

# MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting – February 21, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Tuesday, February 21, 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  
Kim Reichelt  
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Jeanne Downs

Also:

Paul Stein  
Superintendent

Also:

Gordon Cliff  
Nancy Funkhouser  
Jen Gorke  
Carol Martin  
Klaus Shigley  
George Uveges  
Dave Watkins  
Members of the Finance Committee

Brian Keveny

Town Finance Director

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the regular session at 7:00 P.M. and the School Committee joined the Finance Committee in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room; the meeting was recorded by WayCAM.

## 1. **Comments and Written Statements from the Public:**

There were no public comments.

## 2. **Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee regarding the FY18 School Operating and Capital Budgets, including Discussion of Proposed Cut to the School Department Budget:**

The Committee listened to public comment made to the Finance Committee and the Committee's response to such comments. Anette Lewis asked questions about the school budget, in particular the 0.5% salary increase in FY18 and the special education prepay. Anette, along with Donna Bouchard, Gil Wolman, Gail Shapiro, John Kelly and Alice Boelter all requested that the Finance Committee continue to support the reduced school budget.

The Committee listened to the Finance Director's report. The topics covered included a recap of the FY18 budget voted at a prior meeting, the FY18 budget for healthcare, reserve fund transfers, and Moody's recent report.

Ellen then presented the School Committee's suggested compromise for the FY18 Budget, which included a reduction of approximately \$137,000 from the School Committee's recommended budget. In addition, the Committee supported a reduction of one benefit package for an additional amount equal to about \$15,000.

She noted that the Committee did not intend to be uncollaborative or uncooperative at the Finance Committee's last meeting. She pointed out that the missions of the two committees don't always perfectly align. However, the Committee acknowledged that it could have done a better job explaining the Committee's budget, in particular the savings that were identified and the number of FTEs added, and it should have described the "stepping stones" differently.

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In that light, she mentioned that the work the administrators did prior to presenting the Superintendent's budget to the School Committee included about \$162,000 in savings between the ESCO/solar projects and taking more risk with the turnover savings and SPED circuit breaker. In addition, of the total number of FTEs added, 11.84 are due to changes in enrollment or special education needs, ones that must be added to be in compliance with the law and our class size guidelines. And last, she clarified that the stepping stones should not be construed as discretionary. In fact, they address deficiencies in programs (e.g. world language at the elementary level), they provide resources that outside consultants have recommended (e.g. custodial supervisor) and they prevent additional costs in future years (e.g. elementary guidance).

The Committee then answered questions from the Finance Committee, which included clarification about the items that were cut, the FTEs included in the budget and the total increase for the school budget, as well as future years' funding for the elementary world language program and other areas for possible reductions. Nancy Funkhouser and Jen Gorke complimented the School Committee on its work, noted how difficult it is to make a direct correlation between enrollment and staffing particularly in the area of special education. Jen also noted the different roles each Committee has and that the value of strong school systems is important to keep in mind.

### 3. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Kim Reichelt, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Fletcher  
Wayland School Committee