

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – October 4, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at Wayland High School.

Present:

Chris Ryan, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair (arrived at 5:11 p.m.)
Jeanne Downs
Erin Gibbons
Jessica Polizzotti

Also present:

Dr. Omar Easy
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Michelle Crowell, Director of Teaching, Learning, Assessment & EL

1. Welcome & Call to Order:

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 5:03 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM. The School Committee members shared their thoughts about school experiences that included the Wayland Community Festival and the METCO Director's departure from Wayland as mentioned in "Millie's Monday METCO Message." There has also been positivity about being unmasked in the schools, Emily Charton, the new Claypit Hill principal, the WHS geology trip, and the Happy Hollow Back Curriculum Night.

2. Public Comment:

Christine McKenna-Lok expressed her concerns about the rising COVID positivity rates and the different protocols in place around communicating patterns in the schools and the non-existent testing. She referred to what was done last year at Happy Hollow to minimize the spread of COVID.

Chris Ryan read a public comment from Craig Gruber regarding the upcoming budget process. Mr. Gruber recommends that the School Committee engage in a zero-based budget process, as it will allow each school and the central office to be clear about needs, staffing and costs for each aspect of the school budget. This process will provide transparency for the community.

3. Superintendent Update:

3.1 COVID Update:

In response to the earlier public comment, Parry reported on the COVID practices that were put in place earlier in the school year. If parents suspect that their child has COVID, they should test and notify the school nurse. Five-day isolation protocols as recommended by the State are still in effect and when the child returns to school, he/she must wear a mask until day ten. A communication will go out to families only if a pattern is detected as a result of an activity or if there are several cases within a classroom; Parry explained further. Nurses do keep data on positive cases, but it is not shared. Discussions are ongoing around COVID and protocols, if necessary, including providing limited activities for isolated students while keeping the student's health in mind.

A discussion ensued about the shortage of substitute teachers and the many related factors that contribute to the shortage.

Dr. Easy reported on the most recent meeting of the Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC). Discussions centered about current data, the possible COVID increase in mid-October, and the ongoing measures in the schools around filters and air flow. There will be a Booster vaccination clinic run by the Town, and the date is to be determined.

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- 3.2 Approval of WHS Model United Nations Club Trip:
This agenda item was passed over.

- 3.3 Confirmation of Last Two Super Wednesdays (December 14 and February 1):
Two additional Super Wednesdays were proposed so staff can engage in professional development. A discussion ensued about the difficulty for families around childcare.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the two Super Wednesdays, December 14 and February 1.

- 3.4 Presentation of Elementary Math Programming and Curriculum Review:
Michelle Crowell presented the elementary math update. There are three elementary math coaches, Marie Brigham, Emily Shaw, and Elah Lazin. Their roles and responsibilities include providing opportunities to participate in coaching cycles around goal setting, co-planning, co-teaching, and reflection participating in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) per grade levels, providing professional development on math best practices, helping with providing research-based materials to enhance instruction, and maximizing the use of data to drive instruction. Ms. Crowell explained in more detail.

This year, the district hired a K-5 Math Interventionist, Michael Rosenblum, at Claypit Hill School. He provides targeted instruction to students in small groups and implements the Bridges Intervention Curriculum which is structured, visual, and is designed for Tier II intervention. It is used across the three elementary schools, and all special education have been trained to use this curriculum. In addition, Mr. Rosenblum monitors the students' progress and shares this information with teachers every six to eight weeks, and he also provides support to the Language-Based classroom. Ms. Crowell explained how it was determined which students meet with Mr. Rosenblum, as it is based on certain data/criteria and not all Special Education students meet the criteria. A discussion ensued about equity among the three schools, including a Math Interventionist next year for both Loker and Happy Hollow.

A 14-member K-5 math curriculum review committee was established to review the math curriculum, as the goal is to select and purchase a core math program. Currently, the math curriculum is taken from multiple vetted core programs according to the scope and sequence that is in place. Ms. Crowell described further, adding that two major reports were reviewed in terms of available curriculum and ratings – The Curate Report and EdReports. Teachers were also surveyed in terms of their wants and preferences. Michelle described the differences between an organic program and a "home grown" program. A discussion ensued in this regard.

Erin left the meeting at 6:01 p.m.; returned at 6:03 p.m.

The team identified seven high-quality programs that have the highest ratings and included Envisions 2020, HMH 2020, iReady 2020, Illustrative Math, Origo Stepping Stones 2.0, Reveal Math McGraw Hill, and Bridges Core.

Ms. Crowell reviewed the math program review timeline that includes meetings, independent work, group presentations, publishers' presentations, the implementation of a pilot from February to May, and visits to other districts who use the top three choices. A final decision will be reached in June.

- 3.5 Presentation of Educational Team Leader (ETL):
This agenda item was passed over.

4. **Administrative Matters (out of order):**

- 4.1 Review of the Final Draft of the Annual Report:
The School Committee reviewed the final version of the Annual Report that was submitted to the Town by Erin Gibbons.

- 4.2 Continued Discussion regarding the School Committee Retreat:
The School Committee reviewed a draft agenda as provided by the potential retreat facilitator Dr. Irwin Blumer for the School Committee retreat. A discussion ensued about the length of the agenda, the format, and the tenor of the discussions. The Committee reviewed dates for the retreat and decided on October 25 at an undetermined location at this time.

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

Dr. Easy requested that the School Committee hold its Boston Parent Meeting on November 9, as the original date of October 26 conflicts with the Middle School and High School Masquerade Concert. A discussion ensued in this regard. The Boston Parent Meeting at METCO Headquarters will now be November 9.

Ellen Grieco left the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

6. **Financial Matters (out of order):**

6.1 Approval of FY23 Student Activity Accounts:

The School Committee reviewed the FY23 student activity accounts and requests for the entire school year. Tom Lafleur noted that the accounts are currently being reviewed so that checks can be written for school trips.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the list of FY23 student activity accounts as presented.

Tom suggested that some accounts should be reviewed in terms of total funds in the accounts with the possibility of increasing the accounts.

6.2 Discussion of The Education Cooperative Reserve Fund Increase:

Jeanne presented this agenda item and noted that Collaboratives must keep less than 25% surplus in their budgets, and TEC will have more than 25% this year which can be transferred to a capital reserve account. TEC has made a request to all of its school districts to increase its limit in the capital reserve fund to \$750,000 from \$350,000. There will be no financial impact on the Wayland district. All Committee members were in agreement.

6.3 Loker Roof Update:

Tom Lafleur reported that all Loker rooftop units have been installed. The project came under budget and the remaining funds will be returned to the Town.

7. **Finance Subcommittee Update:**

7.1 FY24 Budget Process:

Jeanne updated the School Committee about the recent Finance Subcommittee meeting at which the budget was discussed. The items for consideration for the FY24 budget are the math curriculum, The Children's Way staff salaries, and full day kindergarten. Also discussed was the Town Manager Act which could change the role of the Finance Committee. The Budget Guideline will come from the Town. Chris Ryan will reach out to the Select Board Chair regarding the Town Manager Act.

Some concerns include the fact that there may not be a Town Manager in place at the end of October, and currently there are no capital budget guidelines in place. The School Committee will request a status of all school capital projects. The Wayland Public Schools Foundation has also requested a list of priorities for the schools.

8. **Consent Agenda:**

8.1 Declaration and Approval of Surplus Items to be Recycled:

- Wayland High School Books
- Wayland Middle School Furniture
- Claypit Hill Furniture & Miscellaneous Items

8.2 Accounts Payables Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant dated September 28, 2022 in the amount of \$265,804.68

8.3 Approval of Minutes: September 7, 2022

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the Consent Agenda.

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to enter Executive Session at 6:51 p.m. for the purposes of (a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining

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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; and (b) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the 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 Committee; and (c) approving the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: September 7, 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	absent	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	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.

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 7:09 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	absent	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. FY23 Student Activity Accounts
4. The Education Cooperative Request to Increase Capital Reserve Account Limit
5. Draft School Committee Retreat Agenda
6. Claypit Hill Surplus List
7. WHS List of Surplus Books
8. WMS List of Surplus Furniture
9. Accounts Payables Warrants
10. Minutes of September 7, 2022
11. Executive Session Motion