

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Friday, December 29, 2020, at 6:00 pm 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:

Omar Easy

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session at 6:05 pm. 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. Interview of Superintendent Finalist Candidates

a. Interview with Omar Easy:

Dr. Easy made a brief statement about himself including the role education played in his life, his call to teaching and his desire to lead a school district in the 21st century. The Committee asked him a series of questions (attached) and a discussion ensued.

Dr. Easy noted that Wayland is a high performing district and he would like to see it become the top district. He discussed the importance of meeting students where they are and their need to have a sense of belonging, the importance of social and emotional learning including guidance counselors and social workers, and the importance of teacher initiatives. He emphasized the importance of the students always being at the center of all decisions. He noted that building trust takes time and that he would be visible and interact with all stakeholders and be a role model.

Regarding race relations, Dr. Easy acknowledged that the summer has been a challenge for our country. He discussed his involvement with equity in his previous district noting the importance of inclusion so all voices can be heard. He noted that all students benefit from a diverse teaching staff. Wayland’s commitment to the whole student and diversity draws him to Wayland. He would work with Wayland’s Diversity and Equity Coordinator to offer professional development to staff on this topic and host a session himself so staff are comfortable and have a sense of belonging.

Dr. Easy discussed budgeting noting that it reflects priorities. He believes that diligence is important in the budget process and that in a circular model with students at the center, the budget should start at the center with students. Dr. Easy defined a team as a group of individuals working together for common good. In building a team, he noted the importance of creating norms, holding people accountable, including all perspectives, and building consensus. Regarding communication with stakeholders, Dr. Easy feels it is key and overcommunication is important.

Dr. Easy spoke of his experience in developing the Academies in Everett, his experience with facilities as well as his work on the mayor’s school finance task force. He noted he would bring his skills of collaboration, leadership, equity in schooling, business background, competitive background, and commitment to education to Wayland. Dr. Easy also spoke about his background in special education. Dr. Easy asked the Committee what each member’s call to action is and what is their vision of success. A discussion ensued.

The interview ended with Jeanne laying out the next steps in the process which include a visit day to Wayland (both in person and virtual) and the timeline of the decision process. The entire interview can be seen at www.waycam.com.

2. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 7:31 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,

Jeanne Downs, Chair
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Interview Questions