

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – January 11, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at Wayland High School Lecture Hall, South Building 2nd Floor.

Present:

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

Also present:

Dr. Omar Easy
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur
Director of Finance & Operations

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

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 6:04 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM.

2. **Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

3. **Superintendent Update:**

3.1 *Approval for WHS Students to Attend the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All Eastern Festival in New York in April 2023:*

Allyson Mizoguchi presented this trip, adding that two students, Adrian Yemin and Kevin Lee, were among 65 students statewide who were selected to attend NAfME. They will be participating in their respective honors ensembles leading to the final performance on April 16. Fine Arts Director Susan Memoli will accompany the students together with students from Weston High School.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the trip to the All Eastern Festival in New York as presented by Dr. Mizoguchi.

3.2 *Presentation by Math Department Head, Dr. Heller:*

K-12 Math Department Head Dr. Shanley Heller shared her education and career background in math with the School Committee. Currently, she teaches high school geometry and introductory to precalculus. Dr. Heller praised the math department and their commitment and collaboration to help the students. The year started with a deep dive into Geometry, Algebra II, and Calculus in an effort to address learning loss during the pandemic. She described the efforts in this regard, adding that students have options. The department is also examining its core values.

3.3 *Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve a Five-Year Classroom Audio Visual (AV) Equipment Lease:*

Leisha Simon asked for the School Committee's approval regarding this standard request of a five-year classroom AV equipment lease. Ms. Simon described the RFP process for the hardware and lease, adding that the lowest hardware bid was chosen followed by the process to obtain a bid for the lease, also choosing the lowest lease bid. The hardware purchase is then passed on to the leasing company who, in turn, buys the hardware. The funds are in the FY23 budget.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the five-year AV equipment lease as presented.

4. **Financial Matters:**

4.1 *Discussion regarding FY24 Budget, including Full Day Kindergarten and Elementary:*

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Full Day Kindergarten:

Dr. Easy reviewed the breakdown of the FDK budget from fees and the operating budget providing funds for staffing this program, as the incoming revenue from the three elementary schools was \$457,772. A discussion ensued in this regard reaffirming that the Town has asked the Superintendent to reduce the budget by \$731,000.

Elementary Budget:

Dr. Easy reviewed the elementary school improvement needs that are in the proposed budget, as well as positions to service the programming needs which are in the level service budget. These include a .4 library teacher, .4 technology teacher, and 2.0 building subs. Each elementary school has its own programming needs as presented. A discussion ensued about building substitutes, class enrollment, class sections, and staffing for FY24. Dr. Easy referred to the new apartment complex Alta Oxbow that will likely contribute to the increase in elementary enrollment. As a result, there will be a centralized registration process for K-5 students in the Central Office to address crowded schools, particularly Claypit Hill, and the buffer zones. A discussion ensued about traditional neighborhood schools, including the impact to building capacity, transportation and the budget in light of new developments being built in Wayland.

4.2 *Discussion and Vote to Send Memo to ARPA Subcommittee and Select Board:*

The School Committee reviewed the draft memo for submission to the ARPA Subcommittee and the Select Board in which funds in the amount of \$460,000 for FY24 Full Day Kindergarten will be requested from ARPA funds. There are \$700,000 in funds remaining in the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and it was noted that the School Department requested funds prior to this request but was denied, as capital requests are more likely to be funded per the guidelines. It was suggested that more data driven information and verbiage is added to the memo to address the funding timeline of FDK, including the number of years this item has been addressed in the operating budget. Dr. Easy presented the results of The Children's Way Survey around Full Day Kindergarten.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to send the ARPA funding memo for Full Day Kindergarten to the Select Board and the ARPA Committee.

Erin left the meeting at 7:18 p.m.; returned at 7:20 p.m.

5, **Administrative Matters:**

5.1 *Update regarding Next Steps to Address Anti-Racism:*

Since the last School Committee meeting, the members have received several emails in which suggestions were made to address anti-racism. Jess Polizzotti and Ellen Grieco volunteered to collaborate on this effort. Jess reported that they are focused on action steps and have agreed to review the Policy Manual and the WHS Student Handbook to determine if affinity groups are a fit, although no policy prevents the formation of affinity groups. They also spoke with METCO Director La Toya Rivers for her input. There is a concern about what the School Committee can do in this regard, but would like to guide the efforts of forming affinity groups with regular meetings. A discussion ensued and it was suggested that Jess and Ellen reach out to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

The Day of Impact on January 17 was also discussed with Ms. Rivers. The METCO students will stay home from school in solidarity, and the Boston Parent Council is asking for respect and support from the school community as this day is in response to several racist incidents, including the racist graffiti. The parent council has asked Wayland families to do the same, adding that this action is necessary because there has been no sustainable progress toward anti-racism. Jess read the statement from the Boston Parent Council.

A discussion ensued about the Massachusetts Road Map Grant to fund professional development around anti-racism education. Dr. Easy added that the schools are participating in cultural competencies and anti-racism training, adding that these areas will be addressed at the district in-service event on February 15. However, he suggested that more should be done in the community as a whole. The HRDEIC has intentions to collaborate with the community, as well as other residents volunteering to address this issue in the community.

5.2 *Continued Discussion of Re-visiting a Schedule of Administrator-Teacher-Facilitator Meetings:*

This agenda item was passed over.

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5.3 *Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Special Education Stabilization Fund Warrant Article:*

The School Committee reviewed the draft warrant article that is due for submission on January 17. The fund can be appropriated by asking for money at Town Meeting or money can be transferred into the fund from this year's budget. There are several different options in which to fund this stabilization fund. Expenditures must be approved by the School Committee and the Select Board. Tom Lafleur explained how the funding is expended. The fund can be created with any amount of money as discussed by the School Committee. The Committee also discussed the projected special education expenses for FY24, including FY24 out-of-district placements.

Upon a motion duly made by Jess Polizzotti, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to establish the Special Education Stabilization Fund.

Upon a motion duly made by Jess Polizzotti, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to submit the article for the Special Education Stabilization Fund as discussed.

5.4 *Discussion and Possible Approval of FY23 Superintendent Goals:*

The Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee met to discuss the suggestion made at the last meeting by Ellen pertaining to Dr. Easy's goal #3. It was noted that there was a change to the benchmarks in goal #3.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Superintendent's FY23 goals and standards as discussed and amended.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- 6.1 Declaration and Approval of Surplus Items to be Recycled: Loker Books
- 6.2 Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2022

Jeanne proposed an amendment to the December 14 minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the minutes that Jeanne Downs presented.

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

None.

8. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 8:18 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. 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.

9. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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<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:

Mary Ann Borkowski, 251 Lake Shore Drive
Eden-Renee Hayes, 238 Concord Road
WHS Student representing WSPN

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. NAFME All Eastern Festival Trip Request
3. Five-year Audio Visual Lease & Ontario Lease Quote
4. ARPA Draft Memo
5. Special Education Stabilization Fund Article
6. List of Loker Library Books to Declare as Surplus
7. Minutes of December 14, 2022
8. Executive Session Motion