"Behind the Curtain"

- Every School Committee meeting always promises to have some sort of show in store for the audience. Whether it be about the new IB program, STEAM Academy, Dual Enrollment, new math programs, or whatever is currently trending, we can be assured that the presentation will be impressive, yet never provide evidence to show how these programs have affected student learning.
- The recent summative evaluation of the superintendent was reflective of all these elaborate presentations but failed to show any data on how these programs are affecting student achievement and closing the achievement gap.
- I have no fancy presentation for you tonight; I only have the truth about what happened at the last meeting.
- My response to the goals of the Superintendent was eliminated from the overall summative and averaging score of Dr. Shaver-Hood's evaluation because I was told that it would save me the embarrassment. Mr. Chairman, Why should I be embarrassed because I questioned the superintendent's self-assessment which was an error-filled jumble of claims with no evidence, and goals that not only didn't match the approved goals for 2015-2016, but were also not measurable? And when was it decided that it should eliminated?
- I should be embarrassed that I looked at the only solid evidence available to measure the progress of the school district within the last three years? This is what's happened in her tenure:
- MCAS: No category met its target, high school dropped from a level one to a level three, warnings have increased, Science and Technology should have been better because of the STEAM Academy, but is actually worse
- Graduation rates are down and dropout rates are up. Even more appalling is 39.5% of the students on IEPs dropped out
- Suspension rates are up
- The number of families choosing to send their child/children elsewhere is up
- Out of District costs have sky rocketed

Many residents of Wareham voted for me last spring because they trusted my integrity and passion for the education of all the children of our town. It is my obligation to be honest with what is happening in our district.