

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Budget Work Session/Regular Meeting – January 3, 2017

A Budget Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
Jeanne Downs
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent

Brad Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Marlene Dodyk
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan
Business Administrator

Also:

Allyson Mizoguchi, High School Principal
Betsy Gavron, Middle School Principal
Heath Rollins, Athletic Director

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the regular session at 7:02 P.M.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

Tom Sciacca distributed a page of an article from The Economist which speaks to the importance of money – “money matters up to a point and after that it really doesn’t.” He related this philosophy to the recommended school budget, particularly the focus on the cost per pupil in Wayland. In Tom’s opinion, the attention should be on the components of the budget and not on the budget as a whole, as more spending is not helpful once a certain amount is surpassed.

2. Special Matters:

- (a) Budget Work Session – Review of Budget for Wayland High School, Wayland Middle School, and Athletics:
The School Committee asked questions of the building administrators.

Wayland High School:

Allyson Mizoguchi addressed the launch of the interdisciplinary learning community which focuses on a certain cohort of about 40 students, mostly juniors and seniors. The Wayland Public Schools Foundation granted the funds to hire two teachers at .20 FTEs each to deliberate and craft an interdisciplinary program. This type of program gives kids additional learning that is outside the usual discipline of learning. Although still in the research and development phase, Allyson has visited a few high schools to understand their similar interdisciplinary programs. Wellesley High School’s program is in its second year. It is hopeful that the students can sign up for these additional blended/honors offerings in March for the following September.

Allyson commented on the impact of freezing the high school non-personnel budget. By trimming in some areas and careful spending, she is able to continue to serve the students and provide professional development for the teachers. Allyson commented on the potential benefits of hiring a full-time teacher assistant in the academic center. The academic center supervisor currently works with 35 students, and the number is increasing. She described how teachers provide additional support in the academic center and its students. Paul spoke about the General Accommodation Plan that is required by the state and how this plan helps those students who are “on the edge” as well as those students who have significant disabilities.

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Lastly, Allyson described the high school subcommittee designed to look at elective offerings in terms of how they are created, approved and launched to avoid competition with one another. The priority is to implement a process by which electives are offered, possibly on a rotating schedule.

Wayland Middle School:

Betsy Gavron commented on the value of a middle school writing lab which would be a supplement to the work being done in ELA classes. Eight periods a week can be offered with the hiring of a .4 FTE teacher, and students can go to the lab during non-academic periods. This model is flexible in order to accommodate everyone regardless of writing level. Betsy described possible scenarios in scheduling so that the maximum numbers of kids are taking advantage of the writing center.

In terms of freezing the middle school non-personnel budget, Betsy is concerned with the inability to spend funds even though technology costs are increasing, especially in the area of student data privacy. There is also the responsibility to provide Chromebooks to new students. Betsy noted that the additional social worker support is most beneficial and a tremendous asset. She explained the current 8th grade cluster model and what is anticipated for FY18. Finally, Betsy added that the HVAC roof system at the middle school is a constant challenge. It is difficult to predict the temperature from day to day in the building and it does affect teacher morale.

Athletics:

Heath Rollins informed the School Committee of the athletic budget increases in the following areas: tee time on the golf course, the swimming pool, alpine skiing lift tickets, salaries for officials, and the cost of sporting equipment. The swimming and alpine skiing teams do some fundraising; however, his goal is to fund all teams on an equitable basis out of the school budget. He described his method of putting the budget together per sport and per team.

Heath described the cycle of purchasing of new uniforms for teams and explained the current agreement with Under Armour for senior athletes.

Heath explained the methodology in terms of how much of a stipend the coaches receive. The stipends are based upon the number of hours needed to coach, the number of athletes supervised, the equipment needed, and the length of the season. He added that student participation is consistent but increasing, especially in spring sports.

- (b) Continued Discussion of Budget Drivers, Assumptions, Fees and Funding Sources, and Requests for Information:
Susan will provide an updated version of a survey on fees as a data comparison during budget deliberations. Barb distributed an analysis related to the China Exchange Program that was prepared by Susan at the request of a resident in order to determine how much Wayland was spending on this program. It was suggested during a Finance Subcommittee meeting that similar analyses be done for other exchange programs. Paul expressed his concern regarding this type of analysis, given the logistics of this exchange program and the number of people involved, which is unlike other exchange programs. A discussion ensued in this regard and the differences between the Chinese exchange and other Wayland exchange programs. It was decided not to conduct similar analyses for other exchange programs given the smaller scale of such programs.

Future budget agenda topics were discussed.

3. Educational Matters:

(a) Superintendent's Report:

Paul expressed his appreciation to the principals and Susan Botton for answering the many questions posed by the School Committee prior to its budget deliberations.

Paul will present his next Curriculum Spotlight on January 5th about the Grade 8 Dystopia Unit.

4. Financial Matters:

(a) Finance Subcommittee Update:

Barb informed the School Committee that the Finance Subcommittee will meet with the Finance Committee on January 4th.

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5. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

(a) Continued Discussion regarding Superintendent Search Process and Timing, including Selection of Screening Committee and Communications:

Jeanne updated the School Committee of the status of the superintendent search. The focus groups will take place within the next two weeks, as well as the NESDEC interviews of some municipal staff/committee members. The online survey will open up on January 4th and five screening committee applications have been received thus far. The Committee discussed its preference in terms of a member from both the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to be interviewed by NESDEC. Lastly, the Committee discussed the information being sent out via the Community Newsletter.

(b) Review and Discussion of Materials for Budget Presentations:

Paul and Ellen will be interviewed by Wayland BUZZ. The School Committee reviewed the questions that will be asked during the 30 minute interview regarding the proposed school budget. A discussion ensued in terms of the slides that may be used during the special budget presentations as they relate to the questions from BUZZ and the answers that will be provided. Adjustments were made to the slides.

(c) Review of Agenda Items for January School Committee Meetings:

The following topics will be discussed at future January meetings:

- Superintendent Search
- School Start Times
- Bus Parking
- Budget Meetings & Development of Budget Book
- Policy for Installation of Security Cameras
- Negotiations

The School Committee discussed the timing of the Budget Hearing and the distribution of the Budget Book to the residents of Wayland.

(d) Update and Discussion regarding School Start Times, including Review of Draft Surveys:

Kim distributed the three surveys to be taken by parents, teachers/staff, and students regarding school start times. The School Committee will review them in preparation for the January 12th meeting. Kim explained her intention in receiving community feedback.

(e) Communications Update and Discussion regarding Possible Future Articles:

Kim distributed a future article regarding those organizations who contribute to the Wayland Public Schools, such as the Katy Lynch Foundation, the Gossels Family Fund for Academic Excellence, the Steve Henley Foundation, the Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund, and the Mary L. Johnson Travelship. The Committee will review this article for approval at the next meeting. Brad will provide Kim with information regarding the Katy Lynch Foundation.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated January 3, 2017, in the amount of \$468,797.10
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated December 22, 2016, in the amount of \$1,401,806.64

(b) Approval of the 2017 All Eastern Music Festival Trip

(c) Approval of METCO Appeal Letter Donations

(d) Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Session of November 15, 2016 (passed over)

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the minutes.

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

None.

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8. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter executive session at 9:30 p.m. for the purpose of approving minutes from prior executive sessions, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22, for the following meeting: December 12, 2016. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

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

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

9. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Tom Sciacca, WVN, BUZZ

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Budget Questions regarding Wayland High School, Wayland Middle School & Athletics
3. Wayland BUZZ Budget Questions
4. Survey of Fees for Massachusetts Public Schools
5. Draft Article regarding Organizational Fund Donations
6. School Start Times Surveys
7. Payroll Warrant
8. Trip Request for the 2017 All Eastern Music Festival
9. METCO Appeal Letter Donations
10. Executive Session Motion