

# MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Regular Session – March 18, 2013

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, March 18, 2013, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Chair  
Beth Butler, Vice Chair  
Malcolm Astley  
Ellen Grieco (arrived at 7:12 p.m.)  
Shawn Kinney

Also:

Paul Stein  
Superintendent of Schools

Brad J. Crozier  
Assistant Superintendent

Marlene M. Dodyk  
Director of Student Services

Geoffrey S. MacDonald  
Business Administrator

Also:

Heidi Heilman, WaylandCares

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the Regular Session at 7:08 P.M. and announced that WayCAM was taping the meeting.

1. **Continued FY14 Budget Hearing Discussion:**

Donna Bouchard commented on the budgeting of the OPEB benefits and asked the School Committee to consider adding the expenses related to OPEB to each separate entity to offset the cost to the taxpayers.

Barb officially concluded the Public Hearing.

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

Tom Sciacca commented on a program he attended that was held at the public library regarding global awareness education. The presenter/author wrote a book titled Global IQ and is seeking school systems to try his ideas. Tom suggested that Paul and Leisha meet with the author, as there is a heavy emphasis on the use of technology in his proposals.

Donna Bouchard asked the School Committee to review and reconsider the language in the Gift Policy in terms of large donors. Donna also referred to the current proposed language of the Student Activity Accounts Policy and compared it to the DESE's language, which she read. Donna asked the School Committee to consider sending the proposed policy to the Audit Committee for its opinion on best practices of these accounts, as, in her opinion, specific pieces need to be addressed based on the review by Melanson & Heath.

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

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve \$33,397,005 for the FY14 operating budget and \$1,940,000 for the FY14 capital budget, which assumes the incremental authorization required for the Middle School roof project.

4. **Continue to Prepare for Town Meeting, including Review of Draft Budget Message:**

Barb asked for feedback from the School Committee regarding the Town Meeting Budget Message. Detailed language changes, as well as including new topics, were made as suggested by Committee members.

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5. **Review Draft of School Committee Update Communication:**

The School Committee reviewed drafts of communications that will be sent to the Town Crier in regards to financial operations and the Elementary Building Use Task Force. Language changes were also suggested by Committee members.

6. **Discussion re: Financing of OPEB Expenses for School Programs:**

At the request of the Town, Paul Stein has been asked to incorporate the OPEB expenses into the fee-based programs, such as BASE, The Children's Way, and the School Lunch Program. Paul stated that he has been given some preliminary figures; however, discussions are being held in terms of how to meet the Town's request. Paul suggested that fees could be increased or unspent funds in the revolving accounts of these programs be used. Paul asked the School Committee to discuss this matter and vote on using the funds from the revolving accounts to cover the OPEB expenses.

A discussion ensued between the School Committee and the Superintendent. Barb suggested that the Committee postpone their vote until John Senchyshyn has a better sense of what the financial impact would be to each of the programs. Barb will also look into this matter further in terms of the feasibility and legality of using funds from these accounts.

7. **Preliminary Discussion re: School Choice:**

The Education Reform Act (ERA) of 1993 mandates participation in "School Choice" unless a school district opts out. ...Effective September 1994, every city, town, or regional school district is required to enroll non-resident students under the choice program, unless the school committee votes prior to June 1 not to participate. The section of the law states in part, "...this obligation to enroll non-resident students shall not apply to a district for a school year in which its school committee, prior to June 1, after a public hearing, adopts a resolution withdrawing from said obligation, for the school year beginning the following September. Any such resolution with said reasons shall be filed with the Department of Education, provided, however, that said department shall have no Power to review any such decision by a school committee..."

Barb Fletcher opened up a discussion regarding School Choice. There were no questions or comments from the Committee members. A hearing will be scheduled before June 1.

8. **Follow-up Discussion re: Superintendent Evaluation Procedures:**

Beth Butler noted three areas of discussion topics – types of evidence in defining the final evaluation, an informal mid-year discussion, and the timing of the Superintendent's annual evaluation. Beth reviewed the types of evidence that she and Malcolm discussed that were within DESE guidelines and evidence noted by Paul in his "Goals and Evidence for Superintendent Evaluation DRAFT worksheet 2012-2013, which Beth asked the Committee to review. Malcolm commented that the School Committee must decide the descriptors of the evidence and should consider whether the following principles are helpful.

- That evidence be as close to the students' learning as possible
- Be related as much as possible to the highest levels of the students' thinking
- Be related to the highest levels of human development
- Be related to the Wayland Public Schools' mission and core values including consideration of ongoing refinement of the mission
- That the evidence helps in meeting the goal

Beth and Malcolm answered questions from the Committee in terms of the process and the end goal.

Paul asked for a better understanding of what is expected of him in this process.

Beth and Malcolm reviewed other kinds of evidence and what is characterized as good evidence, such as School Improvement Plans and their results, district assessments, student achievement and/or MCAS, and classroom walk-throughs in terms of goals related to teaching practices and their results related to student achievements.

Barb commented that the School Committee will receive and review the evidence that Paul has gathered, refine our thinking about the evidence in terms of the four goals of the evaluation.

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9. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Accounts Payables Warrant:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 3/18/2013, in the amount of \$371,988.04
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 3/18/2013, in the amount of \$36,690.02 (Student Activity Accounts)

(b) Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Session of February 25, 2013 (re-vote)

Barb commented that the February 25<sup>th</sup> minutes were before the Committee as a re-vote, as language change going into Executive Session was necessary.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted (4-0-1) (Shawn Kinney abstained) to approve the Consent Agenda, including the changes made to the February 25, 2013 Regular Session Minutes.

10. **Superintendent's Report:**

Paul commented on the Middle School play, Kamp Kaos, a fun and age appropriate school musical, which was written by Steve Murray.

Paul also commented on the recent Boston parent orientation meeting for families who are considering sending their children to the Wayland schools. It was a very good experience for the families at which the administrators spoke to the parents about our school system and the potential benefits for the children.

Finally, Paul informed the School Committee that the Administrative Council has begun to work on "District Determined Measures", another piece of the evaluation/assessment process in every subject taught. Paul stated that this was a huge but challenging task that is state driven. Paul explained the end result once this process is worked through in terms of teachers' performance in the classroom and the measurement of student learning.

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

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

Beth commented that she attended the last Audit Committee meeting, and Malcolm updated his conversation with Chris Riley in terms of the responses to the RFP for the school audit. Five were received. Malcolm commented that the proposal envelopes will be opened and ranked on March 28, with the bid amounts opened at a later date.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Malcolm Astley as the School Committee liaison to the Audit Committee for communication purposes as it relates to the school audit.

Paul updated the School Committee regarding the FICA payments owed by employees who were paid via the principal discretionary and revolving accounts in a calendar year going back to FY06. He stated that he is discussing and researching this matter further with legal counsel in terms of how to proceed and move forward.

(b) Review of Policies re: MASC Audit:

Barb Fletcher commented that the following policies were posted and put out for public comment, about which none has been received.

- KF – Use of School Facilities
- BDF – Advisory Committees
- BEDF – Notification of School Committee Meetings
- BEDG – Minutes
- FA – Facilities Development Goals
- GCF – Professional Staff Hiring
- JJF – Student Activity Accounts

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A discussion ensued regarding Policy JJF in terms of establishing a monetary limit or not within these accounts. It was decided to remove the limit from the policy. The School Committee discussed how to proceed with the final language of the policy. Within Policy JJF, #5 will be amended.

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the policy amendments as discussed.

12. **Comments from the Public:**

Tom Sciacca commented on the evaluation discussion and applauded the emphasis on “higher level thinking.” In his opinion, everyone in the future will have a “built-in tutor,” and the only worthwhile knowledge will be higher level thinking of which he provided some examples, such as looking at multiple points of view. Tom referred to an article in which it states, “If a kid can use the word ‘although’ in a sentence, he/she is thinking at a higher level.”

13. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to convene in Executive Session at 8:51 P.M. 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), 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:

<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 Shawn Kinney, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 9:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Tom Sciacca, WVN  
Donna Bouchard  
Jeanne Downs  
Louis Jurist

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Budget Booklet
2. Draft Communications – Utilization of Elementary Space & Financial Operations
3. Draft Communication for Town Crier
4. Regular Session Minutes of February 25, 2013
5. OPEB Information
6. Policies KF – Use of School Facilities; BDF – Advisory Committees; BEDF – Notification of School Committee Meetings; BEDG – Minutes; FA – Facilities Development Goals; GCF – Professional Staff Hiring; and JJF – Student Activity Accounts