

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE Budget Hearing/Regular Session – March 11, 2013

A Budget Hearing/Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, March 11, 2013, at 7:00 P.M. in the Large Hearing Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Chair
Beth Butler, Vice Chair
Malcolm Astley
Ellen Grieco (arrived at 8:10 p.m.)
Shawn Kinney

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent of Schools

Marlene M. Dodyk
Director of Student Services

Geoffrey S. MacDonald
Business Administrator

Also:

Heidi Heilman, WaylandCares
Betsy Meindl, WaylandCares

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the Budget Hearing/Regular Session at 7:08 P.M. She announced that WayCAM was broadcasting the meeting, which will be available on demand. Barb informed the audience that there was a scheduling change and that the Budget Booklet will be available to residents this week online. The School Committee will continue its Budget Hearing discussion on March 18th, which replaces the March 25th meeting due to Passover.

1. **Budget Hearing:**

Barb Fletcher reviewed the budget process which the School Committee and Superintendent followed to ultimately arrive at their FY14 recommended budget. Barb reviewed the three budgets presented by the Superintendent, the enrollment history and summarized the expense changes at each level. Barb also reviewed the charges planned against some revolving accounts, provided a summary of the cost saving initiatives taken over the last several years, as well as the initiatives not included in the FY14 recommended budget. Barb also provided a summary of the major drivers of the budget and a per pupil peer town comparison, in which Wayland was in the middle of the comparison – 5th out of 10. Finally, Barb reviewed the FY14 capital requests, including the middle school roof in terms of additional work that will result in an increase in funding the project.

Public Comment:

Donna Bouchard commented on the gas and electricity usage in the school buildings and asked how the usage was calculated for each building. Donna asked about the life expectancy of the Middle School, since there is a capital request for a new roof. Donna also asked about the 2% budget increase each year in terms of the components charged to the Town vs. the schools. She asked if it was possible to provide a breakdown of all programs that are funded by fees vs. the taxpayers, as well as the OPEB charges for FY14. Finally, Donna asked about the coaching cuts and if these positions would be re-evaluated in the near future.

Barb, Paul and Geoff responded to Donna's questions.

Tom Sciacca commented on the Town Meeting schedules as being problematic in terms of Boards and Committees meeting deadlines and suggested that Town Meeting should occur after April vacation going forward.

Barb Fletcher reiterated that a continuation of the budget discussion will be March 18th, and the Budget Booklet will be available this week. A communication will be sent out to inform the community of this.

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

Tom Sciacca commented on Paul Stein's decision to have school on Friday, March 8th and the media response.

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3. **Continued Discussion re: WaylandCares Proposal:**

Barb noted that there was going to be a discussion regarding the marijuana bylaw as noted on the first agenda, but it has been withdrawn due to advice of Town legal counsel.

Barb referred to a memo written by Paul Stein in which he listed the benefits that WaylandCares has provided to the School system since its inception.

Beth asked Paul and Marlene what feedback they have received regarding the programs that WaylandCares offers. Marlene responded that the feedback has been favorable in terms of the collaboration between WaylandCares and the schools in the programs and activities presented. Betsy Meindl commented that the evaluation forms filled out at the completion of the evening programs have been very positive. Marlene and Betsy also commented on other programs' feedback from students, teachers and parents.

Paul added that the power of WaylandCares has been in the cumulative effect of dealing with a problem that is addressed successfully and comprehensively, as shown in Wayland's results.

Malcolm commented on the results of the programs, and added that measurement needs to be part of the process and hard data is important to achieve.

Barb read a public comment regarding WaylandCares, which also referenced a document written by Paul.

The School Committee continued their discussion in order to move forward with a response ready for Town Meeting in terms of the School Committee's position of WaylandCares. Barb offered some suggestions/options regarding the importance, benefits, and value of WaylandCares programs.

Heidi Heilman provided the School Committee with more information and an understanding of Wayland Cares and what it offers to the community. Heidi also discussed how the town funding would be allocated and the process moving forward if a grant were awarded to Wayland Cares. She also stated that if the town funds WaylandCares and shows its commitment, it demonstrates the potential success of the program and sets WaylandCares up to be more successful in receiving grants. Further, Heidi said that if there isn't funding, WaylandCares would be run strictly by volunteers.

Ellen Grieco arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Heidi answered questions from the School Committee and further discussion ensued. In response to a question from Malcolm in terms of data collected, Marlene Dodyk commented that the MetroWest Foundation provides data free of charge every other year to the Wayland Public Schools in terms of the MetroWest area. This invaluable resource is available for the next four years.

Each School Committee member stated a position regarding WaylandCares. Marlene Dodyk explained the vision of the program, in which the town and schools work together, and the importance for the Coalition and its charge to take the collaborative approach through the community in order to keep the programs provided by WaylandCares.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to support strongly the work of WaylandCares and would like the Town to take a more formal and active role in providing these services, which the School Committee feels is extremely beneficial to the youth.

4. **Vote Fees and Tuitions for FY14:**

As part of the budget process, the School Committee reviewed the FY14 district fees and tuitions related to the revolving accounts – athletics, transportation, elementary music, and parking.

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the FY14 district fees and tuitions related to the revolving accounts – athletics, transportation, elementary music, and parking – and recognizing that there are no changes from last year.

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5. **Vote Revolving Accounts with Statutes:**

The School Committee reviewed the revolving accounts that are reported on a quarterly basis and in the end-of-the-year report, which has the appropriate statutory reference that has been reviewed by Town Counsel.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the list of revolving accounts with their statutory references as noted in the attachment provided in the meeting packets.

6. **Review Draft FY14 Budget Booklet:**

The School Committee reviewed the draft FY14 Budget Booklet. The Committee members asked questions and/or made suggestions of what other information to include in the booklet. Barb will draft a communication for the Budget Booklet and links will be provided to the public for the booklet and the budget presentation.

7. **Vote FY14 Operating and Capital Budgets:**

The School Committee will defer their vote on the FY14 operating and capital budgets until March 18th, when the Committee will conclude their budget hearing.

8. **Continue to Prepare for Town Meeting:**

Barb will provide a draft of the Town Meeting message on March 18. She referred to the table of contents included in the Town Meeting Book and reviewed what information will and will not be provided to the School Committee for Town Meeting. Many ideas were discussed by the Committee, including the suggestion that a summary of the Elementary Task Force, as well as information regarding the audit, be included in the book.

9. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants

- Wayland Public Schools Payroll warrant, dated 3/7/2013, in the amount of \$1,160,058.09
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 3/11/2013, in the amount of \$363,531.18
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 3/11/2013, in the amount of \$25,538.50 (High School Project)

(b) Approval of Minutes

- Regular Session of February 4, 2013
- Regular Session of February 25, 2013

(c) Acceptance of Gifts

- A donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Stop & Shop (Ahold Financial Services, Carlisle, PA), to help support the Wayland High School Band and Jazz Program.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda, including the February 4, 2013 Regular Session minutes as amended, but omitting the February 25, 2013 Regular Session minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted (4-1) (Shawn Kinney abstained) to approve the February 25, 2013 Regular Session minutes as written.

10. **Superintendent's Report:**

Paul wanted to distinguish between items that are on a "wish list" from items, such as the coaches and other items mentioned earlier, that were already in the FY13 budget and are being cut as a result of having to balance the budget.

Paul commented that he attended an extraordinary meeting, which is one of many, in Boston with the principals and members of the Leadership for Equity Team, formerly known as the Achievement Gap Team. This well-attended meeting was led by four Boston dads who discussed a new mentoring program for the Boston boys. These fathers held a Saturday workshop at which they discussed the issues these boys face and how they could support them in terms of offering them activities. Paul stated that with the initiative of Mabel Reid-Wallace, these fathers started this mentoring program. There will also be discussion going forward to create the same type of program for the Boston girls.

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Paul informed the School Committee that he had a request from the Wayland Concert Series. According to the new School Facilities Policy, they would be considered a Level II group – not a town-run group, but still considered a group from Wayland who would still pay fees to use school space. They requested to be moved to a Level I Group, as they contributed to the purchase of the piano at the High School, as well as keeping up with its maintenance. Paul felt that he did not have the authority to change the group to another level, but he determined that the group's purchase and continued upkeep of the piano – a cost greater than the fees – would be accepted in lieu of those fees.

11. **Follow-up and Future Agenda Items:**

(a) Update re: Audit/Review of School Accounts:

Barb commented that the deadline to receive proposals for the school audit is March 15, and, according to Chris Riley, the Audit Committee will meet next week to review the RFP's. Barb wasn't sure if they would make a recommendation on the night they meet, or if it would be at a future meeting, as more information may be needed.

The School Committee discussed who will be appointed as the School Committee liaison for the Audit Committee. The liaison would work with Chris Riley to help move the process along and bring back any issues that may require a discussion and/or action by the School Committee. When appropriate, the School Committee would also work with Rebecca Chasen. Malcolm volunteered to be the School Committee liaison; however, the decision was deferred to the next meeting on March 18.

(b) Continued Discussion of Elementary Task Force:

Based on the Elementary Task Force's recommendations, the School Committee discussed the direction in which they would proceed as next steps.

Barb drafted a new charge, which the School Committee was asked to review. Ellen requested that the Elementary Task Force write a detailed report supporting the recommendation to the Superintendent with a preferred option. Ellen also recommended that the Task Force remain intact and with the same level of expertise. The Committee agreed that Paul would form a Superintendent's Task Force using the new charge, but including a report, and contingent upon School Committee approval.

The timing of this decision was discussed and Paul commented that in order to begin the budget process for FY15, a decision should be made by the end of October 2013. Malcolm suggested that the School Committee consider additional information during this next phase of the process, such as cost savings and consolidating, and the unity of the town.

Beth asked that a mid-year preliminary superintendent evaluation discussion be considered as a future agenda item. Malcolm also asked for a Health and Wellness Report, which includes the issue of concussions. Paul confirmed that this report is forthcoming.

12. **Comments from the Public:**

Donna Bouchard commented on the discussion regarding the Elementary Task Force. She recommended that when forming the new task force, they consider someone who has a strong expertise in cost benefit analysis.

Tom Sciacca commented on the prior discussion concerning WaylandCares in terms of factual information given regarding what is addictive vs. what is not addictive.

13. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to convene in Executive Session at 9:31 P.M. to discuss a WTA Grievance, as set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 30A, section 21(a)(3), a student matter, as set forth in M.G.L. chapter 30A, section 21(a)(7) per FERPA G.L. c71 section 34D and 603CMR section 23.00 et seq, and to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining for all school unions (WTA, WESA, Custodial and Food Service), as set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3), and review the Executive Session minutes of February 4 and 25, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, section 21(a)(3), as such a discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the bargaining position of the School Committee. The Chair announced that the School Committee will reconvene in Open Session following Executive Session for adjournment purposes only. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Barb Fletcher, Chair	X	
Beth Butler, Vice Chair	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Ellen Grieco	X	
Shawn Kinney	X	

14. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Tom Sciacca
Donna Bouchard
Jeanne Downs

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Memo from Paul Stein re: Wayland Cares
2. WaylandCares STOP Act Grant Proposal
3. Draft of Table of Contents and Information for Town Meeting
4. Payroll and Accounts Payables Warrants
5. Draft Charge for Superintendent's Task Force
6. Regular Session Minutes of February 4 and 25, 2013
7. Updated List of Firms Submitting Bids for School Audit
8. Request for Proposals (RFP)
9. List of Revolving Accounts
10. Executive Session Minutes of February 4 and 25, 2013