



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Erin N. Gibbons, Chair
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair
Ellen Grieco
Erin Mueller
Christina Rodrigo

Wayland Public Schools Wayland, Massachusetts 01778

Wayland School Committee (SC) Newsletter

For additional details, full recordings of most SC meetings are available on [WayCAM](#) and meeting minutes, once approved, can be found on the SC's website [here](#) or can be viewed at Town Hall.

At the November 29, 2023 SC meeting:

- David Fleishman (Acting Superintendent) and Betsy Gavron (Interim Assistant Superintendent) discussed the status of the **Middle School Field trips** after the recent announcement that the 8th grade Washington D.C. field trip, 7th grade Cape Cod trip, and 6th grade Walden Pond bike trip would not be happening this year. They stated the delay in messaging was due to many attempts to find a path to continue the trips as they have occurred in the past, acknowledging the importance of Wayland traditions enriching student learning with history. Many factors impacted the decision, including the mental health crisis that impacts students in and out of school and citing data from the MetroWest Health Survey. **Ms. Gavron stated the teachers have a strong desire to have inclusive trips that all students can access. A parent forum will be scheduled to follow up on community concerns and questions.**
- Caroline Han (Director of Diversity, Equity & Belonging) joined the SC to provide an update on current DEB initiatives. She reiterated that the District's goal around belonging & equity is to **"cultivate an inclusive culture of belonging and opportunity for all students and staff where all students feel recognized and valued as members of the Wayland School Community."** There are **new affinity groups for students being affected by anti-Semitism and Islamophobia**, a new **WHS Jewish Student Association**, and a potential partnership being explored with **Jewish Family Services Metrowest** to provide anti-hate programming for middle school students.
- Dr. Fleishman provided context around DESE's revisions to curriculum several years ago regarding integrating more focus on **civics into the 8th grade curriculum and the Holocaust, which is currently being taught in 9th grade**, but had previously been moved to 10th grade.
- Budget season is approaching and we are planning to **approve a budget in late January** per Town code.
- The Committee reviewed draft goals for the **Superintendent evaluation** for SY23-24 which will be completed by June 30, 2024.
- After reviewing her resume and interest statement, the **SC was thrilled to unanimously appoint Jacqueline Espirtusanto-Vega to the Wayland Housing Partnership**, and thanked her for stepping forward to serve in this additional capacity.
- Heath Rollins (Athletic Director) presented the Athletic Advisory Committee's (AAC) **proposal for funding High School Hockey for boys and girls teams**. The AAC proposed a phased approach to integrate hockey into the District's operating budget over the next four (4) years incrementally until it's fully funded by the budget.