

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – April 7, 2016 – Continuation of Session #1

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, 6:00 P.M. in Room A149 at Wayland High School.

Present were:
Ellen Grieco, Chair
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
Donna Bouchard
Jeanne Downs (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)
Kathie Steinberg

Also:
Paul Stein
Superintendent

Brad Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Chair Ellen Grieco re-convened in open session at 6:02 p.m. to continue the meeting that was recessed at noon today.

1. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to re-convene in Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to threatened litigation under Title IX Anti-Retaliation Provisions and M.G.L. c.149, §185, by the former Athletic Director Stephen Cass against the Wayland Public Schools and the School Committee, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as such discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the litigation position of the School Committee, and review and possible approval of prior executive sessions, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 30A, §22, for the following meeting: March 21, 2016. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair	X	
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair	X	
Donna Bouchard	X	
Jeanne Downs	absent	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Paul Stein, Superintendent of Schools, Brad Crozier, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Susan Bottan, Business Administrator.

The School Committee will reconvene in open session to conduct regular matters as noted on the meeting notice.

2. **Matter not Anticipated by the Chair:**

(a) Discussion Related to the School Committee's Statement regarding the Arrest and Prosecution of the Former Athletic Director:

Barb referred to the public comment made by Police Chief Irving at the April 7th early meeting regarding the roles and decision making related to the arrest and prosecution of Stephen Cass. She recommended that the School Committee make a statement that it supports and/or agrees with the facts stated in Chief Irving's statement. Donna read the statement from Chief Irving. A discussion ensued regarding the School Committee's position going forward.

Ellen left the meeting at 6:10 p.m. to answer a call from Town Counsel. Donna accompanied her.

Barb distributed the Town Meeting message by the School Committee and she, Kathie and Jeannie reviewed it for content and language with the changes that Barb made.

Donna returned to the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Barb brought Donna up to date with the changes made to the message.

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Ellen returned to the meeting at 6:16 pm.

Ellen informed the Committee that it is Mark Lanza's opinion that the School Committee's morning session was appropriately noticed, the discussion was appropriately noticed under Purpose 3, and a similar discussion would also be appropriately noticed under Purpose 3.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to recess the School Committee meeting for ten minutes.

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

The School Committee resumed in open session at 6:32 p.m. Because Donna disagrees with Mark's opinion in terms of the discussions being appropriately noticed and would like to see a second opinion from the Attorney General, a discussion ensued by the Committee in terms of whether to move forward with this meeting or postpone this discussion until the following week. Ellen expressed her concern about postponing this discussion, especially since receiving unequivocal legal advice that the meeting was appropriately noticed. Other members expressed their dissatisfaction with the fact that the Committee has not reached a decision to issue a statement in a timely manner.

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted (3-2) to request that the Chair motion to re-enter Executive Session.

Barb reminded the Committee that its vote to approve the Special Revenue Fund Budgets and fees and tuitions must take place before Town Meeting begins this evening.

Ellen commented that, unless Donna joins in the School Committee discussion in Executive Session, it might not be worth the effort tonight. Therefore, Donna commented that since she does not feel that the discussion is appropriately noticed, she will not participate in Executive Session this evening. Again, Jeanne and Kathie expressed their frustration that this decision is postponed yet again.

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Jeanne Downs, Kathie motioned that the School Committee vote to release a statement, including the Chief's statement, and that the Committee add to it that the School Committee supports the actions of the Superintendent and the administration in their actions leading up to the arrest as referenced in Chief Irving's letter.

Ellen is in favor of Kathie's motion to make a statement in support of the administration, and would like to have the ability to nuance the language in the statement, but believes that it must be done in Executive Session, given the subject matter related to pending litigation. Kathie withdrew her motion.

4. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. this portion of the recessed meeting that began this morning at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Draft Town Meeting Comments
3. Executive Session Motion