

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – January 26, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the Wayland Town Building.

*Present:*

Chris Ryan, Chair  
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair  
Jeanne Downs  
Jessica Polizzotti  
Kim Reichelt

*Also present:*

Dr. Omar Easy  
Superintendent

Parry Graham  
Assistant Superintendent

Ellen Whittemore  
Director of Finance & Operations

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 5:38 p.m. The meeting was recorded by WayCAM.

**1. Public Comment:**

Michele Fiske, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Claypit Hill, addressed her concerns related to the School Committee's written response to the WTA members on January 12. In her opinion, the WTA's professionalism was called into question and "suggested, based on anecdotes, that in raising our concerns, some of us were unable to focus on teaching and serving our students in the classroom." Ms. Fiske reminded the "School Committee, administration and Wayland and Boston families of the professionalism and commitment she and her colleagues bring to the school community." She continued to highlight how the educators of Wayland fulfill their job requirements during and extending beyond contracted hours, adding that raising their concerns is not a distraction from their work.

Craig Gruber, 108 Sears Road, asked a series of nine questions during his public comment that included a request for a job description for the Director of Social Emotional Learning, why increases in administrative staff when enrollment projections are stable, provisions for grant funding for next year for those positions added this year that may include possible OPEB payments, an explanation for the position of Director of Campus Life, how has the Restorative Justice Program changed, additional software costs not included in the budget given late additions last year, and will additional changes be collaborative with faculty, staff, administrators, and the community?

Stan Wohlfarth, 29 Woodland Road, asked what has become of Dr. Richard Whitehead, Director of Student Services.

Kim Reichelt read a public comment from Deb Russo, a Happy Hollow teacher. She asked the School Committee to consider changing the wording of the return to school policy. She recommended the following: "Students and staff who test positive for COVID may now return to school after a 5-day isolation period, so long as they are asymptomatic, **and** have been fever-free for at least 24 hours and are symptom-free."

**2. Superintendent Update:**

(a) COVID-19 Response:

Parry Graham noted that there were ten additional cases since this past Monday. The administrators met with the Health Department Director and the Director of Nursing to discuss the logistics of the arrival of over 600 test kits as well as the distribution of these test kits to staff members. Going forward, the amount of test kits will be reduced as only 248 staff members signed up. About 1,700 test kits will be ordered for students. Dr. Easy described the school distribution for all students. Sign up for tests is ongoing; however, DESE recommends that those who had COVID do not sign up within 90 days from that time.

Dr. Easy announced that given the impending snowstorm on Friday, it is possible that the Booster clinic on Saturday may be canceled.

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**3. Financial Matters:**

(a) Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve the FY23 Recommended Budget:

Although the School Committee has not received official notice, the Finance Committee agreed at its recent meeting to request at this time that the FY23 school operating budget is reduced by \$875,000. An email is forthcoming.

Jeanne began the discussion commenting that the budget is basically level funded with only .5% additional requests. She recommended that at this time, the budget should not be cut this evening. Ellen agreed, adding that the School Committee should settle on this recommended level service budget. Given the short notice from the Finance Committee, Kim commented that the Committee would not have the time to look at cutting the budget and should pass a budget that meets the district's current needs. Jess and Chris agreed with the other members' remarks. A discussion ensued in this regard.

The Committee addressed some of the questions during the public comment portion of the meeting. Unmet needs are not included in this budget, such as the Director of Social and Emotional Learning and the campus life supervisor. The Committee addressed the program needs for assistant principals, guidance staff and psychologists, and a math coach. Other requests in the budget are enrollment driven. The importance of the assistant principals, as discussed with the principals at prior meetings, was further deliberated. There were no increases in the software expenses. Unanticipated expenses for SPED and maintenance will be addressed at a future meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Superintendent's Recommended Budget of \$47,323,092.

Ellen Whittemore provided a history of the special revenue funds, particularly full day Kindergarten, and a discussion followed.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the FY23 special revenue fund budgets as presented with the caveat that if new information is received over the next several weeks, the budget will be brought back to the School Committee for potential amendment.

**4. Administrative Matters:**

(a) Review of OML Determinations:

Kim referred to the MASC Bulletin regarding remote and/or hybrid meetings related to the Open Meeting Law. The Chat has the potential and probably will become public record; thus, it should only be used if there is a technical issue. Also, MASC is offering workshops for school government tune-ups if the School Committee is interested in participating.

**5. Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Accounts Payables Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools accounts payables warrant, dated January 26, 2022, in the amount of \$464,838,043

(b) Approval of Minutes: January 12, 2022

Jeanne noted the edits to the minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the minutes as detailed by Jeanne.

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

None.

**7. Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 6:17 p.m. for the 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 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 Wayland Educational Secretaries Association (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

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Committee; and (c) approving executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: December 15, 2021, January 5, 2022, and January 12, 2022. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

The School Committee will be joined by Dr. Omar Easy, Superintendent, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

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

9. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

**Observers:**

Michele Fiske, Claypit Hill  
Craig Gruber, 108 Sears Road  
Stan Wohlfarth, 29 Woodland Road  
MaryAnn Wohlfarth, 29 Woodland Road  
Ellen Cheeseman Meyer, WHS  
Kristin Murphy, Claypit Hill  
Kori Rogers, Happy Hollow

**Corresponding Documentation:**

1. Agenda
2. January 12, 2022 Minutes
3. Executive Session Motion