

## MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting – April 7, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 2:10 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the Wayland Town Building.

*Present and participating remotely were:*

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

*Also participating remotely:*

Arthur Unobskey  
Superintendent

Parry Graham  
Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead  
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan  
Director of Finance & Operations

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session at 2:13 p.m. The meeting was recorded by WayCAM and was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation. The Chair also announced that public comment will be at 2:40 p.m., and the public can call 508-358-6812 to make a public comment or email School Committee members.

### 1. **Discuss COVID-19 Response:**

- School Closure and Continued Remote Learning:

Arthur updated the School Committee on the collaborative effort to structure the most recent WTA Memorandum of Agreement. Arthur encouraged staff and families to reach out to principals if they have any concerns. Arthur addressed the question of whether the district has considered canceling April vacation week. A discussion ensued and Arthur noted the reasons why the district has made the decision to move forward with vacation week with school ending on June 24. He added that if students are able to return to school before year end, students would have those four days in school as opposed to remote learning. It was decided that the district will move forward with April break as planned.

#### *Bus Contract:*

Upon receiving guidance from DESE and the DOR, as well as from school counsel regarding what is allowed according to Massachusetts General Laws, and the Town Administrator and the Director of Finance, Susan has been advised to temporarily suspend the bus contract, adding that the town and district will not ask taxpayers to support services that aren't being delivered. Susan also received a financial breakdown of First Student costs that are being paid during the closure. There was a concern regarding the contract with First Student moving forward if the contract was suspended, but First Student confirmed that drivers are collecting unemployment and they will return to work when school reopens. Susan described the next steps regarding the bus contract, including notifying First Student of the guidance received in this regard and to receive their feedback as well. In addition, First Student is a private firm and could be eligible for Federal loan. The March invoice has not been received and Susan recommends that First Student is paid for only those days in March for which services were provided. Susan recommends that they proceed with the Town's recommendation, adding that the Massachusetts General Laws are clear in this regard, and she is comfortable moving in this direction.

In terms of special education contracted services and guidance received from the state, these services will continue to be paid. Richard confirmed that the out-of-district special education staff continues to work and provide services during the closure.

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*Next Steps:*

A daytime weekly meeting will be scheduled moving forward. Jeanne offered meeting options based on other town board meetings. The next meeting will be April 15 with a time to be determined between 10:00 a.m. and noon. Future topics for discussion include fees and district financial expenses.

*Ellen left the meeting at 2:38 p.m.; she returned at 2:40 p.m.*

**2. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:**

There were no comments and written statements from the public.

**3. 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 2:41 p.m. for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA) and possible vote to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and to authorize the Chair to sign the MOA, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; and the Committee will pass over 1(b), the approval of the March 24, 2020 executive session minutes, as Jeanne has not heard from legal counsel. 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	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 for adjournment purposes only.

**4. Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair (taken out of order):**

Kathie congratulated the WHS music program for once again receiving the honor of 2019 Best Communities for Music Education.

**5. Adjournment:**

Jeanne announced that the WTA MOA was approved and remote learning will continue through June or commensurate with the announcement by the Governor regarding school closures.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 3:13 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	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

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***Corresponding Documentation:***

1. Agenda
2. WTA Memorandum of Agreement
3. Executive Session Motion