

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – November 23, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 12:00 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the Wayland Town Building.

Present and participating remotely were:

Jeanne Downs, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair
Kim Reichelt
Chris Ryan
Kathie Steinberg

Also participating remotely:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session at 12:01 p.m. WayCAM recorded the meeting and it was livestreamed via ZOOM. The meeting was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation. A roll call was taken:

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

1. Discussion and Possible Vote on COVID Surveillance Testing Program:

The School Committee reviewed the memo to the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and the Board of Health regarding a School Committee COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Proposal. Ellen will be attending the BOS meeting this evening to discuss the proposal that includes a funding and fundraising process, specifically seeking the BOS's authorization to set up a gift fund through the Town.

Ellen described the program as being a ten-week pool PCR testing program for staff and students beginning January 4, 2021 through March 12, 2021. The program is in addition to the safety protocols already in place, such as mask wearing, handwashing, and social distancing. It is a voluntary testing program and for those families who opt to participate, there will be a fee of \$175 for ten weeks or \$17.50 per week, which covers about \$3,500 of the cost with up to 95% participation. The School Committee would also like to engage in fundraising to assist those families in need.

Ellen identified those items that are still unresolved, such as pool testing vs. rapid antigen tests, negotiating a payment plan with JCM Analytics, negotiating a quicker turn-around time for test results, possible collaboration with other school districts, and the fundraising process. A discussion ensued about this potential testing program and the concerns raised by Ellen. Kathie expressed her concerns about the unknown expenses related to COVID moving forward that include staffing and additional support for students.

It was noted that if testing funds are not used, the funds would possibly go to the Wayland Community Fund to be granted back to the schools in its efforts to relieve COVID restrictions.

Upon a motion duly made by Kim Reichelt, seconded by Chris Ryan, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to authorize Ellen Grieco to take the proposed motion to the Board of Selectmen tonight and to work towards proceeding with the testing program.

2. Discussion of Return from Thanksgiving Break:

Kim Reichelt proposed that the schools swivel to remote learning for the week following Thanksgiving to allow families to get tested if they traveled for the holiday break. Other than Wellesley High School, Arthur is not aware of other districts going to all remote.

A discussion ensued about Kim's proposal and the members had concerns about pivoting to all remote the week of November 30. School will continue in the hybrid mode that week. The Health Attestation will be adjusted asking if families adhered to Massachusetts guidelines around social gatherings. A question about traveling out of state is already included

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in the attestation form.

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

Jeanne proposed that the School Committee have additional meetings to identify and discuss unanticipated requests and related costs in an effort to streamline the process. Administrators will not necessarily attend these meetings as the meetings are meant to give the Committee additional time for discussion.

4. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 1:00 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	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Surveillance Testing Memo to BOS
3. Suggested Motion for BOS