

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting – June 22, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the Wayland Town Building

*Present:*

Chris Ryan, Chair (arrived at 6:14 p.m.)  
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair (absent)  
Jeanne Downs  
Erin Gibbons  
Jessica Polizzotti

*Also present:*

Dr. Omar Easy  
Superintendent

Parry Graham  
Assistant Superintendent

*Also:*

Nicole Haghdoost, WHS World Language Dept. Head/Teacher  
Lee Krasnoo, WHS World Language Teacher  
Sara Langelier, WHS World Language Teacher

1. **Welcome & Call to Order:**

Jeanne Downs convened the regular session at 6:07 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM.

2. **Public Comment:**

Michael Henrick, 192 West Plain Street, represents the Wayland Hockey Association Board. He is very concerned about the short and long-term fate of the WHS boys' hockey program, as it is in jeopardy due to a lack of players and a goalie and is entering into the second year of uncertainty. Mr. Henrick noted that the Wayland program needs to find a partner school for the upcoming school year and there has been no action or discussion in this regard by district personnel. He asked the School Committee for its help and to recognize the sense of urgency in this regard.

Ryan Desmond, 52 Plain Road, is a WHS rising senior. He has played hockey for the past three years, all of which has had its challenges. He described those challenges facing the hockey team, such as the lack of players, a goalie, and coaches. Despite the challenges, the team was able to fundraise to cover the costs of ice time. Ryan is also a lacrosse player and noted the vast differences between lacrosse and hockey, adding that lacrosse players have team helmets, their own locker room, and uniforms. He went on to note the many differences in the two sports and asked the School Committee to consider Wayland hockey for the attention it deserves.

Jeff Sklar, 18 Brooks Road, commented that although Dr. Easy inherited many problems, he hears much praise from many parents for the new Superintendent, adding that doing the right thing is seldom the easy thing when addressing difficult situations. Mr. Sklar referred to the college precalculus exam for which students were not prepared and did poorly. He elaborated on this issue. Dr. Easy got the problem resolved, but it was not easy. He thanked Dr. Easy on behalf of the students.

Stephen Cass of Orleans, Massachusetts made a public comment regarding matters for which he reported several times and believes that they were never investigated. He continued to recite the list to which he referred and asked the School Committee to hire independent people to look into these matters.

Matthew Allay, 60 Plain Road, is a hockey parent and commented that he feels there is a sense of one community, accountability and governance present. He noted that the hockey program has value overall for all ages, girls and boys, and everyone wants the program to succeed going forward on a long-term basis. Many parents want to help with this effort, but district personnel needs to step in with urgency to resolve this issue and come to a durable solution.

Chris Ryan read a public comment from Craig Gruber, Sears Road. Mr. Gruber referred to comments made at a prior meeting and noted that it takes courage to admit mistakes, and one is not disrespectful if one disagrees with another.

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He referred to anonymity when conducting surveys which allows for more freedom of opinion. In the case of the Superintendent's evaluation, teachers, parents, and students should be heard.

Chris Ryan read a public comment from Carla Stafford, Rolling Lane, in which she expressed her support for Dr. Easy and his administration. She has felt listened to and agrees with the decisions he has made and hopes that the teachers' union and School Committee will give him a fair chance, particularly when she attended School Committee meetings she felt negativity in the room. There have been several comments written and said by employees on social media and in town which are not helpful or productive. Ms. Stafford further states that Dr. Easy is a great person to represent the Wayland Public Schools and can take us into the future.

#### 3. **Superintendent Update:**

##### (a) Special Education Update:

Dr. Easy introduced Dr. B.J. Cataldo as the Interim Special Education Director who has worked in education for 40 years in several roles, including in the roles of Superintendent and Special Education Director.

#### 4. **Administrative Matters (out of order):**

##### (a) Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve WHS Overnight Trips:

- France in April 2023
- Italy in April 2023

World Language Department Head Nicole Haghdoost attended the meeting to support her teachers and the proposed trips. Sara Langelier provided the ten-day French trip itinerary to the School Committee and described the itinerary, timeline, fundraising, insurance coverage, and pricing for the trip. Currently, there are about 50 students interested in going on the trip. The trip details, including masking, and optional activities are still being discussed. Dr. Easy suggested the possibility of having a flipped classroom, and an exchange program could be an option going forward. There would be three chaperones for 18-20 students as well as a full-time guide.

Lee Krasnoo described about the Italy trip, including the regions and sites they will visit, the Ultimate Protection Plan if cancellation is necessary, and the Code of Conduct Contract for students which is created by Lee and also used on the French trip. There are many students interested in this trip.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the trips to France and Italy as requested.

*Erin Gibbons left the meeting at 7:03 p.m.*

#### 5. **Superintendent Update (continued):**

##### (a) COVID-19 Update:

Parry reported total student cases for the weeks of June 2 to 8 (30 cases), June 9 to 15 (35), and June 16 to 22 (33). The Middle School accounted for about half of the cases from June 9 to 15.

*Erin Gibbons returned at 7:05 p.m.*

##### (b) Discussion and Approval and Declaration of Technology Equipment as Surplus for Recycling:

Dr. Easy presented this agenda item and noted that the list of equipment is 8 to 10 years old, not in working order, and damaged beyond repair.

##### (c) Discussion and Approval of Wayland Middle School Inventory for Disposal:

Dr. Easy noted that the list of old books from the Middle School is outdated and irrelevant as they are over ten years old.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the surplus technology equipment for recycling and the Wayland Middle School inventory for disposal.

#### 6. **Administrative Matters (continued):**

##### (a) Discussion and Vote to Approve the Revised 2022-2023 School Calendar:

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Dr. Easy noted that the revised calendar was sent to the WTA and there was no response in terms of the revision on December 23, which will now be a “super” half day rather than a no-school day. This is because Monday, January 2, 2023 is a Federal holiday to observe New Year’s Day.

Parry added that he will bring the list of Super Wednesdays to a future meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the revised 2022-2023 calendar.

- (b) Discussion regarding Superintendent’s Performance Evaluation, including Feedback on all Aspects of the Superintendent’s Performance, Ratings, and a Review of the Process:  
The School Committee reviewed the draft evaluation, goals, ratings and standards. Some edits were made to the draft document. A discussion ensued about the goals. The edits will be implemented and the evaluation will be signed by each School Committee member by June 30.

7. **Financial Matters:**

- (a) PMBC Update regarding the Loker Roof:  
The School Committee reviewed the schedule for the roof that includes a June 27 start date. The occupancy permit from the building inspector is a concern for Dr. Easy as it relates to the opening of school in late August. Jeanne noted that the PMBC meets the last Tuesday of each month.

8. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Accounts Payables Warrant: \$519,995.73
- (b) Approval of Minutes: May 25, 2022, June 9, 2022 and June 14, 2022:  
The Committee will pass over the June 14, 2022 minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the consent agenda without the meeting minutes of June 14, 2022.

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

Jess Polizzotti asked about next steps regarding the hockey matter. Dr. Easy commented that he was not aware of the challenges presented, and he will consult with the Athletic Director.

The School Committee thanked Ellen Whittemore for her work throughout this past year.

10. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to enter Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. for the purposes of (a) discussing strategy with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel, incoming Director of Finance and Operations, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; (b) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), 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 (c) approving the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: May 25, 2022. 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	absent	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Dr. Omar Easy, Superintendent, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session and will not reconvene in open session.

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11. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 9:37 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	absent	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

**Observers:**

Andrea Gellerstein, WTA

**Corresponding Documentation:**

1. Agenda
2. Public Comments
3. FY23 Summer Technology Recycle Memo
4. WHS Trip Itinerary to France 2023
5. WHS Trip Itinerary to Italy 2023
6. Revised 2022-2023 School Calendar
7. Draft Superintendent Evaluation
8. Evaluation Ratings
9. Evaluation Rubric
10. Spreadsheet re: Loker Roof Project
11. Accounts Payables Warrant
12. Draft May 25, 2022 Minutes
13. Draft June 9, 2022 Minutes
14. Executive Session Motion