

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – October 28, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Friday, October 28, 2016, at 9:00 A.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
Jeanne Downs
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the special session at 9:03 A.M. and noted that the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

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

Tom Sciacca commented on the Superintendent Search that the School Committee will be conducting. He suggested that the School Committee take their time in hiring a replacement and to look at restructuring the administration. Tom commented that the head of any small organization has executive and operational responsibilities, although loosely related. As referenced in a Curriculum Spotlight by Dr. Stein, “The Power of Yet” pertains to a philosophical outlook that will determine the national placement of the Wayland Public Schools within five to seven years. Tom recommends that the executive and operational responsibilities should be split into two positions.

Tom raised his concerns regarding parking the school buses at 207 Main Street, noting that this area drains into Dudley Pond. Because the buses could be a pollution source, Tom recommended the use of permeable paving; he explained. He noted his concerns about the burn dump that is on the property and recommended that an engineer be hired to determine the exact location of the burn dump because it could affect the number of buses that can be parked. Further, he believes a Notice of Intent should be filed with the Conservation Commission once the plans/drawings are available.

2. **Financial Matters:**

(a) Finance Subcommittee Update:

Barb commented that the Finance Subcommittee reviewed a narrative of the FY17 Financial Report which is nearing completion. The subcommittee will get the final report at its next meeting and will present it to the School Committee on November 14th. Also reviewed were the peer analysis and the NESDEC enrollment projections, in which 20 more Kindergarten students are expected in FY18. The Finance Subcommittee will explore the enrollment differences as noted in the schools’ enrollment report and NESDEC’s.

(b) Discussion regarding Position on Cap for Charter Schools:

Kim commented that several residents have asked that the School Committee take a position on the ballot question related to the cap for charter schools. Although School Committees in other school districts have taken a position, the Wayland School Committee had previously agreed not to take a position. Kim will look into the appropriate process should the School Committee decide to take a position at a future meeting.

3. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

(a) Continued Discussion regarding Superintendent Search Process and Timing, including Selection of Screening Committee and Possible Vote to Select a Search Firm:

The School Committee received proposals from five firms regarding the superintendent search. Barb suggested a process in reviewing the proposals. Paul commented on the earlier public statement that the School Committee should consider restructuring the administration to address strategic and managerial responsibilities separately. He believes that this could be a future possibility, but may not be appropriate at this time because of the cost and the time it would take to implement. A discussion ensued in this regard, including resources and the huge roles and responsibilities of the Central Office administrators.

The School Committee will hold a special meeting for further review and discussion of the search proposals as well as a discussion regarding the cap on charter schools. It will meet on the morning of November 4th.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – October 28, 2016

The Committee reviewed the proposals from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), Future Management Systems, Ray and Associates and Hazard, Attea & Young in terms of the positive aspects and the challenges of each firm. Future Management Systems conducted the last superintendent search, and Barb explained why they were chosen at that time. The Committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the firms in the areas in which the Committee would like to include in the search, such as level of community outreach. The timelines/schedules appear to be different as well. Given that NESDEC and Hazard, Attea & Young are currently doing searches in other Massachusetts districts, a question arose of whether it could affect Wayland's search. Ellen and Kathie will call these districts regarding their experiences with these two firms.

In terms of transitioning, Paul described the Superintendents' New Induction Program as an excellent program that focuses on strategic leadership.

The School Committee wants to form a Screening Committee to include administrators, teachers, principals, support staff, school and non-school parents. The role of the Screening Committee was discussed, including the necessity of keeping the finalists' confidential.

(b) Continued Discussion regarding Proposal for Bus Parking and Additional Car Access:

Susan is working on the bidding process, including the amendment to the bid, for transportation and has contacted the WRAP Committee as well as firms regarding a bus efficiency study. Ellen suggested that Susan be informed of Tom Sciacca's public comment regarding the bus parking.

Barb commented that she and Susan added a footnote to the Bus Parking CIP regarding additional work that is being done, such as researching alternative sites in and outside of Wayland. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of having to move the buses from Rivers Edge by January 1, 2017 and the long-term plan of parking buses permanently.

(c) Continued Discussion of Selection Criteria for Peer Towns:

Barb described how she recalculated the criteria in choosing peer towns, as well as adding 7 towns. She provided the metrics for the School Committee and included MCAS information. Ellen suggested adding criteria of median tax and/or tax rate or average tax bill. The discussion included the types of criteria to add to the metrics, including each town's commercial base.

As part of the administrators' work with the UNITED goal "Using Data Wisely", Paul asked why the towns of Sharon, Hopkinton and Holliston were not on the peer town list. The Committee compared the criteria for these towns. The Committee will continue its discussion on November 7th.

(d) Continued Discussion regarding School Start Times and Possible Vote to Approve Communications:

The School Committee reviewed an article regarding school start times written by Kim. She described the content of the article, including the information that the links within the article provide. Changes to the article were recommended, including the title.

Ellen left the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the communication about school start times as amended.

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

None.

5. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 10:55 a.m.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – October 28, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Tom Sciacca, WVN and Wayland Buzz

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Superintendent Search Proposals
 - NESDEC
 - MASC
 - Future Management Systems
 - Ray & Associates
 - Hazard, Attea & Young
3. Article regarding School Start Times
4. Peer Community Analysis