

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – November 9, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. at METCO Inc. Headquarters, 11 Roxbury Street, Boston, MA.

Present:

Chris Ryan, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Jeanne Downs
Erin Gibbons
Jessica Polizzotti

Also present:

Dr. Omar Easy
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

La Toya Rivers, METCO Director
Allyson Mizoguchi, WHS Principal
Betsy Gavron, WMS Principal
Barbara Cataldo, Interim Special Education Director

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the group enjoyed dinner provided by Muri's Kitchen.

1. Welcome & Call to Order:

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 6:30 p.m. METCO Director La Toya Rivers welcomed the METCO families, adding that she will meet with families over the next few months. She encouraged families to be a part of the process and have their voices heard by attending meetings in Wayland as well.

Dr. Easy also welcomed the Boston families and thanked METCO, Inc. for allowing the meeting to take place in their facility. He added that the METCO Program has been in existence since 1968 and Wayland was one of the first districts to participate in this program.

Chris Ryan welcomed the families, reviewed the agenda, and encouraged everyone to participate in the discussion.

The School Committee members shared their school experiences/comments since the last meeting. Jess commented on the Happy Hollow math coach's approach to math and was encouraged as a parent, adding that the math coaches are great district resources. Jeanne attended the MASS/MASC dinner with Dr. Easy at which Commissioner Riley spoke about the priorities of education in Massachusetts, as well as making up the missed learning due to COVID.

2. Public Comment:

Shavon Drayton, 18 Parker Street, Boston commented that she appreciates all of the hard work that Dr. Easy has done over the last two years, particularly with the math coaches and the math program. She added that change is being seen, is being felt, and students across the district are starting to show the benefits. In particular, her daughter was failing math as a result of racial incidents at the High School, but with Mr. Liddell's and Dr. Easy's help, she now has an A minus in math.

Carla Stafford is a Wayland Mom of a High School sophomore. She commented that there are many rumors circulating about the open meeting tomorrow evening. She would like to attend and express her support and positivity for the Superintendent.

Chanel Daly of Boston is looking for information for tomorrow evening's meeting. She encouraged everyone to attend the meeting.

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3. Superintendent Update:

- Introduction of CEO of METCO HQ:
Ms. Millie Arbaje-Thomas was not present at this time.
- High School Presentation regarding the Override Process:
Allyson Mizoguchi presented the override course selection process that is done in partnership with the department heads and School Council through the lens of equity, access, and free of bias. Courses and electives are a vital part of a student's life and, depending on those chosen, they could make a huge difference in terms of the challenge and the appropriate support of the faculty.

The process begins in early March in a Portal in eSchool for next year, and teachers make their recommendations in terms of appropriateness; however, the recommendations can change. If a family/student disagrees with any or all recommendations, the override process begins over the next three or four months. There is a meeting first with the guidance counselor, department head, and family. It is beneficial if regular communication is established early with the teachers and staff.

A discussion ensued about one student's experience with the override process as told by his mother, as well as a question and answer session particularly about math placement in high level classes. Dr. Easy added that the goal is to build a foundation and support for students from Pre-K and beyond as well as having consistency in sharing information.

- Middle School Presentation regarding After School Programs:
Betsy Gavron presented the co-curricular after school activities that enhance a sense of belonging and are related with academic achievement and success for all students. The types of offerings include sports, music, theater, and academic or creative clubs. Clubs held during lunch periods are based on interest.

The students can peruse the offerings on links provided during homeroom. Betsy described some of the specific offerings and club offerings noting that consistency in attendance is not a requirement. Students can also volunteer in the library during study halls. Clubs can be created based on student interest as well.

Betsy described the Tenacity Challenge that she is running and working with students who train all year for an academic competition. There are four components: literacy analysis, a leadership action project, a math quiz bowl, and a STEM challenge.

- Elementary Fall Diagnostic Math Presentation:
This agenda item was passed over.
- Elementary After School Program:
This agenda item was passed over.
- Continued Discussion and Approval of the Recommended ETL Position at Claypit Hill School:
The School Committee reviewed additional information provided by Dr. Cataldo who noted that this position is critical to the program. The Educational Team Leader would manage special education as well as focus on paperwork, such as IEP's, the timing of the IEP process, and set up IEP meetings. The goal is to place the ETL position at Claypit Hill this year, given the specialized programs, with the hope of this arrangement at the Middle School and High School next year and at Loker and Happy Hollow Elementary Schools in the fall of 2024. Dr. Cataldo also commented that SEPAC is in agreement with this plan. A discussion ensued about this proposal.

Upon a motion duly made by Jess Polizzotti, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the recommended ETL position at Claypit Hill School.

Parry reported that the State will provide free at home COVID tests prior to Thanksgiving and the holiday break for families and staff who wish to receive them. Families can opt out as well. All are encouraged to test the day before returning to school.

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4. **Consent Agenda:**

- Accounts Payables Warrant:
Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated 11/9/2022, in the amount of \$374,804.92.
- Approval of Minutes: October 12, 2022

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

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

The School Committee requested to see the draft budget before the presentation on December 14. Dr. Easy noted that he will be meeting regularly with the Acting Town Manager going forward.

A discussion ensued about the November 10 meeting during which there will not be a public comment session.

6. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. for the purposes of (a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining, grievance filed by 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 (b) to approve Executive Session minutes: October 12, 2022 and October 25, 2022, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22. 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	
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.

7. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jess Polizzotti, seconded by Chris Ryan, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 8:35 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	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:
See attached.

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Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Emailed Public Comment
3. Accounts Payables Warrants
4. Minutes of October 12, 2022
5. Executive Session Motion