

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – June 8, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. at Wayland High School.

*Present:*

Chris Ryan, Chair  
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair  
Jeanne Downs  
Erin Gibbons  
Jessica Polizzotti

*Also present:*

Dr. Omar Easy  
Superintendent

Parry Graham  
Assistant Superintendent

*Also:*

Anne-Louise Klaus, SEPAC Co-President  
Katelyn Andrus, SEPAC Co-President

**1. Welcome & Call to Order:**

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 5:38 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM.

The School Committee shared their school experiences over the past two weeks, such as the WHS graduation, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade biography project at Happy Hollow, the Mary Johnson Travelship Award Ceremony, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Walden bike trip.

**2. Public Comment:**

Heather Davis commented with dismay about the most recent mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas as well the one at Sandy Hook that occurred several years ago. She believes that Dr. Easy's plan is more reactive than proactive, adding that, in her opinion, ALICE protocols are not a sufficient solution to this ongoing problem. Ms. Davis volunteered to help in any way she can to move forward with a more proactive approach that could ensure school safety. Some mitigation ideas could include installing additional locks in buildings or hiring resource officers.

Ellen Grieco responded and offered to work with Ms. Davis to come up with a proactive approach to this issue.

Andrea Gellerstein is a special education teacher at Claypit Hill and as a member of the WTA Executive Board is speaking on the Board's behalf. She referred to Policy GCF (Professional Staff Hiring) that was reviewed at the May 25<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. Ms. Gellerstein recited the School Committee's proposed language for Policy GCF about giving the Superintendent authorization to waive the formation of a search committee in the event of an unexpected vacancy. The Executive Board strongly rejects the addition of the proposed language to Policy GCF and stated the reasons why, adding that a "search committee ensures that potential candidates will have the educational background, certifications, direct experience, knowledge base, and commitment to serve our district's students and families."

Chris clarified the School Committee's discussion about Policy GCF at the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Craig Gruber, 108 Sears Road, is pleased that there will be a student member on the School Committee as he proposed, and also pleased that community voices are being heard, particularly regarding the search for a Special Education Director whereby an Interim Director is being considered. He referred to an agenda item in executive session and noted that more than one member brought up during the campaign a possible conflict of interest regarding contract negotiations for the teachers' contract to be present and sought the endorsement of the WTA.

**3. Special Matter:**

(a) Annual Presentation and Discussion with SEPAC Leadership:

Co-Presidents Katy Andrus and Anne-Louise Klaus presented updates about how the Special Education Parent

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Advisory Council (SEPAC) was involved and active this year. They thanked the PTO, the Wayland Public Schools Foundation and Harvard Pilgrim for their grant assistance and also Ellen Grieco as the School Committee representative on SEPAC, as well as the administration. School liaisons are available to families when needed. The SEPAC website offers many resources for families as well as information on yearly events.

SEPAC conducted a second annual anonymous and confidential survey which helps to better represent the needs of the families. The focus was on the current year, but contained some data from January to June 2021. The strengths of the special education services include staff who are open, timely and responsive communication, qualified, proactive, responsive, flexible, knowledgeable, experienced, supportive team oriented, compassionate and kind. There is a strong assessment process and well organized programs, including ABA and OT. There were concerns about staff turnover in the special education department, and some comments noted that support and communication was less positive at the middle and high school levels. However, the survey indicated that about 65% of those who participated were satisfied or somewhat satisfied. A chart of the responses was displayed.

More than half of the responses indicated that children had Executive Function difficulties which indicates a need for more formal Executive Function support in all schools.

About 70% of families who responded to the survey reported that to the best of their knowledge, their children in grades K-2 have not been screened for Dyslexia. Federal Child Find laws require districts to identify students with disabilities and the State of Massachusetts additionally requires districts to diagnose and evaluate students' needs and to propose and provide programs to meet those needs. Parents feel that the schools could improve in terms of evaluating their children.

There was overall satisfaction with evaluations and assessments. However, there were many reasons for dissatisfaction, such as timeliness, communication, lack of support, indifference, inaccurate, limited/weak or incomplete assessments, and inaccurate process information. In terms of satisfaction by school, Claypit Hill indicated the highest current overall satisfaction. There were many reasons and comments given in the survey by respondents in terms of their dissatisfaction. A few include: IEP services not being implemented, 504 accommodations not given, lack of executive function curriculum, the lack of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, lack of in-person instruction, and lack of timeliness.

The survey asked respondents about compensatory services for those who did not receive services due to COVID-19, and 35.4% believed that they should have received compensatory services. Ellen Grieco explained further about compensatory services.

Suggestions for program improvements and additional services include executive function support across all grades, social emotional programs, earlier communication about the summer programming, provide evidence based and data driven instruction, improve the high school transition, ADA compliance at all schools, Orton-Gillingham tutors, and more communication about the Special Education Director. A discussion ensued in this regard. Dr. Easy reported that a language-based program will be established at Claypit Hill School in the fall to accommodate 8 to 10 students, and executive function support is being considered for the elementary schools.

**4. Superintendent Update:**

(a) COVID-19 Update:

Parry reported positive COVID cases for the following weeks: June 2 to June 8 there were 30 student cases and 5 staff cases, May 19 to 25, there were 29 student cases, May 26 to June 1, there were 23 student cases. He reiterated that the State will not be providing financial support for pooled testing during the summer and the upcoming school year, and this week will be the last round of test distribution provided by the State. However, tests will be available for the summer programs. Dr. Easy and Parry thanked the parent volunteers, school nurses, and assistant principals, adding that Kim Reichelt continues to work behind the scenes.

(b) Introduction of the WHS Student Representative to Serve on the School Committee for the 2022-2023 School Year:

Dr. Easy introduced Madeline O'Leary who is an upcoming Senior and was the Vice-President of the freshmen class and sophomore class and is a member of the National Honor Society. She was interviewed in November by Dr. Easy and other administrators and she was highly recommended by the interview committee to serve as the WHS student representative on the School Committee.

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Madeline addressed the School Committee and is excited to represent the student body. A discussion ensued about this process moving forward that could include an update by Madeline during the Superintendent's Update during the early part of each meeting that she attends. Dr. Easy would like to form a Student Advisory Committee for which Madeline could work with Dr. Mizoguchi.

(c) **Approval of Fundraising for the SADD Trip:**

The School Committee reviewed the two policies, JJH and JJE, related to student fundraising. It was determined that the High School Principal, not the School Committee, should approve fundraising. Jeanne noted that the high school may have its own fundraising policy. There is a link on the WHS website for online donations to support the trip. This trip was approved by the School Committee at a prior meeting.

5. **Administrative Matters:**

(a) **Update regarding the Positions of Director of Finance & Operations and Director of Special Education:**

A discussion ensued about the appointments of these two positions upon recommendation from the Superintendent. Chris clarified these appointments as advised by the school counsel. Parry updated the School Committee regarding the search and process for the Special Education Director. Two finalists were identified and one withdrew. It was decided that the remaining finalist would not be hired based on his desire to be a Superintendent at some point in his career. The plan is to move forward and hire an Interim Director of Special Education for one year. Dr. Easy and Ellen Grieco referred to the search committee as a whole in regard to the search process.

Dr. Easy updated the School Committee about the finalist candidate for the Director of Finance & Operations who will meet and be interviewed by the School Committee.

6. **Financial Matters (out of order):**

(a) **Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Elementary iPad 5-Year Lease:**

Leisha Simon asked the School Committee to approve a routine request to purchase and replace 200 elementary iPads that are currently seven years old. The district is in the process of moving classroom hardware to sustainable leases from capital purchases to the operating budget for the 830 iPads currently in the district. Technology has a shelf life of three to five years. Leisha explained why some devices are on three-year leases vs. five-year leases. A discussion ensued in this regard. It was noted that a maintenance fee supports the repairs.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the elementary iPad five-year lease as presented.

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

(a) **Discussion regarding the 2022-2023 School Committee Meetings:**

The School Committee reviewed the draft meeting calendar. A change was made for the month of August and the October 6 meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

(b) **Superintendent Evaluation Update, Including Evidence, Review of Process and Timing:**

Jeanne described the process in terms of Dr. Easy's goals and the summative assessment, standards, and the ratings all of which the School Committee reviewed. Dr. Easy provided his evidence binder to the School Committee electronically and described the items in the binder, including many links. The School Committee will meet in public session on June 14 and 16 regarding Dr. Easy's evaluation.

8. **Financial Matters:**

(a) **PMBC Update regarding the Loker Roof:**

Jeanne provided an update on the Loker roof project which is on schedule. The roofing materials are being stored by the roofer, and the HVAC for the rooftop has a hard ship date and should arrive in time for installation. There is a plan in place to provide electricity continually until the transformers can be installed, as this could be delayed. The School Committee and Dr. Easy discussed the concerns about this project in terms of the schedule/timeline. The next PMBC meeting is June 28.

*Erin Gibbons left the meeting at 7:47 p.m.*

9. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) **Accounts Payables Warrant:** None submitted.

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- (b) Approval of Minutes: May 11, 2022:  
One edit was made to the minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the consent agenda with the modification of the minutes and without the warrant.

10. **Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:**  
None.

*Erin Gibbons returned to the meeting at 7:50 p.m.*

11. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. for the purposes of a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), 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 (b) approving the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: May 11, 2022. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Chris Ryan, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Dr. Omar Easy, Superintendent, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session and will not reconvene in open session.

12. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Chris Ryan, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

**Observers:**

Andrea Gellerstein, WTA

**Corresponding Documentation:**

1. Agenda
2. 2022 SEPAC Survey Presentation

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3. 2022 SEPAC Survey – Appendix C
4. 2022 SEPAC Parent/Guardian Survey
5. 2022-2023 Draft School Committee Meeting Calendar
6. FY22 Draft Superintendent Evaluation
7. Evaluation Ratings
8. Evaluation Rubric
9. Superintendent's Goals
10. Five-Year Lease for Elementary iPads
11. Draft May 11, 2022 Minutes
12. Executive Session Motion