

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – February 26, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, February 26, 2018, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room 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

Marlene Dodyk  
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan  
School Business Administrator

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the regular session at 7:03 p.m.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

1. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. for the purposes of discussing with counsel strategy in the pending lawsuit titled *Stephen Cass v. Town of Wayland, et al, USDC D. Mass., CA No. 1:17-CV-11441*, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(3); approving the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: February 13, 2018. 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, Attorney Adam Simms, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will reconvene in open session to conduct its regular meeting.

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

Tom Sciacca asked the School Committee to strongly support the library proposal for several reasons, citing a conversation he had with a Russian professor of political science. Tom added that a critical issue facing this country today is sorting real news/information from that which is not real. Librarians are information experts who sort out real from fake and can positively contribute to this issue. Another reason is the close proximity to the Middle School, as students can take advantage of the facility after school.

On a different topic, Tom Sciacca commented that there are more environmental issues surrounding the proposed turf fields in comparison to those of many years ago when the first turf field was installed at the High School. In his opinion, a vote for artificial turf will be a vote for football vs. the environment.

Kim Reichelt read a public comment from Sejal Srinivasan in support of the National School Walkout scheduled for March 14, 2018. Ms. Srinivasan asked the School Committee to support this event as well.

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3. **Financial Matters:**

- (a) Continued Review and Discussion of School Budgets, Articles for Town Meeting and Related Comments for the Warrant, Debt Exclusion, Funding Sources, CIP for Network Improvements at the Middle School, and Requests for Information:

The School Committee discussed the recent information received by Ellen and Jeanne regarding the Finance Committee's Omnibus Budget Presentation and the Finance Committee's comments for the warrant. Ellen and Jeanne requested an updated draft before the warrant print deadline of March 1, but have not received one yet. The School Committee discussed submitting its own comments, as there is a concern that the information presented in these documents is inconsistent, inaccurate, and difficult to follow, and the School Committee will not meet again before March 1. The School Committee discussed its options moving forward and agreed to authorize Jeanne and Ellen to send an email to the Chair, copy to the Finance Committee, in response to the information related to the schools, including a request to add a disclaimer in the warrant. Specific language will be provided for the disclaimer.

Kathie added that the Debt Exclusion will be presented at the League of Women Voters meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, as well as a possible budget presentation, by the Chair of the Finance Committee. Jeanne and Kathie explained what it would mean if the Debt Exclusion fails, adding that the projects could still go forward to town meeting, as the option would be available to use non-exempt debt for each project. A discussion ensued in this regard.

Jeanne updated the School Committee regarding the IT warrant for the upgrade. Given the approval by the Board of Selectmen and the non-approval of the Finance Committee of the article, a new CIP was created for both the town and schools, separating out the Middle School phone upgrade.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the budget for the School Department for the \$386,000 CIP for the Middle School network wiring.

A discussion followed of the other school capital projects that were part of the original IT warrant article that could be delayed a year.

The School Committee will review the budget slide presentation for Town Meeting on March 12.

- (b) Review and Re-vote of FY2019 OPEB Amount:

Susan informed the School Committee that the Finance Committee voted to approve a new per FTE OPEB amount for the annual contribution of \$43,620. The original amount voted by the School Committee was \$43,992. Full Day Kindergarten will be voted separately.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted (4-1) (Kathie opposed) to approve an OPEB contribution for \$6,937 for Full Day Kindergarten for FY19.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve an annual OPEB contribution for all programs, except for Full Day Kindergarten, of \$36,683 for FY19.

- (c) Review and Re-vote of WSCP Extended Day Kindergarten Program Fee:

Susan described the new offering created by the Director of WSCP for the extended day kindergarten program that will offer more enrichment and creativity and would be called BASE Explorers. The fee would decrease from \$3,400 to \$3,000 for the same five days, and the enrollment is expected to increase. Jeanne added that Pat Keefe came to the Finance Subcommittee meeting with her proposal.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Nate Buffum, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the new fees for the BASE Explorers Program for the FY19 tuition as presented in Pat Keefe's memo.

- (d) Review, Discussion, and Possible Vote to Support and/or Co-sponsor Articles for Annual Town Meeting, including Article D (OPEB), Article X (Library), Article Y (Loker Field):  
Article D (OPEB):

In terms of co-sponsoring Article D, Kathie noted her disapproval of the significant increase in OPEB contributions

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for the WSCP programs, adding that there has been no explanation in this regard, and an increase each year will substantially affect these programs, as well not being in the best interest of the schools. Susan noted the questions she asked of the Finance office in terms of the increase and the full funding date for OPEB. She suggested that Klaus Shigley attend a School Committee or Finance Subcommittee meeting to offer more clarification in this regard.

*Article X (Library):*

The School Committee discussed why the School Committee should support Article X, despite the proposed costs.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Nate Buffum, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to support the library project.

*Article Y (Loker Field):*

Jeanne commented that if the new Loker turf field passes at Town Meeting, it could be available for the high school teams to practice during the construction of the High School athletic complex. However, all stakeholders (schools, recreation, facilities) will determine the best timeline for the project. Kim expressed her concerns about having a second turf field in Wayland. A discussion ensued about the reasons why, or why not, the School Committee should support the Loker field.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Nate Buffum, the School Committee voted (4-1) (Kim opposed) to support the Loker turf field article.

(e) High School Master Athletic Plan:

- Communication with other Town Boards and Committees
- Resolution of Outstanding Order of Conditions
- Update on Owner's Project Manager and Architect Selection Process
- Conservation Commission's Permit Requirements
- Draft Warrants for Annual Town Meeting
- Review of Project Timeline
- Next Steps

Jeanne informed the School Committee that Weston & Sampson will present new, more detailed, plans to the Permanent Municipal Building Committee on February 27. The PMBC and Weston & Sampson will also discuss the post April schedule in terms of the project. Other dates to remember are March 7, the Turf Field Public Forum, and March 5, the League of Women Voters meeting. Finally, the final articles will be submitted, as edited by Jeanne and Klaus Shigley.

Kathie referred to some of the studies done in the past about tire crumb rubber that were reviewed by the Conservation Commission as part of the current evaluation being done to determine the best artificial turf. These studies were also reviewed by some state agencies as well in 2016 when this project was first proposed. Town Boards were asked if other information, aside from that which Kathie mentioned, should be considered in this process. A discussion ensued in this regard.

(f) Discussion on Issues Relating to School Safety:

In light of the recent Florida school shooting, Kathie suggested that the community is made aware of the steps that are being taken in Wayland to avoid a similar situation, including identifying risks and how they are being managed. It was noted that there will be an upgrade to the Middle School phone system.

Arthur added that there is a focus in the schools to prepare staff and students on all aspects of how to deal with an emergency situation, such as practicing the ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) protocol and in coordination with the police and fire departments. Given the open campus policy at the High School, this policy will be closely watched. Middle and high school students are also offered much support on a regular basis, encouraging them to share their fears and concerns on topics that are of concern to them.

(g) Discussion of Grant Ideas/Requests for Wayland Public Schools Foundation:

Ellen commented that the WPSF grant requests from teachers are due next week and she asked if the School Committee should take a more important role in this process.

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Brad noted that the grant cycle was changed from September to March and described the application and decision making process. Brad will keep the School Committee updated on the status of the grants.

(h) Discussion of Budget Calendar, Calendar for Town Meeting Articles:

This agenda item was passed over; discussed earlier in the meeting.

(i) Finance Subcommittee Update:

- OPEB Update
- Extended Day Kindergarten Update
- Communication with Finance Committee

In addition to topics covered earlier, Jeanne reported that the Finance Subcommittee discussed the MUNIS Letter of Agreement, as presented by Susan Bottan, to upgrade human resources information. This will allow more time to analyze data and will eliminate some paperwork. Also discussed were potential policies surrounding collection of WSCP fees.

4. **Educational Matters:**

(a) Hear Superintendent's Report:

- School Visits
- Discussion of Entry Report Part A
- Update on Computer Science
- Spanish Immersion Program Letter

Arthur informed the School Committee that the district-wide faculty in-service program on February 28 will be a discussion of how our educators prepare students to become impactful citizens. Arthur elaborated on the program. Mr. George Bachrach will be the guest speaker. Moving forward, administrators will help students find their voices and safety protocols will be reviewed.

*Entry Plan Report:*

The administrators will identify strategic goals for the next three years, such as civic engagement, writing, world language, transition between school levels, etc., that build on the UNITED priorities. The next step will be to involve all the district stakeholders (staff, students, community, School Committee) in this regard. Arthur described his plan to move forward regarding these goals. Arthur received positive feedback from the School Committee regarding his Entry Report. Kathie commented on possible performance measurements, personalized learning, and identification and allocation of resources. A discussion ensued regarding the Entry Plan. Arthur will keep the School Committee apprised of his meetings with the stakeholders. He informed the Committee that a group of high school students will attend the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, and high school student leaders will attend the May 7<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

*Computer Science:*

Arthur commented on eSchool plus plus, a program that was developed by a student and can be accessible to students. However, he noted that there are issues related to student privacy and third party issues resulting in blocked access. Kim advocated that this program could be extremely useful to students on campus. A discussion ensued in this regard.

*Spanish Immersion Program:*

Arthur commented that there will be a parent information session on March 28 at Claypit Hill School, as letters were included in the Kindergarten enrollment packet to families. A coordinator/curriculum designer has been hired and she will work collaboratively with High School Assistant Principal Jim Nocito. All students are eligible to participate in this class. Brad elaborated on the plan to implement moving forward.

5. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

(a) Review and Discussion of any Outstanding Document and/or Minutes Requests:

There are no outstanding document and/or minutes requests.

(b) Discussion regarding School Committee Schedule, including Presentation on New Programs Funded in FY18 Budget:

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This agenda item was passed over.

- (c) Discussion of Open Meeting Law Response Process, including Possible Review of Spreadsheet and Discussion of Open Meeting Law Complaints Filed by George Harris on November 3, 2017 (Alleging that Proper Procedure was not Followed in Responding to a Previous OML Complaint.) and September 28, 2017 (Alleging Failure to Produce Minutes in a Timely Manner):

This agenda item was passed over.

- (d) Review of Public Communications from the School Committee:

This agenda item was passed over.

- (e) Conflict of Interest and OML Training:

Ellen reminded Committee members to participate in the conflict of interest training that is done every two years. She also mentioned the Open Meeting Law training session sponsored by the MASC.

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

None.

7. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Approval of Invoices from CBI Consulting and Colliers International regarding the Loker School MSBA Accelerated Repair Project:

- CBI Consulting
  - \$750.00
  - \$1,500.00
- Colliers International
  - \$2,348.50

- (b) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:

There are no warrants at this time.

- (c) Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Session of February 5, 2018

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

8. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

**Observers:**

Tom Sciacca, WVN  
Deirdre Bergeron, Happy Hollow Teacher

**Corresponding Documentation:**

1. Agenda and Backup Information
2. Public Comment read by Kim Reichelt from a Resident
3. Invoices from CBI Consulting and Colliers International
4. OPEB & Health Benefits Information
5. Regular Session Minutes of February 5, 2018
6. Executive Session Motion