

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – January 12, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 7:00 P.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

Brad Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Marlene Dodyk
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan
Business Administrator

Also:

Lynn Dowd, Director of Youth Services
Jason Verhoosky, Wayland Cares
Malcolm Astley, Youth Advisory Committee

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the regular session at 7:08 P.M.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

Sheila Carel expressed her concerns about the sites being considered to park the school buses, particularly the middle school site, Commonwealth Road (Rte. 30), and the Loker conservation area. Depending on the site, the concerns are environmental, archaeological, close proximity to neighborhoods, and traffic issues.

Steve Yanoff agreed with everything in the prior comment. As a Damon Farms resident, he is opposed to parking the buses near Damon Farms for many reasons, including the traffic and gridlock issues on Rte. 30.

Maura Batts also opposes the Rte. 30 sites being considered for bus parking and noted the traffic concerns.

David Spencer asked the School Committee to consider other viable sites for bus parking. In his opinion, the Claypit Hill site is the best choice, as the south side of Wayland has had its share of new construction.

Alexia Obar noted all the construction projects on Rte. 30 within a quarter of mile of each other in the past few years. She commented that there are ecological, conservation and traffic issues. She recommended that traffic studies be done and suggested looking into parking at malls in Framingham.

Sheila Carel again commented on the very active vernal pool closest to the middle school.

As a member of the Energy Advisory Committee, Tom Sciacca commented on the plan to replace the Town Building windows and will include converting the large bus into a hybrid vehicle in the next grant application, possibly in the spring. He noted that Ben Keefe has the middle school HVAC problems under control. Tom also commented that he is opposed to including a writing course in the FY18 school budget. He cited the reasons why and commented that given past technological predictions, genetic engineering will revolutionize the world. Tom believes that the district should consider what students will need in the 21st Century and formulate a plan to move in that direction.

Alexia Obar supports the writing program, as she feels that it is definitely needed in Wayland. She asked the School Committee who controls the River's Edge property.

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2. **Educational Matters:**

- (a) Hear Superintendent's Report:
There was no report.

3. **Financial Matters:**

- (a) Review and Discussion of All School Budgets, Budget Drivers, Assumptions, Fees and Funding Sources, including and Discussion of Public Communications and Feedback regarding the Budget:
Related to information put together by Susan and Kathie that included budget increases of neighboring towns over the last five years, Kim drew similar information from ClearGov and commented that Wayland's growth has been significantly less than surrounding towns. Kim also provided data related to expenses per student relative to peer towns.

Before working from the budget spreadsheet, Ellen updated the School Committee on the prior evening's budget meeting and discussion with elementary parents. Ellen commented that the budget items would benefit the education of the students, and she strongly advocated for the 1.0 FTE for the middle school writing lab adding all the reasons why this course would be invaluable and central to education.

In preparation for the School Committee's discussions, Susan informed the Committee that she received a new retirement notification which changed the Errata to a projected surplus of \$29,678. Ellen suggested how the projected Errata could be used to offset the budget or not, depending on the priorities of the Committee members. The Committee members noted each of their budget priorities; however, Barb currently supports Paul's recommended budget as it was presented. Paul commented that if anything were to be added to the budget, the administrators consider making the writing lab teacher full-time a priority, adding that many people in the schools and community are excited about this proposal. Further discussion followed regarding some concerns voiced during the special budget sessions, such as the need to follow through with the unmet needs and allocate monies to the core curriculum.

The Committee discussed the concern of adding benefits packages. Paul commented on this concern in terms of the budget process. A discussion ensued regarding the FinCom's guideline and how this might affect the School Committee's process in determining its final recommended budget going forward for the School Committee Budget Hearing and ultimately the Finance Committee's Town Meeting warrant. Given that the Committee members had different priorities, Ellen recommended a process moving forward and before its meeting with the FinCom on January 17th. Paul was asked to recommend what budget items would be added, if additional resources of \$10,000 were available. They would include the 0.4 FTE for the academic center, a 0.1 FTE added to the assistant principal position, and extra-curricular stipends.

In terms of the Open Meeting Law, the idea was raised to move the executive session posted for January 17th to the beginning of the meeting before the School Committee votes its recommended budget. Ellen will call school counsel in this regard.

- (b) Review of Budget Meetings and Development of Budget Book and Budget Presentation:
The School Committee reviewed and discussed the previous year's Budget Book, Budget Hearing presentation, and a new document of frequently asked questions (FAQ) that may be added to the Budget Book. The Committee also discussed the content and format of its presentation to the Finance Committee. Data related to revenue, expenditures, peer town information, and benefits information will be included in the presentation. Kathie provided information that Medfield includes in its budget presentation just as a comparison.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to submit the legal notice for the Wayland Public Schools FY18 School Committee Budget Hearing on January 30, 2017.

Ellen will work on the Budget Book for the January 17th meeting; student artwork will be included. Jeanne will send the FAQs to the School Committee.

4. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

- (a) Follow-up Discussion and Possible Vote regarding the School Committee's Position, if any, related to a Town Meeting Article on Marijuana Dispensaries in the Town of Wayland (taken out of order):
Malcolm Astley, Jason Verhoosky, and Lynn Dowd came before the School Committee to ask for its support on a

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Town Meeting warrant article. Malcolm commented that the Youth Advisory Committee will move forward with an article for Town Meeting asking residents to vote on a moratorium to open marijuana dispensaries in Wayland. Jason provided a brief summary of the committee's effort on the passing of the legalization of recreational marijuana. Jason noted that Governor Baker extended the opening of dispensaries in the State from January 2018 to July 2018 and municipalities can extend this moratorium to July 1, 2019, allowing municipalities to work on their legislation and observe how other towns are working through this issue. However, it is legal to possess, purchase, and cultivate marijuana. A referendum can also be put forth to opt out of the opening of dispensaries in Wayland.

Malcolm distributed a schedule of the written account. The Board of Health will not put forth the article because they are the governing agency, but will support it. The Planning Board will be regulating the land usage; thus, they will also support this effort. Neither board will take on this effort due to conflicts of interest in the process.

The School Committee agreed that this approach/process being put forth is sensible and reasonable and supports the endeavor.

5. **Financial Matters (continued):**

(a) Review and Possible Vote to Approve School Related Fees for FY18:

The Committee reviewed and discussed whether to raise some fees or not, specifically the bus fee and/or the bus late fee. Kathie noted what other towns' bus fees are currently. Bus fees are about 34% or \$338,000 of the total transportation budget of \$882,000. One hundred forty-seven families signed up late last year.

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted (4-0-1) (Ellen abstained) to approve the fees as they are currently structured for FY17, but for FY18 except that the late fee for the bus increases to \$100.00.

Ellen re-opened public comment:

Linda Segal referred to the most recent report regarding school bus parking in which the Loker Conservation/Recreation site is being considered. She was of the impression that the WRAP Committee provided information about this site, and is surprised that time and money was spent researching this location. This information is also available on the town's website. Linda noted that there is a safety issue in the area of the Willow Brook Condominiums and the signals at Oak Street. She commented that some of Route 30 has seen a lot of projects in the area which has created a traffic issue. Linda suggested that the School Committee have all the information available and then use a matrix to eliminate some sites, as she believes that the sites being considered are not ideal.

Tom Sciacca referred to his earlier comment stating that he was not denigrating the importance of writing, but he was merely referring to the piecemeal nature of adding items to the budget.

(b) Continued Discussion regarding School Bus Parking:

Susan updated the School Committee on the concerns regarding the Middle School site. The solar panels are high enough under which to park the buses. However, by flip flopping the buses with the cars, there are air quality concerns being so close to the school, as well as safety issues for bikers and pedestrians. The PTO would like to develop an open classroom in that area. The area at the bottom of the driveway is preferred by the Middle School principal.

Susan reviewed the costs estimated by Warner Larson to develop the space at the bottom of the driveway. The total cost is \$697,000 with a 20% contingency of \$116,000, leaving a subtotal of \$580,000. The Engineering Corporation (TEC) noted that its prices are between 85 and 90% of the total costs, with possible additional costs for permitting, traffic studies, and conservation costs. Susan explained how TEC arrived at its costs, even though they did not look at this site.

A discussion ensued about the difference between permeable pavement and regular hard top, the difference in cost, and if the location being considered is a factor in terms of which type to use. Tom Sciacca provided some information to the School Committee.

Susan updated the School Committee on the Loker Conservation/Recreation site. Susan consulted with the town surveyor and the Director of Recreation regarding this land and they both indicated that it is possible to create a

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parking lot and driveway for bus parking. However, Susan noted that further research would have to be conducted, as the bus parking must be considered an accessory to recreation. The Recreation Department is also interested in developing this property for recreational purposes.

Susan commented that the Planning Department will look into other sites in the Route 30 vicinity. A company on Route 20 proposed a cost to park the buses in its lot, but it was the same as First Student had submitted for an offsite location. First Student's position is that bus parking is not conducive to separating them into two different locations, including on the middle school property. The Committee agreed that TEC should look at the middle school parcel in terms of its recommendations. A discussion ensued regarding splitting up the buses at the middle school.

Barb and Susan will attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on January 17th to provide an update about the buses.

(c) Review and Possible Reprioritization of FY18 Capital Requests:

Jeanne asked about the possibility of giving funds towards the AV equipment, since the Finance Committee is deferring this capital project for a year. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

(d) Finance Subcommittee Update:

There was no update.

6. **Administrative/Procedural Matters (continued):**

(a) Continued Discussion regarding Superintendent Search Process and Timing, including Selection of Screening Committee and Communications:

Jeanne commented that 13 applications have been received – 10 parents and 3 community members. Another reminder to apply will be sent by Friday of this week. The PTO will select 4 parents and 1 alternate. The School Committee will notify the finalists.

(b) Update and Discussion regarding School Start Times, including Review of Draft Surveys:

The School Committee discussed and reviewed the draft surveys and the letter provided for the community. In keeping with a balanced approach on this topic, Barb made suggestions in terms of the language content. The anonymity of the surveys was also discussed. Once Kim makes the revisions, there is a window of time of two weeks.

7. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:

No warrants at this time.

(b) Approval of METCO Appeal Letter Donations

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

None.

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 10:09 p.m., pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 22 to review executive session minutes for possible declassification as listed on the meeting notice. 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	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

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

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

10. **Regular Matters (continued):**

(a) Possible Vote to Declassify Executive Session Minutes as Listed on the Meeting Notice:

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to declassify the Executive Session minutes as listed on the meeting notice and as discussed and redacted in Executive Session.

11. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Tom Sciacca, WVN, BUZZ
Carol Plumb, Wayland
Alexia Obar, Wayland
Sheila Carel, Wayland
Steve Yanoff, Wayland
Maura Batts, Wayland
David Spencer, Wayland
Linda Segal, Wayland

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. School Committee's Draft Recommended Budget
3. Budget Hearing Presentation
4. Legal Notice re: Budget Hearing
5. Needham Public Schools Demographic Profile
6. School and Town Data from ClearGov
7. Draft School Committee Budget Presentation
8. Outline of Recent WPS Errata
9. WPS FY18 Budget Analysis
10. Document regarding Recreational Marijuana Moratorium
11. METCO Donations
12. Executive Session Motion
13. Executive Session Minutes: October 17, 2016, October 24, 2016, November 14, 2016, November 28, 2016 and December 12, 2016