

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – March 9, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, March 9, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Jeanne Downs, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)
Nate Buffum
Kathie Steinberg
Kim Reichelt (by remote)

Also:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Nancy Peter, President of Boosters
Malcolm Astley, Youth Advisory Committee
Pam Cerne, Youth Advisory Committee
Colleen Morneweck, SEPAC Co-chair
Anne-Louise Klaus, SEPAC Co-chair
Allyson Mizoguchi, WHS Principal
Ruth Mori, Wayland Public Health Nurse

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session in the School Committee Room at 7:02 p.m.; the meeting was recorded by WayCAM.

1. Comments and Written Statements from the Public:

There were no comments and written statements from the public.

2. Special Matters:

(a) Recognition of Support Organizations:

Jeanne Downs thanked and expressed the School Committee's appreciation to the six support organizations that have raised approximately \$700,000 for the Wayland Public Schools: Wayland Public Schools Foundation (WPSF), Wayland PTO, Creative Arts Parent Association (CAPA), Boosters, the Boston Parents Council, and The Children's Way Parent Organization.

Nancy Peter, President of Boosters, described the Boosters' fundraising in support of both high school and middle school sports, including the first annual fundraiser to sell bricks to be placed at the new high school athletic complex around the flagpole.

(b) Discussion with Youth Advisory Committee Representatives:

School Committee appointed liaisons, Malcolm Astley and Pam Cerne presented an update. The Wayland Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) oversees the function of mental health needs and services and, in an advisory capacity, oversees the function of Wayland Youth and Family Services and the subset group Wayland Cares both led by Jason Vorhoosky.

Pam Sawin addressed staffing, fundraising, and youth and community education. The Federal Grant that funded much of the programming will end this year; thus, fundraising efforts are underway with a goal to raise the needed \$25,000 per year. The Wayland Youth and Family Services licensed professionals have a full caseload dealing with

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anxiety, depression and parenting issues and, if needed, referrals will be made case by case. Some of the programs within Wayland include a youth leadership group, a “snack and relax” program at the high school that includes support and meditation, and a birthday wishes group that supports homeless youth attending the middle school. Community events include the MetroWest Adolescent Youth Survey that is in collaboration with the principals, and an educational night regarding vaping as well as offering other assistance to the community in this regard.

Ellen left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Other events include an elementary Internet Safety Night, Winter Week high school activities, and a middle school presentation regarding students’ presence on social media, middle school social nights, and, in the future, two public service videos regarding a perspective on stress for parents and the youth. In addition, advice is offered for healthy celebrating around prom and a summer youth empowerment program for students in grades 8 to 12.

Malcolm updated the School Committee regarding violence prevention programs and the White Ribbon Campaign, including the statistics, the indicators, and what is being done to keep people safe. This is all done in collaboration with the Sudbury/Wayland/Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable. There will be a White Ribbon Ceremony on March 10, 2020 at which time the film “Boys Don’t Cry” will be shown. Wayland Cares website provides much information.

The School Committee thanked everyone in their efforts to provide these important programs.

Ellen returned to the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

(c) Introduction of and Discussion with SEPAC Co-chairs:

The SEPAC co-chairs, Colleen Morneweck and Anne-Louise Klaus, noted that the focus of SEPAC is to provide a place where everyone can feel comfortable knowing that their children’s needs are being addressed. A social support network has been created for parents at Waylandsepac@gmail.com, and there will be school liaisons to support them. A basic rights presentation will be held in May, and their next meeting is scheduled for March 12. They will update the School Committee later in the school year regarding SEPAC’s ongoing efforts.

3. **Educational Matters:**

(a) Presentation of Proposals regarding the Gossels Fund for Academic Excellence and Possible Vote to Approve the Proposals:

Allyson Mizoguchi presented three proposals related to civics learning and respect for student differences that could be funded from the Gossels Fund for Academic Excellence.

The first proposal is to address the needs of the 21st Century classroom by creating a teacher fellowship program that allows each year a floating .2 FTE that is allocated to specific departments in which there is an idea to explore fully instructional practices and how curriculum is being taught. An instructional leadership team would be in place that includes academic department chairs, the innovation fellow, teacher coach Eva Urban, and Mary Barber. This effort would be piloted and funded by the Gossels Fund for the first year with the goal of adding the .2 FTE within the budget moving forward. Allyson recommends social studies teacher David Schmirer for this .2 position, and she described his role in looking at the Modern World course for ninth graders. This would entail doing research, attending workshops, and visiting other districts. The cost for this proposal would be \$15,000.

The second proposal involves funding and supporting the “Facing History in Ourselves” organization to help the social studies department to implement a holocaust unit in the tenth grade, given students will no longer have this unit in 8th grade, and to rethink the grades 9 through 12 curriculum around social justice and civics. The department would work with two professionals from the organization throughout the year during department time, release time and on “Super Wednesdays” at a cost of \$12,000. A question was posed if the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip would be impacted by this decision.

Finally, the third proposal centers around the new history and social studies frameworks in which there is a graduation requirement for students to do a civics project enabling them to have a civics experience. This funding of about \$4,000 would provide summer work for all social studies department staff for one day to review the civics curriculum and to move ahead with a plan that fulfills this requirement.

Upon a motion duly made by Nate Buffum, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the three proposals as stated today by Allyson and to be funded by the Gossels Fund for Academic

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Excellence. A roll call vote was taken:

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

The School Committee, Arthur, Allyson thanked the Gossels family for these exciting opportunities.

(b) Superintendent's Report:

- School Visits – COVID-19:

Arthur updated the School Committee in regard to the School Department's and Board of Health's collaboration in navigating the concerns of COVID-19. Ruth Mori was present as well to answer any questions posed by the School Committee. Superintendents and DESE are all working together in this regard, but all decisions will be made at the district level for now. Although the threat of COVID-19 remains low in Wayland right now, the schools are being cleaned thoroughly, students are being taught best hygiene, concerts have been cancelled, and international trips have been cancelled. However, domestic trips at this time are pending. If the schools were closed for one or two days for cleaning, they would be treated as "snow" days. DESE instructions will be given if there are longer closures and virtual learning is implemented.

Susan updated the School Committee on the daily school sanitizing and the protocols in place. Buses are being sanitized daily and changes have been made in terms of food delivery for students. Parry shared the planning he and the principals are discussing if virtual learning were necessary at all grade levels. It will vary from elementary, middle school and high school, and he provided guidelines which includes about 3.5 hours of virtual instruction per day. Parry noted that protocols around EL and Special Education are more challenging. Richard has taken a similar approach in how to service EL and Special Education students in an appropriate format. Speech, occupational and physical therapy will be much more difficult. However, communication is key and he is waiting for some guidance in terms of educational compliance from DESE. Decisions about MCAS are pending.

A discussion ensued about those students who may have to self-quarantine for two weeks. A survey will be launched to determine the need for technology and Internet, as well as the need for adult learning support in the home. In addition, there is no established framework for a long-term school closure.

Ruth Mori added that the BOH is constantly gathering information in an effort to communicate to the public the newest guidance received. Currently, there are no positive COVID-19 cases in Wayland, but as more testing is done, there could be an increase in cases. They are working on case-by-case situations at this time. Ruth added that the Department of Public Health does not recommend closing school buildings for the seasonal flu, unless there is a shortage of educational instructors. In terms of how long the virus can stay on surfaces, there is no guidance currently.

Arthur thanked Ruth, Julia Junghanns, Louise Miller, and the custodians and school nurses for all of their efforts.

4. **Policy Matters:**

(a) Review and Discussion of Policies:

- JH – Student Absences and Excuses

The Policy Subcommittee reviewed this policy, given the current procedure for AP biology testing. Allyson commented that the instructor for this course will be scaling tests regardless of when students take tests beginning immediately and for the future moving forward. The scale will be the same for all students.

Kim described the proposed updated policy and recommended the policy as compared to MASC, the attorney's recommendations, and the current policy in place. Jeanne recommended following the normal procedure to put the policy out for public comment for 30 days. Allyson confirmed that no other class has a similar scaling practice. A discussion ensued regarding approvals of why students would miss a test, such as illness, bereavement, observance of religious holidays, and approved school-related activities which would include sports and field trips. Family vacations are also an issue regarding absenteeism. Allyson noted that excessive student absenteeism is being

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discussed at the high school adding that mechanisms are in place and looked at on a case by case basis.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to put Policy JH out for public comment for 30 days. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

The “ultimate” version of the policy containing legal counsel’s changes and MASC’s changes to the current policy will be posted for review and public comment.

5. **Financial Matters:**

(a) Continued Review and Discussion of All School Budgets, including Budget Drivers, Assumptions, Fees and Funding Sources, and Requests for Information:

Kathie commented that she has received questions about Town Meeting regarding what the School Committee and the Finance Committee has approved in terms of the warrant. A discussion ensued about what has been discussed in terms of the possibility of amending the budget on Town Meeting floor. As discussed by the Finance Subcommittee, another topic that could be raised on Town Meeting floor is the inadequate capital budget for the schools’ needs and to communicate the Committee’s concerns in this regard. These discussions will be postponed until the next meeting.

(b) Review and Possible Vote to Approve Support Organization Budgets:

The Boston Parent Council budget will not be included in the School Committee’s vote, as it is reorganizing with an election for new leaders in May. Susan will ask Tony to report on this budget in terms of the BPC budget and expenditures for this year.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the budgets for the five support organizations as presented by Susan with the exception of the Boston Parent Council. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

(c) Review and Possible Vote to Approve Invoices for the Athletic Fields and Stadium Project and the Loker School Roof Project:

Kathie noted her concerns about the budget regarding the Loker School roof project over the initial cost estimates and the fact that the bills for approval are four months old.

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the invoices for the athletic fields and stadium and the Loker School roof project as presented tonight. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

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- (d) High School Master Athletic Plan:
 ● Project Status:

Arthur noted that the roof of the concession stand and bathrooms will be finished this week. Continued progress is being made. However, a celebration date is not yet planned.

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

- (a) Review and Discussion of Policies:

- JFABE – Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- JFABF – Educational Opportunity for Children in Foster Care
- EFDA – Charge and Collection of Payments for School Meals
- BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings

Policy EFDA will be postponed and put on the March 23rd agenda. Kim noted that Policy BEDH was approved earlier and does not need another approval. Richard noted that a review must be submitted to DESE by June 5 related to Policies JFABE and JFABF.

Upon a motion duly made by Nate Buffum, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to put Policies JFABE and JFABF out for public comment. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

7. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

- (a) Review and Discussion of any Outstanding Document and/or Minutes Requests:
 None.

- (b) Review and Discussion of any Outstanding Open Meeting Law Matters:
 None.

- (c) Discussion of School Committee Communications and Information for the Buzz:
 Kim will submit a summary of tonight's meeting.

8. **Consent Agenda:**

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

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated March 9, 2020, in the amount of \$376,650.23
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Student Activities Warrant, dated March 9, 2020, in the amount of \$36,456.00
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll warrant, Week 19, in the amount of \$1,612,563.68

- (b) Approval of Minutes:

- January 21, 2020
- January 23, 2020
- February 10, 2020
- March 2, 2020

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of the March 2, 2020 regular session minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

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Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

By remote
X

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

None. Jeanne reminded everyone about the Mary Johnson Travelship ceremony on March 12.

10. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter executive session at 9:24 p.m. for purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), pursuant M.G.L. c.15, §21(a)(3) as discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; the School Committee will pass over item (b) approving the following executive session minutes as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: January 21, 2020, January 23, 2020, February 10, 2020 #1; and will also pass over February 10, 2020 #2 and March 2, 2020; and discussing strategy with respect to and in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, the Superintendent, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2). A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

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

The School Committee will reconvene in open session to complete the items on the agenda. For adjournment purposes only.

Arthur Unobskey, Parry Graham and Diane Marobella left the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 10:27 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. FY19 Year End Report for School Support Organizations
3. FY20 School Support Organization Budgets
4. Invoices for the Athletic Field Project and the Loker School Roof Project
5. Policies BEDH, EFDA, JFABE, JFABF, and JH
6. Accounts Payables and Payroll Warrants
7. Regular Minutes of January 21, 2020
8. Regular Minutes of February 10, 2020
9. Regular Minutes of January 21, 2020
10. Executive Session Motion