

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Special Meeting – October 21, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 5:00 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the Wayland Town Building.

*Present and participating remotely were:*

Jeanne Downs, Chair  
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair  
Kim Reichelt  
Chris Ryan  
Kathie Steinberg

*Also participating remotely:*

Arthur Unobskey  
Superintendent

Parry Graham  
Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead  
Director of Student Services

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session at 5:05 p.m. WayCAM recorded the meeting and it was livestreamed via ZOOM. The meeting was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation. A roll call was taken:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

**1. Superintendent Search:**

- Focus Group Update:  
Future Management Systems (FMS) facilitated six focus groups, adding a second parent focus group due to the storm last week. Jeanne and Kathie will facilitate the community focus group Thursday evening.
- Review of Search Committee and Selection of Community Members:  
Ellen is organizing the members of the Superintendent Screening Committee. The Administrative Council will be represented by Allyson Mizoguchi, Christie Harvey, Richard Whitehead, Tony Laing, and possibly Caroline Han. The PTO chose three parents, WTA will provide three names, WESA will provide two names, and Diane Marobella will serve on the committee. There will be two or three community members without children in the schools; three have submitted applications (Robin Sklar, Meredith Fuller, and Amruta Mhatre Mudambi). A discussion ensued about the size of the committee given the community's interest, including a Finance Committee member. The School Committee agreed to have 16 members.

The Screening Committee will screen all resumes, choose and interview the semi-finalists, and recommend finalists to the School Committee.

The School Committee discussed the feedback received from the parent and staff surveys put out by FMS regarding the School Committee's role in terms of policy vs. academics/curriculum.

**2. Consent Agenda (out of order):**

- Approval of Minutes: September 23, 2020, October 8, 2020, October 15, 2020:

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 23, 2020, October 8, 2020, and October 15, 2020. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

**3. Administrative Matters (out of order):**

- School Committee Member Communication:  
The School Committee discussed its method of communication with school principals, possibly via committee school liaisons or the Superintendent according to School Committee policy.

*Arthur, Parry, and Richard joined the meeting at 5:30 p.m.*

Having been at the Middle School on Monday and Tuesday during the arrival of the students, Jeanne enjoyed seeing the students come back into school. She thanked Susan Green and Lea Anderson for also being at Loker and Claypit in the morning. Jeanne thanked the administration, custodians, Ben Keefe, Louise Miller, school nurses and so many others who worked so hard to prepare for the reopening of the schools.

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

Caroline Higgins, 26 Parkland Drive, thanked the school community and teachers and commented that she is excited about starting in the hybrid mode at Loker School. She asked the School Committee to devise a plan to prioritize Kindergartners by bringing them back in four days a week. Ms. Higgins is a school counselor in the Westwood school system and kindergartners and first graders are in school four days a week since September as in other districts. She wants to hear about solutions to this issue and suggested adjustments to the current hybrid model.

Jeanne read a public comment from David Howe, 35 Peck Avenue, in which he asked if students would be allowed to enter the school buildings if they did not have the flu vaccine by January 2021.

Taline Badrekian, Campbell Road, is a fairly new Wayland resident. She appreciates all the planning that has taken place, but she is not comfortable sending her children to school. The WRAP option was not entirely clear nor was information shared with parents in terms of WRAP being a synchronous learning program for students. If she was better informed, she would have made the decision to request WRAP sooner. Ms. Badrekian asked for clarification in terms of bringing families into WRAP now.

Jeanne read a public comment from Rich Peck in which he asked why none of his suggestions about outdoor classrooms/learning were pursued as written in an August 2 letter to the School Committee. Mr. Peck also suggested bringing small groups of students in to meet with teachers, masked and socially distanced, either indoors or outdoors. He asked the School Committee to explain why his strategies were not considered.

Jeanne responded to the public comments that the School Committee respects all constituencies and the interests put forth by the community. The School Committee strives to do what is best for all students.

As a parent and School Committee member, Ellen commented that this time is difficult for families on very different levels, and the Committee is trying to work towards solutions that will make it easier for families. She added that she spent some time at Loker School greeting students this week and it was a joy to see them.

**5. Superintendent's Update:**

- Hybrid Mode Update:  
Arthur commented that the administration is working towards addressing the questions that parents have and will proceed in a deliberate and appropriate manner to provide stability and consistency for the students. He appreciates all the suggestions and feedback.

*Update on Staff and Student Health Attestation:*

Arthur thanked administrators and School Committee members for being at the schools during student arrival and for holding signs to remind parents to fill out the health attestation. He also thanked the CO administrative assistants for making calls to assure compliance and Leisha Simon for all of her efforts. There was a 98% compliance rate by Tuesday in Cohort A, and Arthur stressed the importance of this process.

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In terms of kindergarten students, the administrators agree that they should come into school more frequently and they are working towards this goal.

6. **COVID-19 Response:**

- **Update on Staff and Student Health Attestation:**  
This was discussed during the Superintendent's update.
- **WRAP Update:**  
The original deadline to sign up for WRAP was August 16 at which time parents were asked to commit to the program for the first semester. Arthur noted the plan for the High School and Middle School involved a fair amount of third party teaching, but given the low sign-up of students, the program was structured accordingly with more synchronous learning. WRAP is successful thanks to the hard work of the teachers. The goal was to establish a consistent non-chaotic pattern for students in both hybrid and WRAP. The district will follow an orderly process for families who want to switch from hybrid to WRAP or WRAP to hybrid as recommended and supported by the Commissioner of Education.

Parry identified the process in handling requests for students to switch from hybrid to WRAP. Five dates will be designated as entry points in which students can move into WRAP if space is available. Those entry points are the beginning of Q2 (November 16), middle of Q2 (December 14), beginning of Q3 (February 1), middle of Q3 (March 8), and beginning of Q4 (April 12). Parents should contact Parry Graham to discuss the families' circumstances and their request. Two weeks before the entry dates, Parry will review the list of names and make decisions to move students into WRAP based on available space and reasons for the requests. Parry explained the challenges, particularly when space is not available due to a maximum class sizes. This may require creating an additional class and hiring an internal or external teacher resulting in student movement. The WRAP class size caps are as follows: K-1 (23); 2-3 (26); 4-5 (26); and 6-8 (24). High School class size is not a factor due to the model.

A discussion ensued about those families who could choose to move from WRAP to the hybrid model, the potential impact to the students, and the process moving forward.

- **Transportation Update:**  
Arthur gave an update about transportation. Since the hybrid mode kicked in on Monday, many families have requested bus transportation. However, some families do not live over the two-mile limit. It will take about two weeks to determine changed routes and seat capacity on the buses.
- **Special Education Update:**  
Richard noted that students are participating/interacting in inclusionary activities with their peers in the hybrid mode.
- **Ongoing Review Groups: Remote and Hybrid Curriculum Progress Committee and COVID Learning and Safety Committee:**  
*RHCPC:* The members of this committee are Parry Graham, Ellen Grieco, Chris Ryan, Allyson Mizoguchi, Nicole Hagdaust, Richard Whitehead, Susan Memoli, Tony Laing, Stephanie Galvani, David Green (parent), Rachel Scott, Jackie Moquin, and Sue Olivier.

*COVID Learning and Safety Committee:* Today was the first meeting at Happy Hollow that includes Louise Miller, Ben Keefe, Jeanne Downs, Kathie Steinberg, Kori Rogers, Michele Fiske and Susan Botton. The discussions included cleaning and ventilation, as well as the overall process including communication.

- **Ventilation Update:**  
Louise Miller sent a memo and the engineers' reports to staff. Jeanne updated that MERV 13 filters are in the uni-vents followed up by testing and balancing when the weather is colder. Jeanne explained the testing and balancing process to determine airflow and will result in cooler classrooms over the next few weeks. The ventilation update is posted on the website.
- **Testing Update:**  
Ellen commented that this process is still in the research stage to determine what types of tests are available and what is possible. Ellen contacted the Safer Schools Coalition, the coalition that assisted Wellesley Public Schools in a staged pooled saliva-testing pilot program.

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Kim shared the Wayland Public Schools COVID Metrics Dashboard and explained the COVID activity metrics in Wayland and across the State. Kim updates this dashboard regularly. A discussion ensued about adding metrics for mask wearing.

- Review of Upcoming Communications and Listening Sessions:  
Kathie commented that there is a challenge to maintain the right balance in terms of communications with the community given that families receive a vast amount of information now. Kathie reviewed the process for contact tracing for the buildings and noted that much of the information is on the website. Arthur noted that a resource page for the community is a possibility. Chris added that he and Kim are working on a FAQ.
- Next Steps:  
This agenda item was addressed in previous discussions.

**7. Financial Matters:**

- Discussion and Review of COVID Related Finances:  
This agenda item was passed over.
- FY22 Operating Budget and Capital Plan Guidelines and Timeline:  
Kathie commented that the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee reviewed the budget guidelines and each of their meetings. The timelines for both the capital and operating budgets will move at a fast pace to meet the deadlines. The FY22 budget will be presented December 14.

**8. Administrative Matters (continued):**

- School Committee Schedule:  
The School Committee will meet bi-weekly beginning November 4, which also is the joint meeting with Boston parents.

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

WHS drama teacher Aidan O'Hara is proposing a filmed fall play performance to be shown at Claypit Hill School in a drive-in movie setting. The Health Department must also approve this proposal.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the proposal for the outdoor show conditioned upon the approval of the Health Department. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

A discussion ensued about the approval process regarding access to the inside of Claypit Hill School.

**10. Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. for the purposes of (a) discussing regarding strategy related to collective bargaining with custodial union, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; (b) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining grievance filed by Wayland Teachers Association, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; and (c) approving the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: September 23, 2020.

The School Committee will be joined by Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

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The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session and will not reconvene in open session. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Chris Ryan, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

**Corresponding Documentation:**

1. Agenda
2. Public Comments
3. Screening Committee Applications
4. Minutes of September 23, 2020, October 8, 2020, October 15, 2020
5. WHS Fall Performance Proposal
6. Executive Session Motion