is on the students' mind.

Submitted: January 4, 2016 by Laura Abel, Superintendent

Cc: WPPS School Board

Leigh Anne Custalow, Board Clerk