

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Special Meeting & Town Meeting – November 9, 2015

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee prior to Town Meeting was held on Monday, November 9, 2015, at 6:00 P.M. in the Faculty Lounge and Field House at Wayland High School.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair  
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair  
Donna Bouchard (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)  
Jeanne Downs  
Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Paul Stein  
Superintendent

Brad Crozier  
Assistant Superintendent

Susan Bottan  
Business Administrator

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the Special Session at 6:02 p.m.

1. **Special Town Meeting Matters:**

- (a) Review Draft Warrant Hearing Remarks to be made at Special Town Meeting regarding Warrant Article 5, acceptance of M.G.L. c.71, §71E:

Barb distributed the warrant hearing remarks with some changes based on a comment made at the Board of Selectmen warrant hearing. It was noted that the statute for warrant article 5 only relates to the School Committee.

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the comments this evening as written.

For Town Meeting, Barb drafted a list of anticipated questions from the public and the Committee's responses. She read them to the Committee. Barb noted that one area of concern is the revolving funds surplus and whether it should revert back to the taxpayers. She commented that the vote taken at Town Meeting will be to maintain the surpluses as they exist now and to move forward with these accounts.

A discussion ensued regarding Jim Toomey's recommendations and the Department of Revenue's recommendations.

- (b) Discussion and Possible Vote to Support Warrant Article 11, Amendment to Minuteman Regional Agreement regarding the Withdrawal of the Town of Wayland from the Minuteman Regional School District:

This discussion was postponed to later in the meeting given that the Board of Selectmen were discussing this topic this evening.

2. **Financial Matters:**

- (a) Continued Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Loker Windows and Doors Project with or without MSBA Funding:

Barb commented that the School Committee will present its capital requests to the Finance Committee on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Committee reviewed the pros and cons of moving forward with the Loker windows and doors project regardless of MSBA funding.

The pros with MSBA funding:

- The potential to receive approximately \$675,000 reimbursement from the state
- A third party oversight of the project (will oversee the project and confirm the need)

The cons:

- With MSBA involvement and funding: More costs are added (difficult to quantify the amount)

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- With MSBA involvement and funding: the process takes longer
- If the project is contingent upon the MSBA funding and at Town Meeting, the voters say no or MSBA says no, the school will still need to be repaired bringing the operating costs higher as a result of repairs and energy inefficient windows and doors

A discussion followed in terms of the pros and cons. Donna advocated that the contingency for the MSBA be considered in a vote, given that the pros outweigh the cons. The other members agreed. It was noted that Ben Keefe recommended moving forward and that a delay in the project could cost the town more. Given that Wayland has asked for and received money for other projects, a concern was raised about the MSBA's approval process when considering other districts as well. Paul noted that it would depend on the project, especially if there were major building projects being presented. Barb commented that Wayland has already received MSBA approval for two other school projects that are similar to this project. Barb described the timeline. She will confirm with Ben Keefe the timing and whether he is worried that MSBA will not approve the project.

(b) Continued Review of Draft Multi-Year Financial Model for the Schools and How Model relates to the FY17 Budget Process:

Barb described the development of the multi-year financial model as compared to the budget process for FY17 and how they have two different purposes. The former takes a more long-term view at a higher level, while the latter takes a more detailed look at a single fiscal year.

The Committee agreed that the Finance Subcommittee would meet with the Town Finance Director to better understand how the multi-year model fits into the Town's overall financial model.

*Jeanne left the meeting at 6:44 p.m.; returned at 6:46 p.m.*

(c) Discussion regarding Minuteman:

Jeanne commented that the Finance Committee currently does not have a position on Minuteman going into tonight. However, the Board of Selectmen supports Article 11 to withdraw from Minuteman. Jeanne reiterated the process to withdraw per the agreement with Minuteman, including the chain of events from last April to the present. It was reported that Lexington voted not to support Wayland's withdrawal from Minuteman. However, special counsel advised every town to still vote, as originally planned, even though Lexington voted against our withdrawal. Minuteman has asked the Board of Selectmen in member towns to consider a new agreement in terms of the debt for the Minuteman project, since the last agreement was tossed. Jeanne noted that many uncertainties remain, including transportation costs. Currently, only two Wayland students attend Minuteman.

Paul's concern is that if Wayland withdraws, Wayland could end up paying more and getting less, as the students won't get the programs they choose. Wayland would also lose access to a state-of-the-art building.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of Wayland's withdrawal. Donna commented that she feels it's important to support the Board of Selectmen's position.

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Donna Bouchard, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to support Warrant #11 as presented in the Special Town Meeting warrant for the fall of 2015.

3. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

(a) Review Proposed Supplement to Response Submitted to Attorney General related to Open Meeting Law Complaint filed on July 20, 2015 Citing Insufficient Detail in July 6, 2015 Meeting Notice:

The Committee discussed drafting a supplement to the initial response regarding the July 20, 2015 OML Complaint. It will be reviewed on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

It was also noted that the Attorney General requested copies of the July 6, 2015 executive session minutes, but since it wasn't properly noticed, this topic will be put on the November 16<sup>th</sup> agenda. The Attorney General is satisfied with this timeline.

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(b) Discussion of Request for Review of Jamieson Depositions:

The School Committee discussed Donna's request to review the depositions related to the Jamieson lawsuit being retained by Attorney Adam Simms. Donna noted that her request is in relation to the current situation in the Athletic Department to ensure all matters have been addressed. Ellen will contact Adam Simms regarding this request. Ellen asked Donna to report to the School Committee once she has read the depositions.

4. **School Policy Matters:**

*This agenda topic was postponed until November 10<sup>th</sup>.*

(a) Policies/Procedures for Review and Possible Acceptance:

- KCD (Public Gifts to the Schools)
- JJE (Student Fundraising Activities)
- KJA (Relations with Booster Organizations)
- Guidelines/Procedures for Support Organizations
- GBEB (Gifts and Solicitations by Staff)
- GBEA (Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest)
- DJA (Authorized Signatures)

5. **Executive Session:**

*The following Executive Session agenda topics will be discussed on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, including the continuation of Regular Matters as noted on the meeting notice.*

- (a) Continued Discussion of Strategy related to Negotiations with Custodians, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3)
- (b) Review of Executive Session Minutes for Possible Declassification, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22 as Listed on the Agenda
- (c) Review of Executive Session Minutes related to Attorney General's Decision 2015-99 regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint dated September 15, 2014 and Open Meeting Law Complaint dated November 24, 2014, both Claiming Improper Redaction of Material in Executive Session Minutes, and Possible Declassification of related Minutes, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §22

6. **Recess to Town Meeting:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to recess to Town Meeting at 7:24 p.m.

7. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn from Town Meeting at 10:30 p.m. *Donna was not present for the vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Mary Ellen Castagno, Wayland

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Draft Multi-Year Financial Model
3. Policies:
  - KCD (Public Gifts to the Schools)
  - JJE (Student Fundraising Activities)
  - KJA (Relations with Booster Organizations)
  - Guidelines/Procedures for Support Organizations

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- GBEC (Gifts and Solicitations by Staff)
- GBEA (Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest)
- DJA (Authorized Signatures)

4. Executive Session Minutes:

**2013** – September 3, September 16

**2014** – February 6, February 10, February 24, May 12, September 8, September 22 (#1), October 6, November 3, November 17

**2015** – January 29, March 9, April 6, August 3, 2015 (#1 & #2)

January 6, 2014  
January 9, 2014  
January 13, 2014  
January 16, 2014  
January 21, 2014  
January 27, 2014  
February 3, 2014  
March 24, 2014