

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – October 6, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the South Building Lecture Hall at Wayland High School.

Present:

Chris Ryan, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair
Jeanne Downs
Jessica Polizzotti
Kim Reichelt

Also present:

Dr. Omar Easy
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Ellen Whitemore
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Samantha Shullo, Resident
Christie Harvey, Principal of Claypit Hill School
Tulani Husband, Asst. Principal of Claypit Hill School

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 7:04 p.m. The meeting was recorded by WayCAM.

1. **Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

2. **Special Matters:**

(a) Interview Samantha Shullo for School Committee Liaison to the Audit Committee:

Ms. Shullo has a strong accounting background and spoke about her work experience that included working in auditing and with public trading companies. Currently, she works for PTC, a software company, and is responsible for SEC reporting, financial statements, and the global accounting team. She would like to give back to the community as the School Committee liaison to the Audit Committee. Chris informed Ms. Shullo of the yearly time commitment, what the meetings entail, and the expectations of this appointment.

The School Committee will discuss Ms. Shullo's application and may vote at the next meeting to recommend her to the Board of Selectmen.

(b) Interview David Ferdman for School Committee Liaison to the PMBC:

Mr. Ferdman was not able to attend the meeting; thus, the interview did not take place.

3. **Superintendent Update:**

(a) Claypit Hill Elementary School Administration Presentation:

Dr. Christie Harvey introduced Ms. Tulani Husband as the new Claypit Hill Assistant Principal. Additional new staff this year at Claypit Hill includes Joy Slesinger, General Music Teacher, and Alissa Gillis, art teacher. Dr. Harvey described their style of teaching and presented a short video of a music class that featured the students singing, moving to music, and instrument playing. Ms. Gillis focuses on Teaching for Artistic Behaviors (TAB) which does not focus on the final product and produces independent and creative thinkers and learners. She added that parent volunteers are a welcome and positive addition to the school day.

Dr. Harvey noted that the biggest challenge and need at Claypit Hill is space. Programs that are in desperate need of renovated space are the library, music workshop, chorus, office/therapeutic spaces, and small group teaching spaces. She described the space challenge for these programs.

Chris asked Dr. Harvey how she and Ms. Tulani work independently and collaboratively. They work collaboratively

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and independently depending on the issue at hand and the time of day. Dr. Harvey and Ms. Tulani are observing the day-to-day operation together in an effort to align their thinking process toward a solution.

(b) COVID-19 Response:

- Vaccination Protocols for Staff and Students:

Dr. Easy reported that discussions are ongoing with the district unions about mandating vaccines. However, the bus drivers have not been contacted yet. The WTA and the food service workers are agreeable to a mandate. Dr. Easy has also met with the Health Department Director Julia Junghanns and Ruth Mori, as well as the Superintendent's Advisory Committee. Some expressed concerns about mandating vaccines, one being that Wayland Public Schools could be the first district to mandate vaccines. However, other districts, such as Brookline, Arlington, Lexington, Cambridge, and Dover/Sherborn have already mandated vaccines for staff.

Dr. Easy suggested that if a vaccine is mandated and some staff will not get vaccinated, testing twice a week, Monday and Thursday, could be a requirement for those staff. The PCR test on Monday could be paid by the unvaccinated staff member, but not on Thursday since staff members are participating in pooled testing. However, this could create inequities in terms of cost and access.

It was noted that there are funds in an account that were raised for any COVID-related purpose and could be accessed for the first test. Dr. Easy will continue his discussions with the unions and ask for a more definitive account of those who are vaccinated which could be a higher number than expected. A discussion ensued in this regard.

In terms of guidance from the School Committee, Jeanne recommended the possibility of paying for the first test, but making sure that tests can be acquired and purchased. Dr. Easy will continue to look into the logistics of testing unvaccinated staff on Mondays, adding that the percentage of unvaccinated staff is very low.

Kim suggested a vaccine mandate for students who are participating in activities outside of school. Dr. Easy noted that parents have been asked to provide students' vaccine information and there has been a good response, and a student vaccine mandate cannot be put in place at this time.

(c) Financial Matters:

- Continued Discussion regarding Drinking Water for Schools:

Ellen noted that water is being delivered to the Loker and Happy Hollow by the DPW Water Commissioner, but she has not received information from the Town Administrator regarding payment of invoices for the three schools for which water is provided by the School Department. Chris added that the Board of Selectmen will meet on October 18, and he and Ellen Grieco will attend regarding this topic. It is possible that the entire School Committee can attend; Chris will inquire.

- Bus Contract:

Assistant Town Administrator John Bugbee emailed the School Committee with an update about the bus contract, as the procurement of busses moved to the Town this year. The Memorandum of Understanding has been extended until October 8, with the possibility of another extension if the contract is still in negotiations and not signed. A discussion ensued about the time that has elapsed without a signed bus contract and the potential changes to the contract. Dr. Easy added that one of the outstanding issues is about payment to First Student if schools should be shut down again due to a COVID State mandate.

Chris suggested an executive session discussion at the next meeting, and he will invite town officials to attend.

4. Financial Matters:

(a) Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve a New Elementary iPad/Chromebook Maintenance and Repair Revolving Account:

Ellen Whittemore reported that the School Committee has approved maintenance and repair revolving accounts for student devices at the Middle School and High School and the request is to create a similar account for the elementary schools.

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Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve to establish the new elementary iPad Chromebook Maintenance and Repair Revolving Account.

5. **Administrative Matters:**

- (a) Discussion and Possible Vote to Recommend a PMBC Appointee to the Board of Selectmen:
Angela Young was interviewed by the School Committee at the last meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Kim Reichelt, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend Angela Young as the PMBC appointee to the Board of Selectmen.

- (b) Review of OML Determinations:

Kim provided brief summaries of 29 cases that were decided by the Attorney General's office since September 7. Sixteen cases were in violation, six were not in violation, and five were not filed properly. Kim noted that many were about insufficient detail in minutes or messages and that districts were not responding to public records requests. Kim explained some of the cases in more detail.

- (c) Update on Facilities Discussion:

Chris, Ellen Grieco and Dr. Easy attended a meeting with Louise Miller, legal counsel for the Town and Schools, and two members of the Board of Selectmen at which many issues were discussed. Chris reviewed the discussions, adding that school counsel Kevin Bresnahan presented his memo regarding Ed Reform Law. As agreed to by all, a facilities employee will report to Dr. Easy around school building maintenance. Financial adjustments and shared costs discussions will move forward, given some facilities employees work for both the town and schools. Chris and Ellen Grieco, as well as administrators, will develop ideas that could solve these issues and will present them at the next meeting.

- (d) Discussion regarding the Boston Parent Meeting Tentatively Scheduled for November 3:

Dr. Tony Laing and Ms. Caroline Han suggested METCO Headquarters in Boston as the venue for this meeting, and it is available for that date and time. The building space will allow attendees to be in-person at the meeting or watch the meeting virtually in another room of the building. Chris reviewed the proposed agenda and schedule that includes a presentation by the School Committee regarding its Anti-Racism Resolution and an open discussion. A discussion ensued about the venue, logistics of the program, and meeting time.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Accounts Payables Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated October 6, 2021, in the amount of \$746,306.87.

- (b) Declaration of Surplus Purses for METCO:

- 35 purses valued at \$10.00 each for a total of \$350.00

- (c) Approval of Minutes: September 8, 2021

Jeanne and Kim will send Diane their edits to the minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda with the edits to the minutes.

7. **Policy Matters:**

- (a) Review and Possible Vote to Approve:

- Policy JRA/JRA-R – Student Records:

Kim read a statement regarding the discussion at the last meeting regarding Policy JRA/JRA/R (Student Records) referring to the amendment to the policy around the return of assessments presented at that meeting and the appearance of a conflict that it could present in terms of what happens in school vs. what happens out of school. Kim continued her statement and, as a result, she filed a form with the Town Clerk's office explaining the scenario, and if a conflict arises moving forward, it will be reassessed.

At the most recent Policy Subcommittee meeting, it was decided to hold off implementing the policy or pursuing it at this time. Jess stated that the policy will be revisited after Dr. Easy assembles a task force of students, teachers, parents, and administrators and will inform the School Committee on November 17 of the task force members. Dr. Easy and his staff will continue to meet with school staff to gain clarity and

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insight on returning certain tests to students and what is in the best interest of the students. The high school math tests will be returned this year as confirmed by Dr. Mizoguchi. He will also research other peer school districts in this regard.

Dr. Easy is continuing his meetings with high school departments, and asked the School Committee if they had task force member recommendations. His goal is to make the best decision to support the students.

8. Finance Subcommittee Update:

(a) Discussion and Review of FY23 Capital Budget:

Jeanne provided a brief overview for the capital budget requests for the next five years as prepared by Ellen Whittemore. Some requested projects may be postponed for a year in order to provide funds for an elementary schools feasibility study. The status of the projects approved at spring Town Meetings were also reflected. Ellen Whittemore provided the status of those projects that are underway.

Capital projects proposed for FY23 include facility upgrades in Central Office, such as floor/carpet replacement, a sink in the staff breakroom, and new partitions in the restrooms. Other requests include district-wide custodial equipment storage spaces, district-wide upgrades to security cameras and better access and exit points in the high school parking lot, replacement of asbestos floor tiles at Happy Hollow, Loker School and carpeting at Wayland High School, the continuation of district-wide replacement of fire alarm panels, replacement of communication controls intercom controls at the high school, resurfacing of the fieldhouse gym track, replacement of the stage rigging in the high school auditorium, the repair of the exterior wall and receiving dock at the middle school. The School Committee asked questions about the last renovation of the fieldhouse track and the status of the deterioration of the loading dock and a discussion followed.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the FY23 capital requests and authorize Jeanne and Ellen to finish the CIP's.

(b) Update on FY22 Capital Projects:

Jeanne updated the School Committee regarding the Claypit Hill playground. The equipment will be installed, hopefully this week, along with the wood chips and grass mats. The Town Administrator put in a request for additional funds from the town budget at the Annual Spring Town Meeting.

Dr. Easy also provided an update of his discussion with the Town Administrator. The project should begin tomorrow, October 7. However, the new equipment will not provide access for students in wheelchairs, as the pour in place is required and will make it easier for wheelchair access. The pour in place will be done in the spring of 2022. Ellen Whittemore confirmed that she was notified today late afternoon from Steve Vitello that the playground construction will now begin on October 11. It is not clear how long the playground will be closed given the many variables.

Ellen Whittemore added that the modular space units were installed and are being used at the elementary schools, and the PA intercom system RFP advertisement was delayed, and the student storage RFP was advertised and bids are being received. She is waiting for the RFP status updates from the town.

9. Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:

Chris Ryan publicly thanked Dr. Easy, Ellen Whittemore, and Parry Graham for all that was done related to the school opening. Jeanne added that parents are pleased that their children are back in school.

10. Adjournment:

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

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Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Samantha Shullo Resume
3. OML Determinations
4. Revised Capital Requests Schedule
5. FY23 CIP Request Forms
6. Accounts Payables Warrant
7. METCO Surplus for Donation
8. Minutes of September 8,, 2021