

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – December 18, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Friday, December 18, 2020, at 8:10 am broadcast by WayCAM in the Wayland Town Building.

Present and participating remotely were:

Jeanne Downs, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair
Kim Reichelt
Chris Ryan
Kathie Steinberg

Also participating remotely:

Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent
Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent
Susan Bottan, Director of Finance and Operations
Leisha Simon, Director of Information Technology

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session at 8:11 am. WayCAM recorded the meeting and it was livestreamed via ZOOM. The meeting was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation. A roll call was taken:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

1. Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Audio Visual (AV) Lease

Leisha Simon presented a five-year lease for AV equipment. This money is in the FY21 budget. Leisha noted that the existing AV equipment, which is important for the delivery of curriculum, is aging and needs to be replaced. Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the lease as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

2. Continued Discussion and Review of Planning for Remainder of School Year Including Additional Kindergarten In-Person Days, All-In Model, Reallocated Resources, Financial Implications and Possible Vote:

The Committee discussed the recent DESE guideline regarding learning hours. Arthur reported that the district averages 35 hours of synchronous and in-person learning over a 10-day period, which meets the guideline.

The Committee discussed planning for the remainder of the school year with each committee member giving their view. Topics discussed included the need for a long term plan, bringing kindergartners back fully in-person within the next two months, bringing grades 1-5 back fully in-person, augmented synchronous learning, the challenges of increasing COVID cases, preserving winter break, testing, a ventilation task force, financial impacts, the mental health of our students and staff, and summer learning. Arthur noted that it is important to get our younger students into the building as much as possible. He noted that hiring of staff to augment synchronous learning could be difficult. Parry echoed Arthur's remarks noting that it is important to hire high quality people.

Jeanne moved to bring kindergarten all-in the week of Feb. 22nd at a minimum of five feet of distancing. The motion was withdrawn. Upon a motion made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted (4-1) to bring in kindergarten at less than six feet the last week of February at a date determined by the administration and grades 1-5 the first week of April conditional on the virus and safety concerns. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt		X
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

Upon a motion made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to augment the remote portion of our hybrid program with an eye to going into summer. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

Upon a motion made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Chris Ryan, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) that the Wayland Public School staff not work over winter break. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The Committee discussed a joint communication from Arthur and the Committee to be sent to staff and families. Chris, Jeanne and Arthur will draft.

3. Surveillance Testing Program and Possible Vote to Approve Fee:

Ellen reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) is out and bids are due December 28th. Ideally the contract will be negotiated the first week of 2021 with a target start date for testing of January 25th. The fundraising campaign has been launched and there is a testing website. Ellen thanked Kim and the rest of the testing subgroup for all their work.

4. Health Data Collection Letter:

This item was passed over.

5. Special Education Update:

This item was passed over.

6. Remote and Hybrid Learning Progress Committee (RHLPC):

Parry updated the Committee on the RHLPC work. Surveys will be sent to families and teachers at all levels. A student survey will also be sent out sometime after the winter break. The questions will focus on how things are going and identifying groups of students where there are concerns. Data will be shared with the Committee in January. A discussion ensued about WRAP logistics.

Jeanne and Kathie updated the Committee on the COVID Safety and Learning Team. Areas of discussion at the last team meeting were ventilation, custodial schedules, surveillance testing, augmentation of synchronous learning, health attestations and contact tracing.

7. Transportation Update:

Susan reported that available bus spots were opened up to 7th and 8th grade families with 42 students signing up. No fee is being charged.

8. Review of Capital Requests and Five Year Capital Plan and Possible Vote to Approve:

Kathie updated the Committee on the capital plan and how the process worked this year. A discussion ensued including the final phase of the high school athletic project which has been moved out in the capital plan, the implementation of the feasibility study, bundling of the tiling project, school roofs, swapping the voice lift with student storage, ventilation and the fire panels. Kathie asked the Committee to review the prioritization of the capital projects for our next meeting.

9. Meeting Schedule:

This item was passed over.

10. Matters Not Anticipated by the Chair:

There were none.

11. Executive Session:

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 10:36 am for the purposes of (a) discussing regarding strategy related to collective bargaining with custodial union, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; (b) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with WESA, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; (c) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; and (d) approving the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: November 18, 2020. The School Committee will be joined by Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary. The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session and will not reconvene in open session. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

12. Adjournment:

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 11:25 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. AV Lease Memo
3. AV Lease Bid Comparison
4. AV Lease Quote
5. Valley Communications Systems, Inc. Proposal
6. 2020 Meeting Schedule
7. Executive Session Motion

