

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – November 6, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, November 6, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. at Boston Police Headquarters, Boston, MA.

Present were:

Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair

Nate Buffum

Kim Reichelt

Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Ellen Grieco, Chair

Also:

Arthur Unobskey

Superintendent

1. **Boston Parents' Meeting:**

(a) Activity for All – Facilitated by Brian Jones:

Brian began the activity by asking everyone in the room to introduce themselves. Brian explained that the administrators would like to get feedback from the Boston parents about the following:

- Strengths and values of the school system
- Areas for improvement
- Ways in which parents and administrators can collaborate effectively

Some of the input is as follows:

In terms of areas for improvement, some of the items included more communication to the point of over communication, improve the emergency phone chain, more interactive activities with both Boston and Wayland families during off school hours, more diversity training for Wayland staff and parents. Some suggested having parent to teacher/school conference calls. Other areas suggested for improvement are more STEM projects, schedule time for Wayland/Boston students – possibly in the diversity room, offer after-school help for homework, and offer more high school finance classes. Attending events for parents and students can sometimes be difficult and would prefer more weekend and Friday night activities with some being held in Boston.

Parents would like to protect the enrichment programs, Water Warriors, and the diversity room. All parents agreed that the teachers are supportive and communication between staff and students and teachers and parents is very good. They would like to keep the late bus and regular bus routes, maintain the same school schedules, keep the reading and math specialists, and continue the Boost Program. Parents commented that having Wayland host families and car pool chains are helpful. Overall, they would like to be assured that the METCO Program will continue in Wayland.

Vice Chair Jeanne Downs convened the regular meeting at 8:17 p.m.

2. **School Committee Meeting:**

(a) Open Discussion regarding Wayland Public School Issues, including School Start Times:

Arthur presented his recommendation for school start times and explained how he and the task force reached this recommendation, including the next steps in the process. Arthur spoke about the overwhelming evidence in terms of high school students needing more sleep for overall health and wellness. Arthur commented that there is a strong desire to make a change, although there are some constraints: finances, the METCO Program, elementary school times, transportation, and after school sports.

Arthur commented that his recommendation is 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, adding that there would be two METCO elementary buses, as opposed to one, at a cost of \$37,500 – one from Claypit and one for Loker and Happy Hollow students – allowing students to get home earlier.

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Phase 1:

Elementary 9:00 a.m.
Middle School 7:55 a.m.
High School 7:50 a.m.

Phase 2:

Elementary 9:00 a.m.
Middle School 8:05 a.m.
High School 8:00 a.m.

3. Comments from the Public:

METCO parents expressed the following concerns:

- Transportation issues
- Inclement weather
- Parents' work schedules
- After school sports
- After school jobs for students
- Excessive homework
- A later arrival in Boston at the end of the day
- A later bed time
- The whole family is affected
- Does not benefit elementary students
- Unfair to Boston families/must be unified

Other comments were directed to the most recent change in the current Boston bus routes, including the lack of notice given to the parents and that some students are being dropped off at stops that are quite a distance from their homes.

Arthur and Mabel assured the parents that the bus routes would be re-examined the next day.

4. Superintendent's Report:

(a) Superintendent's FY18 Goals:

Arthur distributed his proposed goals for FY18 that follow the UNITED goals structure and will be approved by the School Committee at a future meeting. A discussion ensued regarding Arthur's evaluation going forward in terms of the process.

(b) Appointment of Volunteer Coach:

Arthur informed the School Committee that in accordance with School Committee Policy GBEA (Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest), he is appointing Ben Downs as the volunteer assistant swim coach, given that Ben is the husband of Committee member Jeanne Downs. The Downs have completed and filed a Conflict of Interest form.

(c) Superintendent Survey for Entry Plan Study:

Arthur described the survey that he will administer to the Middle School and High School students, parents of all students, and teachers with a possibility of including teacher assistants. The survey will seek input about their experiences in Wayland – what works, what can be done better, and where the focus should be. He will form a focus group during December to review the data from the surveys with the goal of having a vision for the schools by June 2018. There was a suggestion to include Wayland alumni through social media, specifically Facebook.

5. Financial Matters:

(a) High School Master Athletic Plan:

School Presentations: Two out of the four presentations have been given; two more are scheduled for November 9th.

Review of Town Meeting Statements: Jeanne distributed her Town Meeting comments for Articles 9 and 10. The School Committee reviewed the comments for content and verbiage.

(b) Revised Town Meeting Statement for Article 6:

The School Committee reviewed Ellen's remarks pertaining to Article 6. A discussion followed about the process and the source of the funding for Article 6.

(c) Approval of Three Prior Year Invoices:

Jeanne explained that three high school bills were received after June 30, 2017 for which money was encumbered.

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She named the vendors and the amounts owed, adding that these invoices have been included in the town warrant for payment.

Upon a motion duly made Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the three late bills for WhiteWater, Inc. - \$9,817.04, Needham Electric Supply - \$167.34, South Shore Generator Sales & Service - \$170.25, for a total of \$10,154.63 and to recommend they be paid at Town Meeting under the prior year invoice article.

(d) Finance Subcommittee Update:

- High School Master Athletic Plan:
The Finance Subcommittee discussed the FAQ's and resource delineation.
- Communication with the Finance Committee:
Jeanne noted that the Finance Committee has not met since the School Committee sent them its memo, so no response has yet been received.
- Budget Calendar:
The budget presentation for the Council on Aging is January 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

(e) Approval of Payroll Warrant:

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the payroll warrant.

6. **Administrative/Procedural Matters (out of order):**

(a) Discussion regarding Thursday, November 16th Meeting with Staff regarding School Start Times Proposal:

The School Committee discussed the logistics and format of the meeting as well as possible topics that may arise during the meeting. The time for the meeting was changed to 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

(b) Review of Public Communications from the School Committee, including Article Written by Kim Reichelt – “School Start Times”:

The School Committee reviewed Kim's article for content and verbiage. Some changes were made and a suggestion was made to add a section regarding elementary-aged children. The Committee discussed distribution of the article.

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

None.

8. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Kim Reichelt, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 11:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See attached.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda and Backup Information
2. Superintendent's Proposed Goals for FY18
3. School Start Time Task Force Report and Recommendation
4. Invoices: WhiteWater, Inc., Needham Electric Supply, South Shore Generator Sales & Service
5. Memo regarding Public Notification of Appointment for Volunteer Assistant Swim Coach
6. Ellen Grieco's draft of remarks regarding Article 6
7. Jeanne Down's draft of remarks regarding Articles 9 and 10
8. School Start Times Article