

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – July 9, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, July 9, 2018, 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 7:37 p.m.)
Nate Buffum
Kim Reichelt

Absent:

Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Susan Bottan
Business Administrator

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the regular session at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

Tom Sciacca commented on the American Music Abroad Program in which his granddaughter partakes. It is a group of students who have been touring Europe and performing concerts. He wondered why this music program has not been mentioned as one that Wayland students participate. Tom also commented that in the school district that his granddaughter attends, she had to choose to participate in either sports or music.

On another topic, Tom Sciacca commented that he heard that Wayland recreation knows how to address the turf field heat issue. He claims that the policy is inadequate and the claim is irrelevant. Tom stands by his previous statement that children are endangered on turf fields.

Jenny Silberman asked the School Committee to communicate with the public in advance of the School Committee's final decision regarding school start times.

2. Financial Matters:

(a) FY2020 Budget Planning/Financial Summit Update:

Susan commented that on September 17, 2018 the financial summit will convene. Susan, along with Brian Keveney, Arthur, and Nan Balmer will meet this month to prepare the data for the summit and again in August to finalize the slides.

(b) High School Master Athletic Plan:

- Neighbor Meeting
- Plan Development Status
- All Board Meeting
- Fall Warrant Articles
- Next Steps

The most recent cost estimate provided by Weston & Sampson to the PMBC has risen from the original estimate of \$5.4M. Reasons for a \$1.6M increase include the installation of new bathrooms and a ticket booth concession stand. Steel tariffs will also raise the cost of the aluminum bleachers, as well as the costs for landscaping, escalation costs, overhead, and contingency. Kathie will contact the Conservation Preservation Committee to ask if there are funds available to offset this increase, and Jeanne has asked Boosters if they can contribute to the cost of the concession stand.

There was a recent meeting at which the Department of Public Works, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Permanent Municipal Building Committee, and some members of the School Committee attended to discuss several issues, including the infill for the turf field. The PMBC will have a recommendation sometime in July as to which infill they recommend.

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- (c) Finance Subcommittee Update:
- Review Draft Charge of Subcommittee

The School Committee discussed the charge of the Finance Subcommittee; however, Kathie and Ellen, Finance Subcommittee members, were not present for the discussion.

Susan asked if the charge should be more explicit, given the proposed changes for the town's finance structure, and if the Finance Subcommittee would be the liaison to the Finance Committee. The School Committee will discuss the Finance Subcommittee charge again after the Finance Subcommittee has addressed these issues.

3. **Policy Review (out of order):**

- (a) Review and Possible Approval of Policies:
- Life Threatening Allergies

Kim commented that the goal is to have a new policy in place by September 2018, noting that there is a policy governing life threatening allergies and the guidelines from which to refer. Nate sent the latest version of the policy to the School Committee and administrators in an effort to receive input about the policy. Nate pointed out the most recent changes made to the policy. A discussion ensued regarding the practice of students bringing food/snacks into the schools and/or classroom.

Kori Rogers, teacher and WTA president, commented how allergies and snacks can impact field trips. She also noted that food cannot be brought into the classrooms. Kim commented that policies and practices vary from school district to school district.

Upon a motion duly made by Nate Buffum, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to put out for comment the Wayland Public Schools Life Threatening Allergy Policy.

A question was raised in terms of the review period of the policy online when staff and teachers are not in session. Kim will send the policy to the principals.

4. **Consent Agenda (out of order):**

- (a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Student Activities Warrant, dated July 9, 2018, in the amount of \$92,500.45
 - Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated July 9, 2018, in the amount of \$944,330.72
 - Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated July 3, 2018, in the amount of \$332,640.61

- (b) Approval of WHS Model United Nations Club Trip

- (c) Approval of Minutes:

- June 18, 2018
- June 21, 2018

The School Committee reviewed the June 21st minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

5. **Administrative/Procedural Matters (out of order):**

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

None.

- (b) Review and Discussion of any Outstanding Open Meeting Law Matters:

The School Committee discussed George Harris's July 2, 2018 OML Complaint in which he states that the April 2, 2018 minutes were not approved in a reasonable amount of time and did not contain enough detail. The School Committee discussed its response to the Attorney General regarding Mr. Harris's first OML Complaint in terms of the level of detail in the minutes and the Committee's delay in providing the minutes and if another response is

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needed. The consensus was not to respond again at this time.

Ellen arrived at 7:37 p.m.

6. Educational Matters (out of order):

(a) Review of School Start Time Proposals:

The School Committee prepared to review proposed Scenarios B through E for school start times. At its last meeting, the Committee voted to eliminate Scenario A, which is the current schedule. The Committee voted on two scenarios so that the vetting process can begin. Jeanne read the other scenarios, focusing on starting and dismissal times and professional development scheduling. The identified challenges include after school care for younger children, sports schedules, the coaches' availability to coach, professional development, contract negotiations, Boston students' schedules, bussing, after school clubs and activities, and the effect of an earlier start time for elementary students.

Ellen suggested that the Committee review two scenarios that include professional development in the morning and the other in the afternoon, including the pros and cons of each. She also noted that more information is needed on the non-cost-neutral questions regarding bussing and other challenges that would carry additional costs, as well as how other towns are managing athletics. Ellen's preference is to keep the dismissal time as close to 3:00 as possible for the secondary schools.

As noted by Jeanne, Kathie prefers the latest elementary start time, and would prefer the continued early release on Wednesdays.

Athletic Director Heath Rollins was present and he commented on how Concord-Carlisle, Weston, Acton-Boxboro, and Newton South have implemented their athletic schedules. He also noted that the Middlesex League dismisses athletes at 3:00. Heath commented that a 2:45 dismissal for athletes is ideal and will have minimal disruption to the schedule, a 3:15 dismissal could create a seven day a week athletic program, and Tuesday presents the heaviest scheduling for games. Traveling time is definitely a scheduling factor.

Nate would like to know how Schedule E impacts sports, and he has also considered Schedule C.

Kim suggested that the School Committee identify its goals in this process and how those goals can be reached. She identified some things that can be changed in order to achieve balance and determine what is acceptable or not acceptable as the process moves forward.

Jeanne omitted Scenarios D and E because of the 3:15 dismissal for secondary students, and she does not believe that students should be released from school early for their athletic games. She inquired about reworking the high school schedule in which the last block became flexible. However, reworking the schedule would be a two-year process according to Arthur. A discussion ensued in this regard as well as the importance of academics vs. athletics in Wayland.

Jeanne reviewed Arthur's notes in response to questions/concerns asked and identified earlier in the discussion related to the scenarios presented.

After continued discussion of the scenarios presented, the School Committee unanimously chose scenarios B and C to move forward with continued vetting. The Committee would like more information regarding bussing, hoping to keep transportation costs neutral, and noted a strong preference for an 8:00 a.m. start time for elementary and 8:30 for secondary students. A member of the audience, Sejal Srinivisan added input regarding the scenarios in terms of starting elementary at 8:00 a.m. and keeping it all cost neutral. With more discussion regarding the challenges moving forward, the School Committee remained with scenarios B and C with an 8:00 a.m. elementary start time and 8:30 a.m. middle/high school start time.

(b) Review and Possible Vote to Approve Final Draft of Superintendent's Annual Performance Evaluation:

The School Committee reviewed Arthur's draft performance evaluation – goals, standards, and elements – as written by Jeanne and Ellen based on the input by the School Committee at its June 21st meeting. There were no changes with the exception of the use of one word.

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Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the Superintendent’s FY18 evaluation as discussed tonight and amended.

7. **Administrative/Procedural Matters (continued):**

(a) Review of School Committee Meeting Schedule FY2019:

Jeanne proposed changes to the FY2019 meeting schedule. A discussion ensued regarding the summer schedule and school year schedule, particularly September meetings. The summer meetings will be July 23 and August 20.

(b) Continued Discussion regarding Role of Subcommittees in Relation to School Committee, including Role of Finance Committee:

This agenda item was passed over.

(c) Liaison Appointments:

The School Committee reviewed the FY18 liaison appointments. For FY19, Ellen will replace Jeanne on the Finance Subcommittee, Nate and Ellen will be the liaison for the Athletic Advisory Committee, and Student Data Privacy was renamed to Information Technology. Susan will look into the schedule and of the Audit Committee and follow-up reporting to the School Committee.

(d) MASC Summer Institute:

The School Committee discussed who might attend the MASC Summer Institute on July 20 and 21. Jeanne is attending one day.

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

None.

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Nate Buffum, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to enter Executive Session at 9:03 p.m. to approve Executive Session minutes of June 21, 2018, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22. 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	X	
Kathie Steinberg	Absent	

The School Committee will be joined by Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

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

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Mary Ann Borkowski, 29 Pemberton Road
Sejal T. Srinivasan, 35 Covered Bridge Lane
Jenny Silberman, 79 Oxbow Road
Tom Sciacca, WVN
Kori Rogers, WTA
Michele Fiske, WTA

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Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda and Backup Information
2. Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants
3. Cost Analysis for the High School Athletic Fields
4. School Start Times Draft Proposals – Scenarios A to E
5. Draft Superintendent's Evaluation
6. FY2019 School Committee Meeting Calendar
7. Response from Attorney General re: July 3, 2018 Open Meeting Complaint
8. Open Meeting Law Complaint – July 2, 2018
9. FY2018 Subcommittee and Liaison Appointments
10. Life Threatening Policy
11. WHS Trip Request for the WHS Model UN Club
12. Regular Session Minutes of June 18, 2018
13. Regular Session Minutes of June 21, 2018
14. Executive Session Motion