

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – August 25, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 12:30 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
Jeanne Downs
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Kim Reichelt

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent

Marlene Dodyk

Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan

Business Administrator

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the special session at 12:37 P.M. and announced that the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

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

Tom Sciacca commented on the School Committee's choice of peer towns and the parameters used. Tom conveyed why he disagrees with the metrics used to compare Wayland with other towns, especially to the Town of Weston. He distributed an excerpt from an article in The Economist.

2. **Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve and Enter into a Contract with One of the Following Law Firms:**

Murphy Hesse, Toomey & Lehane, LLP and Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP

Paul commented that Brad reached his colleagues in six districts. He conveyed the references and remarks that Brad received when making reference checks for the two law firms, particularly those regarding the lead attorney from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane. Both firms garnered positive feedback. Paul expressed Brad's preference to work with one law firm rather than multiple.

A discussion ensued and Ellen recommended that the Committee reach out to Kevin Bresnihan regarding other areas of his firm's expertise other than special education. Ellen read some of the services the firm provides as well as their response time from the proposal that was submitted. Paul gave some past examples of MHTL's responsiveness and expertise for some of his issues.

Ellen will follow up with Mr. Bresnihan to understand the firm's expertise in the 3 or 4 areas where Wayland tends to solicit legal assistance.

3. **Financial Matters:**

(a) Review and Discuss Information to be Presented at the August 29th Finance Committee Meeting:

Susan informed the Committee that a joint budget summit is being considered for all town boards, including the School Committee on August 29th. By way of background, she noted that a 2.5% increase in the operating budget for FY18 translates to an approximate increase of \$1.8M. With approximately \$1.0M non-negotiable, \$860,000 remains for Town and School Department increases.

The Committee reviewed the slides containing school information that will be included in the handout the Town Administrator will provide at the August 29th meeting in preparation for the FY18 budget process and out years. Susan highlighted some of the presentation and a discussion ensued in terms of what school information to include in the presentation. Marlene commented on Special Education projected FTEs and costs to clarify some of the information in the presentation.

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4. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

- (a) Discussion regarding George Harris's Public Records Request of August 22, 2016. Ellen noted that a response is due ten days from August 22, 2016. She read the public records request, and the School Committee discussed this request to clarify and understand what is being requested.

Ellen left the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

5. **Policy Subcommittee Update:**

- (a) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Following Policy:
JICH – Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Jeanne confirmed that Policy JICH was put out for public comment and no comments were received. The next step is to approve the revised policy.

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to approve Policy JICH Alcohol and Drug Abuse, as amended.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated 8/25/2016, in the amount of \$610,522.70
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Student Activities Warrant, dated 8/25/2016, in the amount of \$67,259.24
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated August 3, 2016, in the amount of \$274,776.75
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated August 17, 2016, in the amount of \$333,670.73

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants as presented today.

7. **Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:**

None.

8. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants
3. Slides regarding FY18 Budget Process
4. Policy JICH – Alcohol & Drug Abuse
5. Public Records Request dated 8/22/2016