

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting – March 31, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 5:30 P.M. 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

Richard Whitehead  
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan  
Director of Finance & Operations

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session at 5:33 p.m. 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. Comments and Written Statements from the Public:**

Alexia Obar, 18 Dean Road, commented on some families' stress regarding transportation when K-5 students are all-in on April 5. She reassured parents that it will all work out, given her experience with transportation for her children over the years. Ms. Obar also commented about her concerns about the inequitable class sizes in Grade 2 given the smaller classes at Loker School vs. Happy Hollow School.

**2. COVID-19 Response:**

(a) Discussion and Review of Planning for Remainder of School Year, including Kindergarten All-In Update, and Grades K-12 All-In Planning Update:

Arthur addressed Ms. Obar's public comment regarding second grade enrollment at Loker and Happy Hollow Elementary Schools. In an effort to continue to provide a robust WRAP program, the district used teachers already employed rather than providing an online program or hiring additional teachers. As a result, the administrators reviewed those second grade classrooms that could be combined, and shrunk the sections at Happy Hollow from three to two so the second grade teacher could run WRAP. Arthur described the process once the decision was made to come back all-in and resulting in keeping two 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms even with the increase in numbers. A TA was added to each section so that the students could stay with their classes and teachers which is the best plan for the students. There will be more normal class sizes in the fall of 2021.

*K-5 All-In:*

Richard reported that the special education is going well in collaboration with other elementary staff, and everyone will be ready on Monday. The Middle School planning has begun in preparation for April 27, as well as extended school year planning.

Susan updated the School Committee on the preparation and logistics of getting the schools ready to open on Monday in terms of furniture placement in classrooms and dining spaces, installation of outdoor tents, outdoor hot spots, and contracted cleaning services.

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*Grades 6-12:*

Furniture is arriving for the middle and high schools and will be set up during April break, and movers will assist in this process. Susan encouraged families to sign up for available seats on the busses, as there will be a bus lottery on April 9 for middle school students depending on seating capacity. The existing bus routes can be viewed on the school website.

Arthur noted that the middle and high school schedules are almost complete for reopening on 4/27. He described the high school schedule, adding that Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will be a similar schedule. Wednesday will be a full day for students while in-person, but they will have half of their classes in order to access any needed support.

Arthur will work with Public Safety to send out a message regarding increased traffic when schools open.

A discussion ensued about the transportation communication in terms of the increased fee.

- (b) Special Education Update:  
Richard gave an update in the previous discussion.
- (c) Transportation Update:  
Susan provided an update in the previous discussion.
- (d) Remote and Hybrid Learning Progress Committee (RHLPC) and COVID Learning and Safety Team Update:  
*RHLPC:*  
There was no update.

*COVID Learning and Safety Team:*

The team met today and discussed ventilation. Ben Keefe will meet with some high school staff to answer questions regarding ventilation at the high school. The COVID Learning and Safety Team will draft a FAQ about coming back all-in covering masking, testing, and ventilation, as well as answering questions that have been submitted.

- (e) Surveillance Testing Update:  
The district received notice from the Governor that he has authorized funding for the rest of the school year in support of pooled testing during which the district will continue the same cost of \$32 when testing was first extended to April 16. Planning is in process for when students return all-in, such as testing on Fridays and recruitment for new volunteers. Arthur stressed the importance of the testing, particularly for the students. New information will be sent out to families to sign up again or for the first time. The funds raised through fundraising will be used for staff and for those families in need.
- (f) Travel Policy:  
The Governor's state travel order has changed to a travel advisory. Arthur urged families to follow the travel advisory so the buildings can stay safe and contained in terms of COVID cases. He also asked families to document information via the health attestation and communication with the schools. The School Committee and Board of Health also strongly recommends that families follow the travel advisory.

**3. Financial Matters:**

- (a) FY22 Operating Budget Update:  
Susan will present a one-page budget summary and status, including a summary of COVID funding and expenses, as well as the Q3 Financial Report at the next meeting.
- (b) Director of Finance and Operations Search Update:  
Jeanne announced that Wayland resident Barb Fletcher will serve on the search committee as the community representative in search of a new Director of Finance and Operations. Jeanne reviewed the timeline for the search process.

**4. Administrative Matters:**

- (a) Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Remote Day for Wayland Middle School on May 11, 2021:  
Arthur reported that DESE has postponed its response to this request, as a number of districts have made a similar request. Arthur will follow up in this regard.

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- (b) Discussion of March 25, 2021 Letter from George Harris to Division of Open Government regarding January 21, 2021 Open Meeting Law Complaint Filed by George Harris:  
 Jeanne reached out to the Division of Open Government for clarification of preparing minutes for interviews with Superintendent candidates, particularly in terms of the amount of content. Jeanne will follow up in this regard. Kim added what other towns have done in these instances and noted that two towns did exactly what was done by the School Committee.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Approval of Minutes: March 11, 2021 and March 17, 2021:
- (b) Approval of Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated March 31, 2021, in the amount of \$909,442.49.

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda. 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	

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

Jeanne presented one more item, the High School server, on the approved technology recycle list for spring recycling.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Chris Ryan, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the updated technology recycle list that includes the high school server. 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	

Kim suggested placement of recycling bins at the high school turf field area for the purpose of recycling plastic water bottles.

7. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter executive session at 6:23 p.m. for purposes of (a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) as discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; (b) discussing strategy related to negotiations with non-union personnel as listed on the agenda, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2), as discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; (c) reviewing executive session minutes for possible declassification as listed on the agenda, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22; and (d) approval of the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: March 17, 2021. 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	

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The School Committee will be joined by Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will adjourn in executive session and will not reconvene in open session.

**8. Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 7:33 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. FY21 Spring Technology Recycle Memo
3. 1-22-21 OML Complaint
4. 1-22-21 OML Complaint Exhibits
5. Letter to AGO from George Harris
6. Accounts Payables Warrant
7. Minutes of March 17, 2021
8. Executive Session Motion