

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Budget Work Session/Regular Session – January 10, 2013

A Budget Work Session/Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Chair
Beth Butler, Vice Chair
Malcolm Astley
Ellen Grieco (arrived at 7:18 p.m.)

Absent:

Shawn Kinney

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent of Schools

Brad J. Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Marlene M. Dodyk
Director of Student Services

Geoffrey S. MacDonald
Business Administrator

Also:

Pat Tutwiler, Principal of WHS
Allyson Mizoguchi, Asst. Principal of WHS
Leisha Simon, Director of Technology & Accountability
Beth Ann Monahan, K-12 Technology Department Head
John Moynihan, Public Buildings Director

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the Budget Work Session/Regular Session at 7:10 P.M. and announced that WayCAM was televising the meeting.

1. **Comments and Written Statements from the Public:**

Louis Jurist commented on the email that he sent to the School Committee in which he wrote that the High School, under Pat Tutwiler's leadership, the excellent teachers, and the newly constructed building, all contribute to the excellence of the school. He does not support a 10% reduction in the budget, especially, in his opinion, since the town is in a good place financially. Louis also commented that if coaching positions and sports programs were cut, it would be inconsistent with the health and wellness goals that are in place.

Ben Downs commented that the extra curricula activities are very important and allow kids to stand out. He asked the School Committee not to choose programs over others, but to make equitable choices, whether it is to raise fees or make changes in other areas. Ben also commented on the need to continue to invest in the future of the students, which includes programs like the 1:1 initiative and the Chinese Exchange Program in order to obtain potential cost savings and productivity in the future.

2. **Operating Budget Work Session (High School, Athletics & Technology): High School & Technology:**

The School Committee asked questions regarding the 1:1 initiative in terms of the program overall – any cost savings that could be realized, sufficient resources for staff training, technology money allocated for expenses in the district, and technology in the middle and elementary schools.

Pat Tutwiler, Allyson Mizoguchi, and Leisha Simon gave a brief summary of how the 1:1 initiative is progressing at the High School in terms of the staff and the students. Anecdotally speaking, Pat commented on all areas of the initiative and stated that 1:1 is a huge success and has been culture changing for the staff and students.

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Leisha Simon commented that they will be presenting an analysis based on surveys and focus groups, which will include clear and concrete evidence of growth. Leisha is also excited about the growing use of online resources for student coursework. Leisha commented that there are minimal issues within the 1:1 and is pleased with the way the students are caring for the machines.

Allyson Mizoguchi commented on the students' excitement and the benefits, from the students' perspective, of the 1:1 laptop initiative.

Pat commented that in lieu of outside professional development relating to the laptops, this year teachers are taking the time to focus on learning to do some things very well, and to learn from each other in various ways.

Leisha provided the School Committee with a cost spreadsheet, and she reviewed how much money is available for technology expenses in different areas. Leisha also stated that she reallocated some money in her budget to pay for the annual expense of licensing fees.

Pat conveyed how he feels about the cuts in the High School budget. Paul explained how the administrators developed their individual budgets and the difficulty that they faced in doing so.

Leisha reviewed the Middle School technology plan with the School Committee. She commented that the program is almost at 100% fulfilled, given the number of computers at the Middle School. She is in the process of writing a new Tech Plan and looking at a possible 1:1 initiative next year. Also, a year from now when one of the leases comes due for computer replacements, further assessment will be undertaken.

The School Committee and administrators discussed projected enrollment in the district in terms of the budget going forward. Paul commented that he is working with NESDEC, which indicates that the enrollment projections are going up.

Paul highly praised Wayland High School, its administrators and programs as being exceptional, and reminded one and all that they should be very proud of this institution.

Athletics:

Pat reviewed the number of coaches currently per team and the proposed budget cut for each team. Pat also commented on his perspective of fees in general. However, if a nominal increase would benefit the athletic program in terms of the coaches, he would support the increase. Pat expressed his concern about the coach to student ratio, if coaching cuts were made.

Geoff MacDonald commented on financial assistance within the district pertaining to transportation, the lunch program, and a possible waiver in other programs.

Paul explained the budget process for the administrators and how the process led up to making their staffing decisions.

School Committee Communication:

Ellen drafted and distributed a proposed School Committee communication regarding the budget process. This will be discussed further upon members' review, and it will be finalized at the January 14th meeting. The Committee discussed how to reach out and encourage the public to send their comments/input to them. The communication will be sent via the List Serve, Wayland Voters' Network, eNews, PATCH, and the Town Crier.

The School Committee adjourned at 8:38 p.m. to meet in open session with the Finance Committee in the Senior Center to review the Committee's capital requests. It will return to the School Committee Room to finish the meeting.

3. **Meeting with the Finance Committee to Discuss the Wayland Public Schools' FY14 Capital Budget:**

Barb Fletcher reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for each school's capital request, which includes the following:

- Furniture and tile replacement at Claypit Hill and Happy Hollow Elementary Schools
- Construction of separate space for nurse's office at Happy Hollow
- Networking Center Data Upgrade at Claypit Hill and Happy Hollow Elementary Schools

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- Middle School roof
- Renovation of boys/girls bathrooms at Happy Hollow School

The School Committee and administrators answered questions from the FinCom in terms of timing for furniture and tile replacement, safety issues regarding the Happy Hollow bathroom, reallocation of space at Happy Hollow for the nurse's office, MSBA funding for the Middle School roof, and timing, prioritization, and cost efficiencies regarding the network upgrade.

The School Committee reconvened in Regular Session in the School Committee Room at 9:42 p.m.

4. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Shawmut Design Company Change Order #18

Mr. David Saindon of KVA, on behalf of the HSBC, requested approval and execution by the School Committee of SDC Change Order #18 in the amount of (\$936,503), which represents a savings in Construction Contingency, and to authorize Barb Fletcher to sign Change Order #18.

(b) Approval of Gossels Grant (Fund for Academic Excellence)

Paul Stein asked for School Committee approval to use the Gossels' Fund for Academic Excellence to support teacher stipends to enhance the use of online instructional technology.

Malcolm Astley asked questions related to the proposed programs and initiatives.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

5. **Superintendent's Report:**

There was no report.

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

Beth Butler commented that she attended a meeting of Wayland's 375th Anniversary Celebration and would like to discuss at a future meeting.

7. **Comments from the Public:**

There were no public comments.

8. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to convene in Executive Session at 9:51 P.M. to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining for all school unions (WTA, WESA, Custodial and Food Service), as set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 30A, 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 for adjournment purposes only. 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	(absent)	

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 10:53 P.M.

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Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See attached list.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Regular Session Minutes of December 17, 2012
2. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants
3. Report from Melanson Heath & Company re: Student Activity Accounts
4. Handout re: Ellen Grieco's Proposed Communication from School Committee
5. Q & A re: School Fees