

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Boston Parent Meeting/Regular Meeting – October 26, 2015

A Meeting with the Boston Parents and a Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee were held on Monday, October 26, 2015, at 7:00 P.M. at Boston Police Headquarters, with the regular meeting convening at 8:44 p.m.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
Donna Bouchard
Jeanne Downs
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Ellen Grieco, Chair

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent

Brad Crozier

Assistant Superintendent

Marlene Dodyk

Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan

Business Administrator

Also:

Brian Jones, Loker Principal
Jim Lee, Happy Hollow Principal
Christie Harvey, Claypit Hill Principal
Betsy Gavron, Middle School Principal
Allyson Mizoguchi, High School Principal
Tricia O'Reilly, Elementary Math & Science Curriculum Director
Karyn Saxon, Elementary ELA & Reading Curriculum Director

1. **Presentation of HEART Goals by Paul Stein:**

Paul presented an overview of what is going on in the school system, and he commented that the goals will inform the activity following the goals presentation. Paul described what the following goals are meant to accomplish this year and presented each goal's focus. Paul briefly spoke about the ongoing Central Office Driven Goals.

Health & Wellness

Exploration

Achievement Gap

RTI

Technology Gains STEAM

2. **Concentric Circle Activity for All:**

Facilitated by Brian Jones, he noted that this activity is taken from Open Circle, a K-5 social skills activity that engages everyone in meaningful discussions. Boston parents, administrators, and the audience formed into four groups to participate in a moving discussion designed to answer 7 scripted questions for a period of 2 minutes per question. Each group formed 2 circles and the inside circle rotated one person to the left. The goal of this activity was to come up with 2 ideas related to the goals that would be shared with everyone. The 7 questions were:

1. What's the best meal you've ever eaten or prepared?
2. What do you think makes children feel safe and welcome at school?
3. What are your thoughts about starting high school and middle school later in the day and having elementary start earlier in the day?
4. How can we incorporate more student voices in these types of meetings or in the respective schools?
5. Do you believe children in the Wayland Public Schools get what they need academically when they need it?

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Boston Parent Meeting/Regular Meeting – October 26, 2015

6. What are the challenges and what are the benefits of putting technology in the hands of students?
7. What would you like to see the School Committee members doing in their specific roles?

Report Out/Discussion:

Each group shared with each other what they thought to be the best ideas that came from the discussions. A group facilitator was appointed who shared his/her group's ideas with the other groups. The following are two ideas from each group:

Group 1:

- There could be a better plan for team building in the classes at the beginning of the year.
- Find ways for the kids to be talking and presenting.

Group 2:

- More participation from the School Committee at morning parent meetings
- Develop a survey for the student to voice their concerns or take suggestions to improve what is going on in the schools.

Group 3:

- Keep the school start times status quo; too many moving parts to change.
- There is not information available to parents and students regarding SAT preparation.

Group 4:

- Keep the school times as is; could create more problems for the younger students.
- Conduct meetings with the kids regarding social media.

Paul thanked everyone for their participation and commented that all the topics are important to the school district.

Barb convened the School Committee meeting at 8:44 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming and conveyed that this annual meeting is important to the Committee members to hear from the parents.

3. **Comments from the Public:**

A parent asked the School Committee to keep the METCO program in Wayland, as she has seen other programs in other towns deteriorate. She added that the METCO program benefits the Wayland families as well as the Boston families in terms of partnerships and friendships.

President of the Boston Parent Council, Adrian Bryan, addressed some concerns written in the Inspector General's report and updated the School Committee in terms of the steps that have been taken thus far regarding the IG's recommendations. The Boston Parent Council is in the process of becoming a 501c3 status organization and is working with METCO, Inc. to accomplish this. A new Board with new members has been formed, as well as a Scholarship Committee. A budget for the 2015-16 school year has been developed and will be submitted to the Finance Subcommittee before presenting it to the School Committee. Adrian encouraged everyone to attend the Boston Families' picnic in the fall which is an event that gives back to the Wayland community.

In response to a question from the audience, Barb confirmed that many Wayland organizations, such as the PTO and Boosters are 501c3 organizations.

A parent thanked the Wayland staff for everything, but questioned why the investigation into the METCO was continuing on. She added that the children should be the focus. *Barb responded that the students are the Committee's priority, but the School Committee must act on the recommendations made by the IG in order to move on from this.*

Donna addressed the METCO revolving account that covers the late buses and other METCO expenses. She stressed that it is important to maintain the funds in this account, so that the Boston students can continue to have the same welcoming experience.

A parent asked the School Committee for a better means of communication regarding its meetings, so that some Boston parents can attend the meetings. *Barb recognized the difficulty for some to come to Wayland and invited the*

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Boston Parent Meeting/Regular Meeting – October 26, 2015

parents to submit written comments to be read at the meetings.

A parent asked Donna about the METCO funds in terms of what has happened in the past. *Donna explained the warrant process and how funds are handled. She noted that fundraising is key to ensure the same experience for the Boston students in terms of after school participation in extra-curricular activities and sports.*

4. **Superintendent's Report:**

Paul expressed appreciation to Adrian Bryan for his incredible work and participation at all events and PTO meetings on behalf of the students. Paul added that Adrian has been extremely responsive, especially to the recent concerns.

Paul referred to an article in the Boston Globe West Weekly about the Calculus Project that puts 7th grade students of color in a 3-week session to work on math skills and build confidence in math. Four Wayland students participated in this program. Paul noted the students' excitement about math and commented that in order for this program to continue, fundraising is important, and a separate fund might be necessary.

5. **Discussion regarding Correspondence received from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) regarding the METCO Program, including Identification of Priorities in Addressing Concerns Identified by the OIG:**

Committee members will prioritize the concerns found in the Inspector General's letter. Paul commented that the creation of a scholarship committee will address two points in the letter. Scholarships will be available to Boston seniors. Guidelines will be developed and there will be a separate account kept in the Treasurer's office. The Wayland High School Scholarship Committee (WHSSC) will be consulted.

The Committee discussed having written policies regarding METCO awards and scholarships to develop a fair and open process for all students, including whether this matter would fall under the School's Committee's authority, given that it is not involved with the WHSSC's process. Paul and Susan will work together to better understand the fiscal rules regarding this matter.

Barb commented that the Policy Subcommittee is working on 3 fundraising policies and procedures that will provide the right balance and respect for all organizations, while making sure that adequate controls are in place. The Finance Subcommittee will discuss the approval process for specific funds for Program Directors.

6. **Discussion of Delineation of Fund Accounting between the Boston Parent Council Account and the METCO Revolving Account:**

Adrian Bryan updated the School regarding this matter earlier in the meeting. Regarding a recommendation in the IG's letter concerning Student Activity Accounts, he confirmed that the Boston Parent Council will become a 501c3. Relative to a recommendation made by Jim Powers, Adrian also confirmed that the funds from two fundraisers will be deposited into the revolving account. The Finance Subcommittee will review the METCO revolving fund budget at its next meeting.

7. **Review of Draft Template for Multi-Year Financial Model for the Schools:**

The Committee reviewed the current multi-year financial model. In this regard, Susan recommended that enrollment projections and class size be reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee. Also noted is that projections for COLA's are consistent with the Town's projections.

8. **Review Draft Language for Response to Emails received regarding Health Insurance Changes:**

In response to several emails received by Committee members, Kathie drafted a response. Suggestions were made toward a final response. The Committee will ask Ellen to respond to the emails.

9. **Distribution of Ellen Grieco's Draft Article regarding the Special Education Report:**

Barb distributed Ellen's draft article for discussion at the November 2nd meeting.

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

Kathie asked Paul about an appeal related to a public records request. Paul is waiting to hear from the Supervisor of Public Records for more clarity.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Boston Parent Meeting/Regular Meeting – October 26, 2015

11. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Donna Bouchard, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See attached list.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Letter from the Boston Parent Council
3. Ellen's Draft Article related to Special Education
4. Draft Multi-Year Financial Model