

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE Public Forum/Regular Session – October 9, 2012

A Public Forum/Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in the Large Hearing Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Chair

Beth Butler, Vice Chair

Malcolm Astley

Ellen Grieco

Shawn Kinney (by remote starting at 7:42 p.m., after attempts to reach him at 7:15 and 7:28 p.m.)

Also:

Paul Stein

Superintendent of Schools

Brad J. Crozier

Assistant Superintendent

Marlene M. Dodyk

Director of Student Services

Geoffrey S. MacDonald

Business Administrator

Also:

Leisha Simon

Technology Director

Tom Greenaway

Finance Committee

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the Regular Session at 7:07 P.M. and stated that WayCAM is airing the meeting live. Shawn Kinney submitted the Remote Participation Form and was participating remotely because of geographic distance. Barb invited the public to make statements and/or ask questions of the School Committee.

1. **Public Forum:**

Margo Melnicove read a statement regarding her concern of school spending in terms of staff salaries. She recommended ways in which the School Committee can put the school personnel budget on a sustainable course.

Kent George commented on his concern regarding the increased tax rates over the years. He would like to see budget guidelines that are conservative and asked the School Committee to come up with cost saving ideas to keep expenses down.

Louis Jurist commented that school spending can be controlled, but taxes cannot be controlled. He commented that Wayland compares favorably with peer towns in terms of what is spent on education per student. Louis also commented on the state-mandated teacher evaluation system.

Kent George commented that the average taxpayer is paying \$12,000 per year and most don't have school-aged children. He also commented that a good education is possible without paying top dollar for it.

2. **Review Draft Capital Plan:**

Barb stated that the Technology and Capital Improvement Plans must be approved by the end of October. Leisha Simon reviewed the draft Technology Capital Plan, which, she stated, is similar to a previous plan, except the year 2018 was added. She stated that the network infrastructure will be upgraded in the elementary schools. She recommended that the proposed upgrading for one school over a two-year period be done in one year, as it is more cost effective. An update of the data center storage device is the only change from previous plans. She also stated that this plan does not include the cost to upgrade Loker, as that should be a part of the elementary school building feasibility study.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Public Forum/Regular Session – October 9, 2012

Leisha answered questions from the School Committee.

Paul commented that a new phone system will be installed in the town building during the winter. There are no cost estimates to put the system in the schools.

Shawn was called into the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

3. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of WHS China Trip

(b) Approval of Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 10/9/2012, in the amount of \$183,769.09
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable Student Activities warrant, dated 10/9/2012, in the amount of \$13,802.66
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll warrant, dated 10/4/2012, in the amount of \$1,160,873.98

(c) Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Session of September 24, 2012, as written

(d) Acceptance of Gifts:

- A 90-year old Cello, German in origin and in excellent condition, as well as a cello case, donated to the Wayland High School music program by Marilyn Wallin, Wayland, MA.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Barb Fletcher, Chair	X	
Beth Butler, Vice Chair	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Ellen Grieco	X	
Shawn Kinney	X	

4. **Review and Vote FY12 Annual Report Draft:**

The School Committee reviewed the FY12 Annual Report draft and made some minor language changes.

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve and submit the FY12 Annual Report, as amended. A roll call vote was taken as follows.

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Barb Fletcher, Chair	X	
Beth Butler, Vice Chair	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Ellen Grieco	X	
Shawn Kinney	X	

5. **Superintendent's Report:**

Paul Stein commented that the Elementary Building Use Task Force is well underway, and they are working on options and the facts to consider when weighing those options. He invited the public to attend a Public Hearing on October 24th at 7:30 P.M. at the High School and to bring their thoughts/ideas regarding the use of space in the elementary schools.

Paul also stated that as he did last year, he is meeting with building principals, as well as department heads, for the purpose of touring the buildings, engaging in conversations about what people are working on, where the challenges are, etc., and classroom observation. He commented that there is so much impressive work being done in the schools and the students, K-12, are clearly engaged.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Public Forum/Regular Session – October 9, 2012

6. **Provide Update on Audit of School Accounts:**

Shawn Kinney stated that he has received responses from two of the firms interested in doing the audit of the school accounts. Shawn will summarize his update in detail and send it to the School Committee and Chris Riley of the Audit Committee this week. He commented that the initial review will take 4 to 6 weeks, but will try to expedite the process.

7. **Review Draft Capital Plan Continued:**

John Moynihan arrived at the meeting at 7:56 p.m. He reviewed the building repairs, renovations, and furniture replacement in the school buildings from last year, with the addition of two items at Happy Hollow as a result of the space utilization study. These include the addition of a nurse's office/work space and a reconfiguration of bathroom fixtures in the boys' and girls' rooms. He also elaborated on the middle school roof replacement.

John answered questions from the School Committee and the administrators.

Paul Stein stated that in the context of the space utilization of the schools, Happy Hollow needs a different configuration in terms of the nurse's office, as it is essential to a healthy environment and complete confidentiality for all who come to the nurse's office.

8. **Meet with FinCom Liaisons to Review FinCom Guidelines:**

Tom Greenaway of the Finance Committee presented the FinCom Guidelines for the School Committee's consideration during the FY14 operating budget process. He highlighted some of the items in the FY12 and FY13 budgets and stated that if all contractual obligations are met, there would be a 2.34% increase in the FY14 budget. However, this does not include a DPW garage and unsettled COLA contractual amounts.

Due to the Finance Committee's focus on the redirection of the tax rate, they asked the School Committee to present a level service budget and, as a second step in the process, to come up with a prioritized list of cuts/changes to programs, operations, and services that would total 10% of the level services budget.

Tom answered questions from the School Committee and the administrators. A discussion ensued as to how the Finance Committee arrived at their two-step request of the School Committee. The School Committee discussed the pros and cons of cutting the level services budget by 10% and what it would mean in terms of how the school programs would be impacted and for the administrators in performing this task.

Paul asked Tom what increase in the tax rate is attributable to the increase in the budget.

The School Committee discussed the next steps in moving forward in the budget process.

Asked what his feelings are on the exercise of presenting a 10% budget cut, Paul commented on the time it takes to put together a budget at any level of funding, and on the potential consequences to teachers and staff from the 10% exercise. Paul stated that if it must be done, the administrators will perform the task as creatively and resourcefully as possible.

The School Committee would like to meet with the Finance Committee to further discuss the FinCom's request, as well as hear from the community residents to get a sense of what they want going forward. Barb will follow up with the FinCom Chair.

9. **Comments & Written Statements from the Public:**

Louis Jurist expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the FinCom's request for the School Committee to present a 10% budget cut. He commented that the students should be educated the way the residents of Wayland expect and have demanded. He also commented that the staff morale that has been built up over the past year will disappear, and he urged the School Committee not to consider the FinCom's request. He commented on the rising enrollment, how the budget would be impacted, and the negative impact on the real estate market.

Tom Sciacca compared public sector budgets and salaries to municipal budgets and salaries. He also commented that the town probably would not support a 10% cut in the school budget.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Public Forum/Regular Session – October 9, 2012

Margo Melnicove commented on teachers' salaries and how they impact the budget. She asked the School Committee, when entering into negotiations with the WTA, to consider her three recommendations that she said will level fund the budget and save money over the next three years.

10. **Discussion of Cost Saving/Efficiency Suggestions in Context of Budget Principles:**

Barb asked the School Committee to be mindful of any suggestions that would impact negotiations and discuss them in Executive Session.

The School Committee discussed what should be discussed in Regular Session vs. Executive Session in terms of teachers' salaries and how they could impact savings in the budget. It was agreed by 4 out of 5 members to seek Gini Tate's legal opinion on the possible detrimental effect on negotiations if discussed in Regular Session.

The discussion was tabled until Gini Tate's legal input is received.

A discussion ensued regarding the teachers' salary scale and how it is used during the hiring process. Paul explained what goes into hiring a teacher and the complex thought process behind it. As a former school administrator, Malcolm offered his perspective in terms of the hiring process.

Malcolm also suggested that the configuration of the elementary schools should be considered when developing the FY14 operating budget.

Shawn suggested that a subcommittee be established to discuss efficiency and cost savings in terms of resources. A discussion followed regarding how to move forward in this process.

Malcolm also suggested "distance learning" or the virtual classroom as a way to save money. It was noted that it was being done by The Education Cooperative. However, the question was raised whether or not it was saving money for the district. Beth will research further.

11. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to convene in Executive Session at 9:58 P.M. to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining for all school and town unions, as set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 30(a), Section 21 (a) (3), as such a discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the bargaining position of the School Committee. The Chair announced that the School Committee will reconvene in Open Session following Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Barb Fletcher, Chair	X	
Beth Butler, Vice Chair	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Ellen Grieco	X	
Shawn Kinney	X	

Regular Session was reconvened at 11:00 P.M. (Shawn Kinney discontinued remote participation at end of Executive Session.)

12. **Further Discussion re: School Committee Goals:**

Agenda item was tabled.

13. **Follow-up and Future Agenda Items:**

(a) Approve Draft School Committee Report re: Article 28 Restatement of FY11 Expenditures:

Agenda item was tabled.

14. **Supplemental Payroll Warrant:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve a supplemental payroll warrant in the amount of \$1,773.03.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Public Forum/Regular Session – October 9, 2012

15. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 11:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See attached.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. FY2014 FinCom Budget Guidelines
2. Budget Preparation and Review Policy
3. Five-Year Capital Plan Summary
4. Memo re: Trip Approval for China
5. Regular Session Minutes of 9/24/2012
6. Executive Session Minutes of 9/24/2012
7. FY2012 Annual Report Draft
8. Written Statement from Margo Melnicove