

# MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – April 26, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at Wayland High School Lecture Hall, South Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

*Present:*

Chris Ryan, Chair  
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair  
Jeanne Downs  
Erin Gibbons  
Jessica Polizzotti (absent)

*Also present:*

Parry Graham  
Acting Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur

Director of Finance & Operations

*Also:*

Michelle Crowell, Director of Teaching, Learning, Assessment and EL  
Karyn Saxon, Director of K-5 Literacy and Social Studies  
Allyson Mizoguchi, Principal of Wayland High School  
Nicole Hagdoust, WHS Department Head of Foreign Languages & Teacher  
Yuping Wang, WHS Mandarin Teacher

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

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 6:05 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM. Chris noted that the Committee will pass over agenda item #5.1 regarding Policy KDBA.

Chris thanked Jeanne Downs for her service on the School Committee for the past nine years as a consensus builder and one who volunteers to do so much as a Committee member. He hopes that people can have grace and understanding as the district moves forward and that the Committee members support each other.

Ellen Grieco read a statement thanking Chris Ryan and Jeanne Downs for their service to the School Committee and community during the good times and the difficult times. She elaborated on their roles while on the Board as well as their character and steadfast commitment.

Jeanne Downs thanked Chris Ryan as well, the community, and the school staff for providing the best education for the students. She reflected on the past nine years as a Committee member while engaging in grace and positive intent.

Erin also thanked Jeanne and Chris for their service to the Committee.

**2. Public Comment:**

Jennifer Nichols, 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher at the Middle School, spoke against the proposed test release policy. She believes that test policy should be the mandate of the teachers, administrators, and the Superintendent. There should not be a mandated policy releasing chapter, mid-term or final exams to parents, students or paid tutors. Administrators and highly talented teachers have worked tirelessly to build an exceptional and nationally recognized school district. Much time is spent by teachers creating exams and test questions; thus, helping students to understand the material is time much better spent. Ms. Nichols noted that sending tests home with students is inherently unfair, is not equitable, and only benefits those who are connected. She asked the School Committee to respect the professionalism and knowledge of the teachers and administrators.

**3. Acting Superintendent Update:**

**3.1 Discussion and Possible Approval of the Wayland High School Trip to Spain in April 2024:**

Allyson Mizoguchi and Nicole Hagdoust presented this trip to Spain from April 9 to 19, 2024. There will be 20-24 students in upper level Spanish classes who will travel to Spain. Students will stay with families as a home stay model instead of an exchange program. She explained why they are moving to the home stay model. Three chaperones will accompany the students. Ms. Hagdoust described the itinerary for the trip. The cost of the trip is \$3,500, and there will be some fundraising to assist those families who cannot afford the full cost.

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Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the trip to Spain in April 2024 as presented.

### 3.2 *Discussion of Potential Wayland High School Trip to Taiwan in Spring 2024:*

Allyson Mizoguchi and Yuping Wang, WHS Mandarin Teacher, proposed a trip to Taiwan from April 5 to 19, 2024 which will take the place of the China Exchange Program. There are about 52 students who take Mandarin, but the priority is to travel with juniors and seniors which would be 18-21 students, along with 3 chaperones. The students will stay in a hotel and attend high school while in Taiwan as well as visit several points of interest. Ms. Wang described further. The cost of the trip is about \$5,000 which includes \$2,800 for tuition.

A finalized trip request will be presented at a future meeting.

### 3.3 *K-5 Writing Program Implementation:*

Michelle Crowell and Karyn Saxon presented the timeline and implementation of the K-5 Writing Program. Ms. Saxon described the process that began in September 2019. A Review Committee, made up of staff from different positions at each elementary school, reviewed survey results and writing research in order to create a rubric by which programs were evaluated. When programs were chosen, the Committee met with the program reps to make a decision on which programs to pilot. Once decided, professional development was offered to the teachers who would pilot the programs. Teachers were surveyed and then Ms. Saxon, Ms. Crowell, and Dr. Easy observed in classrooms to see how it was going. The Empowering Writers program was chosen in January 2022, professional development was offered to those teachers who had not taken it earlier in the process, and was then piloted in the fall of 2022. Empowering Writers has a Spanish component and is the best fit for the district as it has explicit instruction as well as other beneficial components for the students. Ms. Saxon reviewed the next steps to roll out the program beginning this summer. A discussion followed about the writing program.

### 3.4 *K-5 Math Pilot Update:*

Michelle Crowell present the K-5 Math Pilot update which was the same process as the K-5 Writing Program began the spring of 2022. The three programs chosen to be piloted were Bridges, Illustrative, and iReady, and ended on April 14. On April 6, a reflection survey around assessments, accessibility, cultural responsiveness, etc. was sent to the piloting teachers. Wednesday, May 3, the piloting teachers will meet with the Program Review Committee and representatives from each math program; Ms. Crowell described the day-long program. District site visits took place, as Needham uses Illustrative and Mendon-Upton uses Bridges. The group also went to iReady's regional conference to observe the program in action. Ms. Crowell described the differences between the programs, but all have a Spanish component and were all rated by DESE. The goal is to reach a decision by May 4 with implementation planned for the 2023-2024 school year.

## 4. **Financial Matters:**

### 4.1 *Discussion and Vote to Approve the FY23 Grants:*

- Innovation Pathway Planning Grant (\$25,000)
- Financial Literacy Planning & Implementation Grant (\$15,000)
- Teacher Diversification Grant (\$7,923)
  
- Northeast Food for Schools Grant (\$10,000)

Michelle Crowell reported that the Financial Literacy Grant was received last year and this year, she described how the grant was used last year at the High School to purchase materials for the six virtual Financial Literacy classes. The feedback from parents was very positive. Planning is underway for next year's grant.

The Teacher Diversification Grant helps with the diversification of new teacher staff as well as retention. There are three different ways in which the grant funds can be used for teachers of color, such as loan payment reimbursement relocation assistance, and signing bonuses.

The Innovation Pathway Planning Grant is a year-long process. Ms. Crowell, Dr. Mizoguchi, Hayes Hart-Thompson and High School teachers collaborated together and have been working with this grant all year which is primarily used for professional development for teachers and instructional-related supplies and materials. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has officially awarded Wayland as an official innovation pathway meaning that more funds will be coming to the district, including an additional \$50,000 for more planning this year.

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Tom Lafleur reported that the Northeast Food for Schools Grant is used to buy local produce from local providers.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the grants as presented.

*Ellen Grieco left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.*

### 4.2 *PMBC Update – Loker Roof Project:*

Jeanne Downs updated the School Committee on the status of the Loker roof project, adding that the project came under budget with the remaining funds going back to the Town. The solar panels are set to be installed and are not funded by the MSBA. A discussion ensued about the upcoming infrared review and electrical inspection.

## 5. **Policy Matters:**

### 5.1 *Discussion regarding Policy KDBA – Accessibility and Return of Student Answers, Student Work and Test Questions:*

This agenda item was passed over.

### 5.2 *Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Policy ACE – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability:*

As a member of the Policy Subcommittee, Erin Gibbons noted that there wasn't much input regarding this policy. Parry reported that the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) was consulted about the concerns around this policy, as well as consulting with facilities about the concerns at Happy Hollow. The School Committee reviewed the revised language in the policy which was updated by school counsel and the OCR. Parry explained.

### 5.3 *Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Policy KEC – Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials:*

The procedures for Policy KEC are being changed, not the policy. The librarians collaborated to create this information which the librarians identified as needed, as there could be challenges or complaints around the materials/resources in the libraries moving forward. The School Committee reviewed the newly created procedures. Parry explained, adding that the Superintendent makes the decision and brings the proposal to the School Committee.

*Ellen Grieco returned to the meeting at 7:17 p.m.*

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to put Policy ACE and Policy KEC, including the procedures out for public comment.

## 6. **Administrative Matters:**

### 6.1 *Preparation for Town Meeting:*

- **Review of Comments for Articles:**  
The School Committee reviewed the comments related to the Town Meeting warrant articles in terms of language and factual information.
- **Discussion of Fast Facts:**  
The Fast Facts will be given to the School Committee by Tom Lafleur this week.

### 6.2 *Update on Anti-Racism Resolution, including Plan to Display in School Buildings:*

The Anti-Racism Resolution was adopted on January 27, 2021. The School Committee discussed putting the Resolution on a large board to be displayed in each school and reviewed the Resolution for content since some changes were made by Caroline Han and Jeanne. Jeanne will move forward regarding this matter.

### 6.3 *Approval of the Release with Redactions the Following Executive Session Minutes: October 4, 2022, October 12, 2022, October 25, 2022, October 26, 2022, November 9, 2022, November 30, 2022, December 14, 2022:*

It was announced that the School Committee approved the release of the following minutes with the redactions: October 4, 2022, October 12, 2022, October 25, 2022, October 26, 2022, November 9, 2022, November 30, 2022, December 14, 2022:

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7. **Consent Agenda:**

7.1 Approval of Accounts Payables Warrants

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated April 26, 2023, in the amount of \$79,710.75

7.2 Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2023, March 28, 2023, April 10, 2023, April 11, 2023

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

8. **Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair (out of order):**

None.

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to enter Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. for the purposes of (a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), Wayland Educational Secretaries Association (WESA), Custodians and Food Service, 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; (b) reviewing and declassifying executive session minutes as listed, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: October 4, 2022, November 9, 2022, October 12, 2022, November 30, 2022, October 25, 2022, December 14, 2022, October 26, 2022; (c) approving executive session minutes, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22: December 15, 2021, December 22, 2021, January 5, 2022, January 18, 2023 #1, January 25, 2023, February 8, 2023, March 29, 2023; and (d) reviewing the response to the March 30, 2023 and April 3, 2023 Open Meeting Law complaints filed by George Harris, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the position of the School Committee.

| <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          | absent     |           |

The School Committee will be joined by Parry Graham, Acting Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent, Diane Marobella, recording secretary, and Attorneys Kevin Bresnahan and Courtney Mayo.

The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session and will reconvene in open session.

*Diane Marobella left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.*

The School Committee reconvened in open session at 10:18 p.m

10. **Possible Vote to Approve Acting Superintendent’s Employment Agreement:**

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the Per Diem and Acting Superintendent contracts for David Fleishman and the Chair to execute said contracts. 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          | absent     |           |

11. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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| <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          | absent     |           |

Respectfully submitted,

Parry Graham, Clerk/Acting Superintendent  
Wayland School Committee

**Observers:**

See attached sign-in sheets.

**Corresponding Documentation:**

1. Agenda
2. WHS Trip Proposal to Spain in 2024
3. Northeast Food for Schools Grant Award
4. Policy ACE Nondiscrimination Policy Edits
5. Policy KEC – Library Procedures for Handling Complaints
6. Anti-Racism Resolution Edits
7. Accounts Payables Warrant
8. Minutes of February 8, 2023
9. Minutes of March 28, 2023
10. Minutes of April 10, 2023
11. Minutes of April 11, 2023
12. Acting Superintendent Contract & Per Diem Agreement
13. Executive Session Motion