

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – November 16, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2017, at 4:00 P.M. in the Wayland Middle School auditorium with WPS staff.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair
Nate Buffum
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Kim Reichelt

Also present:

Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent
Brad Crozier, Assistant Superintendent

1. Presentation of the Superintendent's School Start Time Proposal

Chair Ellen Grieco welcomed staff and explained the meeting process. Arthur then gave a recap of his school start time proposal.

2. Q&A Session

The School Committee took questions and comments from the staff. *See attached.*

3. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Downs
Wayland School Committee

Comments from 11/16/17 School Committee Meeting with Staff

- *Elementary* - Does the SC have an idea how the elementary teachers feel about the proposal?
 - Agree high school students need more sleep but not to detriment of elementary school students
 - Elementary schools already start too late
 - Students will have no downtime
- *Elementary*
 - Boston residents – no adult monitors on buses (HS senior monitor not sufficient)
 - Understands sleep need
 - Anxiety in kids K-12
 - Is more than just sleep related
 - Not OK to have some kids take fall for other kids
 - Is faced at all levels
- *Elementary* – When were bus route simulations done? (Per Arthur, October)
- *Elementary* – Who is monitoring Boston buses?
- *Middle School* – If a problem for elementary teachers, don't do it...middle and high school teachers concerned for elementary teachers
- *Elementary* – Happy start times are being reviewed
 - Could the HS start even later so elementary schools can start before
 - Sports: Allow those kids to leave early – how much does that affect the greater population (ie, number of kids who would leave early for sports is a small percentage of overall students)
 - Leaving early for sports will teach good life lessons
- *Elementary* – Solution needs to be good for all...elementary, middle and high school students
 - Agree that HS students need more sleep but not to detriment of elementary students
 - How much research has been done regarding sleep and elementary students? It doesn't make sense to make changes without elementary sleep data
- *Elementary* – Elementary kids' energy levels best early in the day
- *Elementary* – Worried about families who are struggling
 - Two working parents
 - Increased costs (BASE)
 - Less family time
 - Stressed kids
 - Not taking elementary school issues seriously
- *Middle School/High School* – Already struggling to help kids who miss school for non-illness reasons...leaving early for sports will be a problem
- *Elementary* – Childcare for teachers' kids...falls often to the parent who is the teacher...BASE has an AM waitlist currently
- *Elementary* – The elementary schools are always the “third child” in the district.
- *Elementary* – Has decision already been made?
 - Hopes SC has heard concerns
 - Burlington just made a significant school start time change...is Wayland's proposed change significant enough for the cost/benefit?
 - Table the proposal for now until a bigger change can be made
- *Elementary* – Shared results of staff survey

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – November 16, 2017

- Negative results on teachers, children and learning at elementary level
- Neutral results at best at MS/HS level
- *Elementary*
 - Loss of income (loss of after school opportunities)
 - Increased commuting time
 - Increased cost of childcare
 - Less ability to schedule medical appointments after school hours
 - Elementary kids useless after lunch
 - Challenge of schedule after lunch
 - Too late arrival home for Boston students
- *Elementary*
 - Elementary hours used to be 8:00-2:00
 - Elementary kids lose focus in the afternoon
 - Decrease in number stops on bus routes not good for families
 - Concern about bus monitoring on Boston buses (HS student monitors)
- *Elementary but parent of HS&MS student*
 - Not a good trade off
 - Concern about kids crashing after lunch
 - Increased curriculum expectations
 - Quality of teaching vs time extension
 - Elementary school is the foundation for students and concerned that foundation will be lost
 - Disservice to elementary students
- *High School*
 - Survey results for impact on student learning appx 50%+ neutral
 - Originally moved to current early start time to avoid athlete exodus
- *High School –*
 - Loss of intangible (1 on 1) help after school goes away
 - 70% of HS students participate in sports, but not all at one time
- *Elementary*
 - Staff already has burden with early dismissals...later dismissal time will increase the early dismissals and thus burden
 - After school program participation questionable with later dismissal time
 - Lose more learning time
- *Middle School –* Teachers won't be able to stay late (traffic, family commitments)
- *High School*
 - Sleep deprivation real issue...overwhelming evidence
 - Why doesn't the swap work?
 - Sports tail wag the school dog
- *Elementary –* Need to think outside box for Wayland to consider all needs of all students
- *Elementary –* Transition issue for youngest students to go from BASE to classroom back to BASE
- *Elementary –* Misplaced priorities...sports over students