

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Session – December 5, 2014

A Special Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Friday, December 5, 2014, at 1:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair (by remote – contacted at 1:01 p.m.)
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
Malcolm Astley
Donna Bouchard
Jeanne Downs

Also:

Brad Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Vice Chair Barb Fletcher convened the Special Session at 1:02 p.m. Barb noted that Ellen Grieco is participating remotely due to geographic reasons and has provided the remote form. The meeting is being taped by WayCAM.

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

Linda Segal distributed a written statement to the Committee regarding her public records request, including a conversation via email between her and Ellen Grieco. Linda commented that she would like to understand why there wasn't a plan to archive the ten years of information relative to the high school building project that is currently unavailable. The School Committee will put this topic on its agenda for December 15.

Kent George commented on the issuance of the Executive Session minutes in regard to the METCO Director and the extent of the redactions made to the minutes. In his opinion, because all employees work for the town, these minutes should be public information. Thus, he asked the School Committee to explain why the minutes were redacted as such and to comment on the missing funds. Kent believes that further action should be taken to obtain the missing records.

Donna Bouchard commented that she did not agree with the redactions made by the School Committee.

Malcolm Astley commented that the Committee is dealing with restrictions that cannot be revealed.

Ellen Grieco echoed Malcolm's comments, and added that the School Committee has deliberated long and hard and understands the public's frustration. Ellen further commented that the Committee is not in a position to disclose information at this point, however, will do so at the appropriate time. Barb Fletcher agreed.

2. **Regular Matters:**

(a) Discussion regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by George Harris on November 4, 2014 related to Prior Executive Session Minutes as listed on the Meeting Notice:

Since Donna was given the task of responding to the OML complaint of November 4, 2014 filed by George Harris and to ask him for an extension, she asked Mr. Harris to attend this meeting in order to have an open dialogue with the Committee. He could not attend, so she discussed this OML complaint with him and will report on this conversation in Executive Session.

(b) Matter not Anticipated by the Chair – Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by George Harris on December 5, 2014: Donna asked for an explanation in terms of why George Harris's public records request for a copy of the Settlement Agreement was not satisfied within the appropriate time frame, which resulted in today's OML Complaint. Ellen explained the process taken since the public records request was received, and that she received from Town Counsel today a signed copy of the Settle Agreement. Ellen noted that she will put this topic on the agenda for December 15th and will notify Mr. Harris by email.

Upon a motion duly made by Donna Bouchard, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) that when a public records request or an Open Meeting Law complaint is stamped

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received by the School Department, a copy is sent to the entire School Committee by the recording secretary. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair (by remote)	X	
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Donna Bouchard	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	

Barb commented that Donna's motion is a good idea, given that the responsibility of the Chair to respond within the appropriate time frame is a large responsibility. Since the recording secretary time stamps these documents, she will send a copy to all members of the Committee.

Ellen commented that she receives many emails in the form of public records requests and they should be treated as such. She recommended a central clearinghouse for these communications, and will copy the recording secretary.

Barb further commented on Linda Segal's public records request in that she was going to provide the request to the School Committee, but Linda did so at this meeting. Ellen noted her appreciation to Linda Segal for reminding Ellen of her request.

3. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 1:22 p.m. for the purposes of discussing strategy related to George Harris's Open Meeting Law Complaint filed on November 4, 2014 related to prior Executive Session Minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1) and to amend and approve the following Executive Session minutes as listed on the meeting notice (May 6, 2013, June 17, 2013, #2, August 26, 2013, September 16, 2013, September 23, 2013, October 1, 2013, and October 21, 2013), as permitted by M.G.L. c. 30A, §22. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair (absent)		
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Donna Bouchard	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Brad Crozier, Assistant Superintendent and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will reconvene in Open Session to conduct regular matters as listed on the meeting notice.

Since Ellen was participating remotely, she stated that no other person was present and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote location.

Brad Crozier left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Ellen left the meeting by remote at 2:37 p.m.

4. **Regular Matters (continued):**

(a) Possible Vote to Declassify Executive Session Minutes and Corresponding Documents of the Following:
Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Donna Bouchard, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to declassify the Executive Session minutes of June 17, 2013 (#2), August 26, 2013,

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September 16, 2013, September 23, 2013, October 1, 2013, and October 21, 2013 as amended. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair (absent)		
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Donna Bouchard	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	

(b) Possible Vote to Send Response to Attorney General regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by George Harris on November 4, 2013

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Donna Bouchard, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to send the draft response as discussed in Executive Session to George Harris regarding his Open Meeting Law Complaint filed on November 4, 2014 for this review. It will either come back to the School Committee for further discussion or it will be sent to the Attorney General.

Malcolm requested that high stakes testing be put on a future agenda.

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Donna Bouchard, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Linda Segal
Kent George

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Communication distributed by Linda Segal
2. Draft Response to Attorney General re: OML Complaint filed by George Harris on November 4, 2013
3. Executive Session Minutes: June 17, 2013 (#2), August 26, 2013, September 16, 2013, September 23, 2013, October 1, 2013 and October 21, 2013