

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Session – January 17, 2012

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Chair  
Beth Butler, Vice Chair  
Malcolm Astley  
Ellen Grieco  
Shawn Kinney

Also:

Paul Stein  
Superintendent of Schools

Brad J. Crozier  
Assistant Superintendent

Marlene M. Dodyk  
Director of Student Services

Geoffrey S. MacDonald  
Business Administrator

Also: Brian Jones, WSCP Director & Loker School Principal  
Mabel Reid-Wallace, METCO Director

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the regular meeting at 7:04 P.M. Before public comment, the Chair asked for a moment of silence for Jim Griffin, WHS Guidance Counselor, who had recently passed away.

1. **Comments & Written Statements from the Public:**

- Tom Sciacca commented on the 1:1 Technology Initiative and computers in general. He compared the capabilities of a desktop computer vs. a tablet, and stated that the compromise between the two is a laptop, which is the chosen machine for the 1:1 initiative. He also praised Apple software as being a better choice, as it does not require much technological support.

Tom also referred to a Boston Globe editorial re: brain injuries and that other sports can cause life-long injuries. He urged the School Committee to redirect their efforts and support toward a fall baseball league.

Before the start of the regular session, Paul Stein noted that budget-related documents were uploaded to Google docs.

2. **Budget Worksession:**

Shawn Kinney stated that the School Committee is rushing to put the budget together to meet the Finance Committee's deadline. He made a motion that the School Committee approve only a budgetary number for the FY13 budget for the FinCom to use in planning and that the School Committee continues to work out the actual details of the final budget number in the final budget presentation for however long it takes. Ellen Grieco seconded the motion.

The School Committee discussed the motion on the table, and the Chair asked what information is needed to move forward. To accommodate the requests of the School Committee members, Barb Fletcher stated that the following information would be available for the next meeting: 1) Budget Driver Information, 2) a cost savings analysis, and 3) enrollment report, and 4) a trend on number of students per FTE.

The School Committee reached a consensus that they would work through the budget at tonight's meeting and at the January 19 meeting, but agreed to move ahead with a motion. Paul Stein suggested that the School Committee ask the Finance Committee how long they can extend the budget process and work with that date. Barb Fletcher asked Shawn to amend his motion to reflect the FinCom's input.

Ellen Grieco concurred and she withdrew her second motion. Shawn withdrew his motion.

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Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco and seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to authorize the Chair to go to the Finance Committee to ask them for the maximum amount of time for the School Committee to consider the proposed fiscal FY13 budget and that the School Committee is prepared to give them a not-to-exceed number as a placeholder, if that would allow the School Committee more time to deliberate.

**Fees:**

Ellen Grieco reported that she had not spoken to Jim Toomey of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane regarding the revolving accounts; however, she will return his call in the morning.

**WSCP:**

Brian Jones was present to answer questions from the School Committee. He reported that there has not been a fee increase in the last two years. The fees for Pegasus this year will be lowered by ten percent, as there has been a drop in the enrollment, which he attributed to the economy, and he would like to increase the enrollment going forward. Brian also noted that the BASE rate has not changed from approximately \$9.00/hr. and is comparable with other towns. He also reported that, in the past, if there had been a fee increase, the Superintendent would ask the School Committee for approval.

The School Committee thanked Brian Jones for attending their meeting.

**METCO Grant and METCO Expenditures:**

The School Committee asked Mabel Reid-Wallace to summarize the terms of the METCO Grant.

Mabel first thanked everyone and the community for their support and their response to their key letter to make sure they remain whole. The actual grant allocation from the state was \$602,678, which covers staff salaries, transportation and travel, plus the offset. Mabel stated that the actual METCO budget for this year is \$624,568, which means that the METCO revolving account supports the program. Mabel reviewed current staffing and transportation costs, but stated that fundraising is still necessary to maintain the level of staffing and programming in place. Mabel also reviewed a budget going forward that will reflect the inclusion of after school programming with three different scenarios. This will lower the offset, and the total cost would be covered from the State grant. Mabel stated that the METCO population was at 125 twelve years ago and currently is at 136 students.

Malcolm Astley recommended building the late buses into the budget for next year and commented that Suburban Coalition does try to keep a cursory eye on spending priorities at the Federal level.

She also informed the School Committee of a METCO Legislative Tour on January 30, 2012 here in Wayland and Lobby Day on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Review of the Proposed FY13 School Committee Budget & Central Office Budget:**

The School Committee discussed the School Committee Proposed FY13 budget. The School Committee agreed to keep the proposed budget as is; however, if Professional Development opportunities arose throughout the current year and there were insufficient funds, they would increase the funds in the following year's budget.

They also asked the Central Office administrators questions related to their departmental budgets. Again, the School Committee did not make changes to the proposed FY13 Central Office budget.

3. **Review of Topics for the January 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

The School Committee discussed the role and permanency of the math coaches going forward. Paul Stein will ask the coaches to attend a future School Committee meeting and make a curriculum presentation.

The Committee also discussed the concept of a contingency fund, as well as what are appropriate levels in providing additional services, per pupil expenditures relative to the cost of inflation, and fees.

The School Committee concurred that the following will be discussed at the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting:

1. What have been the major reasons for the increases year after year?
2. What is the detailed breakdown of the increase from FY12 to FY13?
3. An analysis of students vs. FTEs (SPED and regular education)

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4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0-1) (Beth Butler abstained) to approve the following minutes as written:

- Regular Session of January 3, 2012

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0-1) (Beth Butler abstained) to approve the following minutes as written:

- Executive Session of January 3, 2012

5. **Superintendent's Report:**

(a) Paul Stein informed the School Committee that John Moynihan went back to the MSBA requesting potential funding for the Middle School roof. They agreed to extend the deadline and be part of the next application round. However, a vote is required of the School Committee and Board of Selectmen by January 31 to approve the application. This item will be placed on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> agenda.

Paul also said that he visited the High School earlier in the day. He found that the staff was doing a nice job taking care of the kids and each other in the face of the difficult loss of Jim Griffin's passing.

Malcolm Astley asked about the impact of Rachel's challenge, and Marlene Dodyk replied that it was well received and that there were ripple effects and everyone was taking the message to heart around acts of kindness.

6. **Follow-up and Future Agenda Items:**

(a) Middle School Fields:

Barb Fletcher would like to coordinate with Malcolm Astley regarding discussions with the Rec Commission to include any maintenance/improvements of any school-related properties. Malcolm agreed to contact the Rec Commission to understand their plans related to school property, particularly with regard to Town Meeting.

(b) Shawn Kinney commented on the proposed warrant article that was given to the School Committee for informational purposes.

7. **Public Comment:**

- Tom Sciacca commented on the School Committee's budget time crunch and suggested that the School Committee ask the Selectmen to change the date for Town Meeting. He also commented that the School Committee has not acted unreasonably in acting on the FinCom's guidelines, but doesn't know why increases need to be above the rate of inflation. Tom also stated that once programs are established, they never die; thus, a way to fund Chinese is to cancel another language that is not world-class or eliminate existing lower-priority programs to fund new ones. He asked the School Committee to record his comments as stated as part of the public comment process.
- John Flaherty commented on specific parts of the Abrahams Report that are incorporated into the FY13 budget. The School Committee Chair noted that they can take his comment as a question, and if the Committee agrees, they will ask it and address it at the next meeting. The School Committee agreed to consider his comments and will discuss at the next meeting.
- Louis Jurist commented on the budget. He noted that the COLA steps and lanes account for approximately \$1 million of the increase from FY12 to FY13. He also mentioned that if the bottom line needs to be decreased, then the School Committee must be willing to list all the cuts necessary to reach that amount. He urged the School Committee to take the time to do the homework necessary to answer all the questions raised. He expressed his excitement related to the education that Wayland offers its students while still remaining within the confines of the FinCom guideline.

8. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 10:34 P.M.

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Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Louis Jurist  
Tom Sciacca, WVN  
John Flaherty

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Regular Session Minutes of January 3, 2012
2. Executive Session Minutes of January 3, 2012
3. Revolving Accounts 5-year History
4. Budget Adjustments for Superintendent's Proposed Budget
5. Computer Sustainability Chart FY13 – FY17