

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – November 16, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 6:30 pm in room A149 of Wayland High School.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair

Jeanne Downs

Kim Reichelt (arrived 6:35 pm)

Kathie Steinberg

Also present were:

Paul Stein, Superintendent

Susan Botta, Business Administrator

Observers:

Gordon Cliff

Ellen Grieco called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

1. Discussion of Budget Touch Points:

Paul reviewed some of the budget touch points including budget items requested such as additional elementary guidance counselors, elementary school stipends, hardware and software replacements, a middle school writing lab, and additional support at the High School around both technology and the Academic Center. Three exploratory items are under consideration as well including foreign language in the elementary grades, full day kindergarten and interdisciplinary classes at the High School. Paul noted that the list of items has been vetted by the Administrative Council. He also noted that the new bus contract is more costly than anticipated which will affect the items that are added to the budget. A discussion ensued about the bus contract and what steps can be taken to reduce bus costs.

2. Superintendent Search Process, Timing and Selection of Screening Committee:

Jeanne updated the Committee on her conversation with Art Bettencourt of NESDEC. The number of focus groups as well as the audience of each was discussed. Focus groups will include teachers, counselors, administrative assistants, teaching assistants, custodial and food service workers, and administrators, among others. A discussion ensued about possible methods for the selection of members of the Screening Committee and this topic will be discussed further at a future School Committee meeting.

(Ellen left the meeting at 7:07 pm.)

3. Matters Not Anticipated by the Chair:

This item was passed over as there were none.

4. Comments from the Public:

Gordon Cliff, speaking for himself and not as a member of the Finance Committee, suggested that the School Committee have its public comment at the beginning of its meetings. He also noted that his daughter is not in favor of changing the school start times. Regarding the Superintendent Search, he noted that it is the most important financial decision the town would make because of the role of the schools in the town budget. He suggested looking to candidates from school systems in the state who are on par with Wayland for the education they provide but do so at a lesser cost. He also reminded the School Committee that they own the decision of selecting the new Superintendent and should not over-delegate.

5. Recess to Town Meeting

This item was passed over as Town Meeting did not take place on this particular evening.

6. Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Kim Reichelt and seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the committee voted (3-0) to adjourn at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documents:

-Agenda