

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – October 30, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, October 30, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Senior Center of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair
Nate Buffum
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Brad Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Susan Botta
School Business Administrator

Marlene Dodyk
Director of Student Services

The Chair convened the regular session at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

Jeffrey Brintz (sp), a senior at Wayland High School, supports a turf field over a grass field. He has played high school football for four years and, in the past, youth soccer and football. In his opinion, because of the importance of athletics in Wayland, it is time to move forward to keep up with other towns in terms of their sports complexes. Mr. Brintz added that the reality in Wayland is poorly maintained fields, and a turf field will allow for more playing time.

High school student Abigail Obar also supports a turf field vs. a grass field. She commented that just that afternoon she had a soccer practice on a field that was basically a mud pit, and this puts the teams at a disadvantage. Abigail referred to the fields in Wayland as not maintained well and in poor condition.

Nancy Peter supports a turf field for the following reasons. She coached youth soccer for 14 years and experienced the conditions of the fields firsthand describing the deplorable conditions of the fields in Wayland as being dust bowls and having spots of crabgrass. She cited some high usage statistics for the high school turf field and noted that a grass field could not withstand this usage. Ms. Peter also cited toxins emissions from lawn mowers and grass clipping waste according to the EPA.

As the president of youth soccer and the father of a WHS athlete, Reed Newton supports a turf field adding that if a grass field replaced the existing turf field, it would set Wayland back 30 years and would impact the sports programs considerably.

Steve Prince has coached town and club soccer for the past 8 to 10 years. He has traveled all over New England and he considers Wayland's fields to be one of the worst compared to other New England towns. He cited the need for more fields in Wayland, especially turf, because the kids play on muddy and choppy fields. Mr. Prince also supports a change in school start times.

Alexia Obar supports the high school turf field because grass fields are not playable in the spring, more injuries occur on compacted dirt, and Wayland's fields are the worst fields compared to the towns to which she has traveled. Ms. Obar does not support a change in school start times because she feels that any monies needed for transportation, for example, to change the times would be better spent to provide a basic education in Wayland. She cited some of the after school programs that could be affected, such as theater and sports, as well as the traffic issues that could cause a later return home for students.

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As a past member of the Wellhead Protection Committee, Tom Sciacca commented that this committee produced a comprehensive plan with recommendations for wellhead protection that included replacing the turf field when it wears out with grass. In Tom's opinion, the wells have been abused and the pure drinking water has gradually gotten worse over the last 50 years since he has been a resident. Mr. Sciacca cited inconsistencies in the results of the studies provided, such as the makeup of turf fields and the chemical constitution. He believes that a turf field will present health risks and recommended corkonut with no zinc for a turf field and would act as a filter for any contaminates to the wells; however, it wears out quicker and it is more expensive. Finally, he disagrees with the FAQ list in terms of new options for turf fields that have been available in the last ten years.

George Harris referred to the October 16th School Committee meeting at which Mr. Harris's Open Meeting Law (OML) complaints were discussed. He addressed ongoing issues about the Open Meeting Law – the amount of times School Committee has violated the OML since July 1, 2010, the process followed by the School Committee when an OML complaint is received, the Attorney General's findings, and the cost to the taxpayers. In his opinion, the law is not understood by the School Committee, even though it is beneficial to the School Committee's work.

Bill Cossart referred to an article stating that soccer female goalies in the State of Washington are getting cancer from playing on turf fields. In his opinion, this is a myth and a scare tactic. There is no evidence to back up this statement.

Frank Krasin commented that, according to Weston & Sampson, there are just as many toxins in the ground and in the dirt as there are in turf fields. He also stated that there is no scientific evidence that turf causes cancer.

As a member of the School Start Times Task Force, Sejal Srinivasan wanted to clarify earlier comments made. She commented on sleep start time studies in terms of facts presented and the benefits gained. Ms. Srinivasan recommended that the School Committee embrace the change as a philosophy and not look at the change as just about moving the start times. It is about the value of sleep, the demands on children, and how everything can be balanced because of the change. She noted that there is much misinformation circulating in town, adding that communication is key in implementing new strategies.

2. **Special Matter:**

(a) Receive and Discuss Superintendent's Recommendation regarding School Start Times:

Arthur presented his recommendation regarding school start times as a phased approach. The 2018 – 2019 school year would begin with Phase 1 and Phase 2 would be implemented in September 2019. The gradual change would optimize bus routes and is as follows:

Phase 1:		Phase 2:	
Elementary	9:00 a.m.	Elementary	9:00 a.m.
Middle School	7:55 a.m.	Middle School	8:05 a.m.
High School	7:50 a.m.	High School	8:00 a.m.

Approximately \$45,000 would be requested annually to offset the cost of a second bus for Boston elementary students. In preparation to reach a decision in January 2018, a discussion ensued regarding a time table to hold a staff meeting and a public forum, and to encourage all stakeholders to provide feedback. As a result, there will be an after school staff meeting on November 16 and a public forum on November 20.

3. **Financial Matters:**

(a) High School Master Athletic Plan Update:

- Status, Communication to Community and other Town Boards/Committees, Review and Revision of FAQ's, and Steps to Move Forward, including Possible Vote to Take a Position on Field Type at the High School Stadium Complex:

Jeanne commented that the School Committee has two warrant articles submitted for Special Town Meeting regarding the High School Stadium Complex. Article 9 is co-sponsored with the Rec Commission and Article 10 is co-sponsored with the Community Preservation Committee. Jeanne suggested ways in which to introduce the articles at Town Meeting and by whom.

Jeanne reviewed the project timeline, including the process for hiring an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and the final decision in terms of a turf field vs. a grass field. An approximate project timeline was provided by Ben Keefe if the article for the design fees passes at Town Meeting. The OPM cannot be from the same firm as the potential design firm.

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Jeanne also reviewed the resource delineation timeline and process. Susan noted the \$7,750 cost associated with a wetlands resource expert who will mark the boundaries of the wetlands in the river front area. There will be two transfers from contracted services and supplies from the Facilities budget to pay for this service.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to allocate the \$3,250 from contract services and transfer \$4,500 from other supplies as proposed by Susan in order to pay for the resource delineation for the High School Master Athletic Plan project as proposed by Susan.

Ben Keefe, Susan Bottan, and a School Committee member will be present for the bid opening for the OPM.

Upon a motion duly made Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to nominate Jeanne Downs to be the School Committee representative for the bid openings for the Owner's Project Manager.

- Prepare for Presentation of Articles regarding Master Athletic Plan at Fall Town Meeting:
The School Committee reviewed the dates for the school master athletic plan presentations:
 - Claypit Hill – morning of November 2
 - High School – evening of November 2
 - Middle School – morning of November 9
 - Happy Hollow, Loker, and TCW – evening of November 9

Ellen informed the Committee that the warrant does not contain the Weston & Sampson pictures of the high school project, but there is a link to the pictures on the website. A copy is also available at the library and in the Superintendent's office.

The School Committee discussed the permitting process through the Conservation Commission and Massachusetts DEP, with the first possible step of closing out the old Order of Conditions. Jeanne read a statement from Ben Keefe in this regard. Finally, the School Committee reviewed the FAQ's in terms of accurate information being presented, such as clarification about the number of adults and students who use the fields. Information regarding peer towns and DCL towns will be included as well.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to support the use of a synthetic turf field in connection with the design of the new high school stadium complex.

Ellen noted that the motion does not indicate the specific type of synthetic turf for possible use. A discussion followed the motion, including the members' reasons for supporting synthetic turf over grass.

Ellen left the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Review of the FAQ's continued.

- Communication with Community and Other Town Boards/Committees:
A communication will be drafted by Jeanne about the existing open Order of Conditions for the November 6th meeting. Kathie suggested that CPC design funds should be requested soon in preparation for addressing any questions regarding the design of the stadium complex.

(b) Approval of Building Use Fee:

Susan described the fee procedures that reflect increases based on custodial salaries, as written in the building use agreement. Thus, approval is not required by the School Committee.

(c) Review and Discuss FY2018 Quarter 1 Financial Report:

Susan reported on the Q1 Financial Report that includes the period July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017. Susan noted that all funds budgeted will be spent based on year-end balance assumptions. There is a projected balance

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of \$142,000 from the FY18 budget resulting from savings from Special Education tuition and transportation. Currently, there is a break even balance in personnel of which Susan explained, but it will be monitored throughout the school year. Susan commented that there could be some shift in year-end projections as a result of a possible mild or severe winter, maternity leaves, and fluctuation in enrollment. A discussion ensued about the tight FY18 budget.

Kathie thanked Susan and Marlene for their work in building capacity in the district and identifying efficiencies in delivering services. This effort was collaborative with staff.

Upon a motion duly made by Kim Reichelt, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjust the agenda as needed to accommodate Ellen's schedule.

(d) Report regarding Ongoing Work from the Finance Subcommittee, as Posted on the Finance Subcommittee's Meeting Agenda of October 23, 2017:

Aside from the topics discussed earlier in the meeting, Jeanne commented on and asked about the approval of prior year invoices. Susan commented that they will be approved at the November 6th meeting.

Susan reported on her conversation with DPW Director Tom Holder about the School Committee's concerns regarding the landfill proposal to develop space to park the school buses. According to Weston & Sampson, it is very possible that there could be enough space at the site to accommodate the DPW's and school department's needs. Susan explained further.

Finally, Susan informed the Committee that Finance Director Brian Keveny will present the town's Q1 Financial Report in November. The School Committee discussed developing better communication with the Finance Committee during budget season.

4. **Educational Matters:**

(a) Hear Superintendent's Report regarding Special Events and Ongoing Initiatives:

Arthur reported on his work with the administrators regarding the budget process and in preparation for the December budget presentation, as well as an update regarding his work with experts and other district superintendents to form a head injury awareness committee.

(b) Receive and Discuss the 2018 Enrollment Report with FY2019 to FY2022 Enrollment Projections:

Susan provided an overview of the FY18 Enrollment Report and commented that enrollment is sent to DESE for its determination of Chapter 70 funding. Enrollment projections are used to determine the following year's enrollment and class size. For FY18, there was a projected increase of 21 students; however, there were 52 for which Susan broke down by grade levels. As a result of real estate sales, there were 43 new elementary students and 30 middle school students. Susan noted that FY19 enrollment projects are expected to increase by one percent. She described enrollment forecasts in the out years based on new construction in Wayland, adding that NESDEC projects an average of 1.5% annual increase through FY28. Susan commented that because of increased enrollment there will be an impact to the FY19 budget in terms of staffing, particularly for specialists. Marlene noted that there are about 20 ESL students in the schools and the numbers are increasing. The enrollment will be given to the Finance Committee.

A discussion followed regarding budget planning as a result of new construction in Wayland and the percentage of students expected. Susan added that tear downs, new residential units and location of new construction are tracked for budget purposes.

5. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

(a) Discussion regarding Meeting Agenda for Boston Meeting on November 6, 2017:

The School Committee reviewed the agenda for its meeting with Boston parents on November 6, 2017. There will be a Q & A session with the Boston families that will include school start times.

(b) Discussion regarding Request for Representation from School Committee at League of Women Voters' Forum regarding Fall Town Meeting Articles:

Jeanne informed the School Committee that the League of Women Voters' Forum is November 8th at which School Committee will discuss the high school articles and the salary fund transfer for contracts.

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- (c) Discussion regarding Proposed Presentation on Wayland Buzz on November 1, 2017:
Ellen and Jeanne will tape a program at the Wayland BUZZ about the Wayland High School Master Athletic Plan that will air November 5th.

- (d) Review of Outstanding Document Requests and Responses and Discussion of Procedures for Response to Such Requests:
Jeanne commented that there are no outstanding document requests at this time. Ellen, Jeanne, and the recording secretary will be copied on all emails for document requests. A discussion ensued in terms of the process of making a public records request, responding to the request within ten business days, the possibility of creating one email address for such requests, and logging and tracking public records requests and Open Meeting Law complaints.

Ellen returned to the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

- (e) Review and Possible Vote to Approve the Revised 2018-2019 School Calendar:
Brad informed the School Committee that the observance of Veterans' Day on Monday, November 12, 2018 was added to the calendar.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted (4-0-1) (Kim abstained) to approve the revised calendar as presented.

- (f) Discussion regarding School Committee Schedule: Public Forum on December 4, a Separate Forum regarding School Start Times, and a Date for the Budget Hearing:
This agenda item was passed over.

- (g) Review of Public Communications from the School Committee:
Kim will present a draft article regarding School Start Times for the School Committee's review on November 6th.

6. **Financial Matters (continued):**

- (a) Prepare for Presentation of Article regarding Funding for Staff Compensation at Fall Town Meeting:
Ellen will present the article regarding funding for staff compensation at Fall Town Meeting on November 14th. The draft presentation will be reviewed at the November 6th meeting.

- (b) Discussion of Budget Calendar, Budget Presentations, Finance Committee Guideline and Communication with Finance Committee:
Ellen and Jeanne distributed to the School Committee a draft communication written to the Finance Committee for the purpose of receiving clarification about the upcoming budget process and the FinCom budget guidelines. The School Committee reviewed the memo.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Nate Buffum, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to send the memorandum as amended to the entire Finance Committee, School Committee, Brian Keveny, Susan Bottan, Arthur Unobskey, and Nan Balmer.

7. **Administrative/Procedural Matters (continued):**

- (a) Discussion of Open Meeting Law Complaints Filed by George Harris on August 22, 2017, August 31, 2017 and June 7, 2017 (Alleging Insufficient Detail of Executive Session Minutes), July 18, 2017 (Alleging Failure to Timely Produce Minutes), September 19, 2017 (Alleging Insufficient Detail in Agenda), and September 28, 2017 (Alleging Failure to Produce Minutes in a Timely Manner):
Ellen conveyed her discussions with George Harris regarding the July 18, 2017 OML complaint in which the May 8, 2017 minutes were requested but not produced in a timely manner. This complaint is still outstanding and has been filed as an intentional complaint with the Attorney General. Ellen reviewed the Committee's options in terms of moving forward with a response to the finding of an intentional violation by the Attorney General that includes a \$500 fine. A discussion ensued regarding the intent of the law, the intention of the School Committee to act in good faith despite the number of OML complaints since this past summer.

Ellen also conveyed her discussion with George Harris regarding his OML complaint of September 19, 2017 that maintains that specific topics should be provided under the Superintendent's Report and the Finance Subcommittee's Report if known prior to posting. Otherwise, topics could be discussed in "Matters not Reasonably

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Anticipated by the Chair.” In addition, if the Finance Subcommittee’s agenda is referenced, it should be attached to the agenda. A discussion ensued about the content of the agenda moving forward, the steps and process of filing an OML complaint, and the enormous responsibility of the Chair to address these OML complaints. Ellen will call the Attorney General’s office to ask if the Town attorney’s letter will be taken into consideration, if the School Committee can offer additional information for consideration, to convey the School Committee’s opinion that the fine is inappropriate in this instance, and to ask for suggestions regarding the agenda.

8. **Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:**

None.

9. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated October 30, 2017, in the amount of \$494,593.44
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Student Activities Warrant, dated October 30, 2017, in the amount of \$4,394.35
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated October 25, 2017, in the amount of \$1,427,088.16

(b) Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Session of August 29, 2017
- Regular Session of October 16, 2017

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda.

10. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 10:20 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Food Service workers, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a) (3), as such 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 and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the bargaining position of the School Committee; discuss Open Meeting Law Complaints filed by George Harris on July 7, 2017 alleging insufficient detail in Executive Session minutes, July 18, 2017 alleging failure to produce minutes, both in violation of M.G.L. c.30A, §22, and September 19, 2017 alleging insufficient detail in agenda in violation of M.G.L., c.30A, §20, and September 28, 2017 alleging failure to produce minutes in a timely manner in violation of M.G.L. c.30A, §22; review of executive session minutes for possible declassification, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: July 24, 2017, August 7, 2017, August 21, 2017, August 29, 2017, September 5, 2017, and September 18, 2017; and approval of the following Executive Session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: August 29, 2017 and October 16, 2017. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools, Brad Crozier, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will reconvene in open session for adjournment purposes only.

11. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 10:41 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Tom Sciacca, WVN
Irene Rideout, 29 Highgate Road
Reed Newton, 9 Haven Lane
Nancy Peter, 12 Blossom Lane
Steve Prince, 15 Hidden Springs Lane
Jackie Moquin, Claypit Hill School
Carlos Villataro, 13 Pollock Road
Bill Cossart, 87 Old Sudbury Road
Sejal T. Sirinivasan, 35 Covered Bridge Lane

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Special Town Meeting Warrant 2017
3. Chart regarding Actual Field Reservations
4. FY18 Enrollment Report
5. Revised 2018-2019 School Year Calendar
6. Regular Minutes of October 16, 2017
7. EPA Review Summary of Tire Crumb Rubber Studies
8. FAQ's regarding the High School Athletic Stadium Complex Project
9. Powerpoint Presentation regarding the High School Athletic Stadium Complex Project
10. Weston & Sampson Public Meeting Presentation – 9/12/2017
11. Status Report re: Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb
12. Executive Session Motion