

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – April 21, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, April 21, 2016, 10:00 A.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:
Ellen Grieco, Chair
Jeanne Downs
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair

Also:
Paul Stein
Superintendent

Chair Ellen Grieco convened in open session at 10:05 a.m.

1. **Time Sensitive Scheduling Matters:**

Ellen addressed a time sensitive matter regarding the School Committee's OML training session, as instructed by the Attorney General. Many options were presented in terms of dates and times.

Jeanne will assist Ellen with a response to an Open Meeting Law Complaint by May 2nd.

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

Former School Committee member, Beth Butler thanked and congratulated Kim Reichelt for running for School Committee and ultimately winning the election. Beth declared her support for the School Committee and Dr. Stein and the administration, stating that she is very proud of the work that they have done for the Wayland Public Schools.

Tom Sciacca commented that he watched the Northeastern Sports in Society video in its entirety and noted the importance of this study, given what he considers to be profound cultural differences in the Athletic Department. He commented that there is difficulty in managing a cultural issue, which is why a consultant is usually hired to address these issues, beginning with terminating the person responsible for the problem. In going back 15 years, it is Tom's opinion that one member of the high school, not the Athletic Director, was instrumental in running the Athletic Department and he suggested that this staff member be relieved of his athletic roles.

Susan Foster asked the Committee what the cost was to have Town Counsel present at the last meeting. Susan also asked why the School Committee did not draft a response to the Cass matter at its meeting on April 12th. She commented on the time the Committee spent in Executive Session with Town Counsel and when the Committee convened in Regular Session, it was announced that a statement would not be forthcoming at this time. Ms. Foster continued her comment by asking why the METCO Director has not been prosecuted for what she believes to be fraud against the Town of Wayland and yet charges were brought against Stephen Cass for a \$220 computer. *Ellen interrupted Ms. Foster's comment because negative accusations cannot be made in a public setting against a person who is not a public figure, as there could be the possibility of violating certain laws. Ellen was unsure if the METCO Director was a public figure under the law. Ellen commented that she does not believe Ms. Foster's accusations have factual basis and Ellen invited Ms. Foster to call her at any time regarding these issues. Ms. Foster commented on a response to her many months ago by the School Committee regarding the METCO situation, including the information she has seen surrounding this matter. Again, Ellen invited Ms. Foster to schedule a meeting to continue this discussion. Ellen will email her in this regard.* Ms. Foster asked what the procedure is to receive answers to her questions.

Tom Sciacca asked Ellen to email to him the School Committee statement when finalized.

3. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to convene in Executive Session at 10:22 a.m. for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to threatened litigation under Title IX Anti-Retaliation Provisions and M.G.L. c.149, §185, by the former Athletic Director Stephen

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Cass against the Wayland Public Schools and the School Committee, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as such discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the litigation position of the School Committee, review and possible declassification of executive session minutes of November 2, 2015 (sessions 1 and 2), November 30, 2015, December 4, 2015, and January 14, 2016, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair	X	
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair	absent	
Donna Bouchard	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Paul Stein, Superintendent of Schools and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will reconvene in open session to conduct regular matters as noted on the meeting notice.

4. **Review and Possible Vote to Approve a Statement regarding the Arrest and Prosecution of Former Athletic Director:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the statement as discussed in Executive Session conditional on Adam Simms', of Pierce Davis & Perritano, review and written confirmation of his approval of that statement. If it is approved by Mr. Simms, the School Committee will issue the statement on April 25, 2016.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

Jeanne made a motion to approve the Special Sessions of April 7, 2016 (1 and 2) as amended and to authorize Jeanne and Diane Marobella to write the language. Jeanne withdrew this motion.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School committee voted (3-0-1) (Kim abstained) to approve the Special Session minutes of April 7, 2016 (1 and 2) as amended and to authorize Jeanne Downs and Diane Marobella to include any comments made by Margo Melnicove in Session 1 public comments, pursuant to their notes.

6. **Possible Vote to Declassify and Release Executive Session Minutes of November 2, 2015 (Sessions 1 and 2), November 30, 2015, December 4, 2015, and January 14, 2016:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted (3-1) (Ellen opposed) to release and approve the declassification of Executive Session minutes of November 2, 2015 (Sessions 1 and 2), November 30, 2015, December 4, 2015, and January 14, 2016 as redacted and discussed in Executive Session, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22.

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

Kathie informed the Committee that she followed up with the Town Clerk regarding the public comment recently made that Stephen Cass was not able to vote on Election Day when he came to the Town Building to vote. Apparently, he should have gone to the Middle School, which is his precinct. After a phone call to the Police Chief, Mr. Cass did go to the Middle School to vote without incident.

8. **Comments from the Public:**

There were no public comments.

9. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to recess this meeting at 12:02 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Beth Butler, Wayland
Tom Sciacca, WVN
Susan Foster, Wayland

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. School Committee Statement
3. Special Session Minutes of April 7, 2016 (1 & 2)
4. Executive Session Minutes of November 2, 2015 (1 & 2), November 30, 2015, December 4, 2015, and January 16, 2016
5. Executive Session Motion