

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – August 26, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Wednesday, August 26, 2021, at 5:30 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the Wayland Town Building.

Present and participating remotely were:

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

Also participating remotely:

Dr. Omar Easy
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead
Director of Student Services

Ellen Whittemore
Director of Finance & Operations

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular 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>
Chris Ryan, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Jessica Polizzotti	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	

1. **Public Comment:**

Kim Cook, Lincoln Road, stated that she received the survey about ESSER grant funding of about \$658,208 for the town. She asked how much of the funding is duplicative of what the town voted at Town Meeting for the school budget and are there opportunities to match up some of the goals of this program with what taxpayers have already funded. Ms. Cook asked why Weston received more (\$2,825,481) than Wayland from ESSER grant funding in three grants and if the funds could be used to reduce the tax burden for Wayland residents.

Erin Newton, 7 Bennett Road, commented on the delayed ADA construction/updates of the school playgrounds, particularly Claypit Hill, adding that it is essential that the upgrades are done immediately and not delayed any longer, even though it was voted at Town Meeting to move ahead with the updates/construction. The playgrounds have been out of compliance for a very long time with the American Disabilities Act and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board creating a sense of discrimination among students. Ms. Newton noted that the teachers and PTO have donated funds for updating the playgrounds. In her opinion, delays send the wrong message around discrimination rather than creating an environment of inclusivity.

2. **Special Matter:**

(a) Discussion regarding Middle School 8th Grade Trips to New York on September 28 and 30:

Dr. Easy reported that he and the Middle School Principal Betsy Gavron agreed to postpone the trip until the spring of 2022.

Jeanne suggested adding COVID protocols to the trip forms.

3. **Superintendent Update:**

(a) COVID-19 Response:

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- School Reopening on September 1 and Fall and Health and Safety Protocols:
Dr. Easy reiterated the health and safety protocols for staff and students. Kim asked about social distancing during lunch and suggested increasing it from 3 feet to 6 feet. Dr. Easy says that there are space restrictions indoors and tents are also being used outside. A discussion ensued in terms of contact tracing, test and stay, and pooled testing. Parry stated the current protocols.

Kim asked if the district can mandate vaccines for all eligible students and staff members and the possibility of asking students if they are vaccinated. Dr. Easy commented that, according to school counsel, vaccines cannot be mandated for students, but he is currently in discussions with the WTA President in this regard. A discussion followed. Dr. Easy will follow up with school counsel.

- Update on Entry Plan:
Dr. Easy will continue to work on the entry plan and will present it to the School Committee in the fall.

(b) Financial Matters:

- Update on Bus Contract:
Ellen Whittemore reported that the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager met with First Student about a week ago and discussed Wayland's specific needs, adding that a contract should be in place by the end of this week. She will follow up with the Assistant Town Manager tomorrow morning. Bus routes are in place for the 6th and 9th grade orientations and the first day of school. The transportation proposal asked for 16 busses, but the district will now have 13 resulting in a lower cost. There will also be three rather than four Boston busses. The plan is to have a one-year contract with two additional one-year options in place.

The School Department did not play a role in the bus contract process for FY22.

- (c) Continued Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Proof of Residency Affidavit for New Families to Wayland:
Dr. Easy asked the School Committee to grant him authority to amend the current proof of residency requirements for registering students new to Wayland. The Town Clerk can provide an affidavit regarding new potential families and landlords in Wayland.

The School Committee reviewed the current residency guidelines/eligibility and the requirements in other towns. A discussion ensued in this regard. The Policy Subcommittee will work with Dr. Easy to update the residency guidelines at its September 3rd meeting, and the update will be presented at the September 8th School Committee meeting, including the new affidavit being recommended.

4. Finance Subcommittee Update:

- Q4 Financials:
Ellen will report on Q4 financials when the Town closes out FY21.
- Financial Summit and Finance Committee Communication:
The School Committee reviewed the communication regarding a Financial Summit.
- Update on Capital Projects:
Jeanne updated the School Committee regarding the Loker School roof, solar panels and the Claypit Hill rooftop units, the Loker chair lift, Loker egress doors, partitions for space studies, storage units, elementary school fire alarms, intercoms and PA systems, locker replacement, the Happy Hollow walk-in fridge, and ventilation in the schools.

The Happy Hollow chairlift construction will begin in early October, the Loker School and Middle School tile projects are complete.

Dr. Easy reported that the Happy Hollow playground work continues and, according to Louise Miller and Ben Keefe, it should be complete by September 5. The playground for Claypit Hill could break ground on August 31 with an anticipated completion on October 15. An extra \$65,000 in funds is needed for the pour and place work. A request to the Finance Committee will be submitted for a transfer from reserves.

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5. **Administrative Matters:**

- (a) Discussion of Appointment of School Committee Representatives to the Permanent Municipal Building and Audit Committees:
The School Committee discussed its inability to recruit for community members to serve as representatives for the PMBC and Audit Committee. Jess will reach out to her recommendation again and Jeanne will put a notice/ad in the All-School News.
- (b) Review of OML Determinations:
This agenda item was passed over.
- (c) Discussion of Annual Report:
The School Committee reviewed the draft of the Annual Report. Richard suggested giving special recognition to the special education teachers at The Children’s Way. The School Committee will review the draft again at its September 8 meeting.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Approval of Accounts Payables Warrants:
Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated August 26, 2021, in the amount of \$397,639.27,
- (b) Approval of Minutes: July 28, 2021
Jeanne will send Diane the typo to be corrected in the minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Jess Polizzotti, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the July 28, 2021 minutes with Jeanne’s edit. 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	
Jessica Polizzotti	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Accounts Payables warrants as presented. 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	
Jessica Polizzotti	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	

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

Jeanne raised the Turf Forum being held on Monday, August 30. She and Kim Reichelt will attend the forum. A discussion ensued about the Special Fall Town Meeting and whether other issues can be raised. Chris will follow up with BOS Chair.

8. **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 6:57 p.m. for purposes of (a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), Wayland Educational Secretaries Association (WESA), Custodians and Food Service 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; and (b) approval of the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: July 28, 2021. 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	

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Jeanne Downs	X
Jessica Polizzotti	X
Kim Reichelt	X

The School Committee will be joined by Dr. Omar Easy, Superintendent of Schools, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, Richard Whitehead, Director of Student Services, 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 Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 8:12 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	
Jessica Polizzotti	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Examples of Residency Documents
3. Wayland Residency Eligibility
4. Wayland Residency Guidelines
5. Policy JF – School Admissions
6. Policy JFABA – Non-resident Students
7. Capital Facilities Update as of 8/9/21
8. Annual Report
9. Accounts Payables Warrant
10. Minutes of July 28, 2021
11. Executive Session Motion