

# MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – August 24, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at Wayland High School.

*Present:*

Chris Ryan, Chair  
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair  
Jeanne Downs  
Erin Gibbons  
Jessica Polizzotti

*Also present:*

Dr. Omar Easy  
Superintendent

Parry Graham  
Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur  
Director of Finance & Operations

1. **Welcome & Call to Order:**

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 6:05 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM.

2. **Public Comment:**

Stephanie Miller, High Rock Road, is concerned about the Special Education program in Wayland, as she is looking for transparency and understanding of the issues in this department. She wants to ensure that her daughter will receive an adequate education at Claypit Hill School according to her service delivery agreement for the 2022-2023 school year.

3. **Superintendent Update:**

(a) COVID Plan for SY2022-23:

Parry updated the School Committee regarding the COVID recommendations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. DESE recommends that districts do not participate in asymptomatic testing, as the State will not be providing financial support for any testing. If children are symptomatic, parents should test. In addition, the school nurses will contact parents if children are showing signs of COVID, as they will not be testing symptomatic children in the health offices. Symptomatic children, according to the checklist, will not be sent back to the classroom. These procedures will apply across the district. The State is not asking school districts to track and report COVID cases; however, there could be an internal tracking by the nurses.

Isolation protocols are similar to the end of the last school year with one difference. If a student tests positive, students are required to isolate on Day 0 (when the positive test occurred and/or if a child is symptomatic) to Day 5. Students can return to school on Day 6 provided there is a negative test, is fever-free for 24 hours without any medication, and is asymptomatic. However, if the student is not testing negative, he/she must mask on Days 6 to 10. A discussion ensued about distancing and mask wearing during lunch periods.

It is likely that principals will not report weekly case counts to families at the end of the week, nor will classroom reporting be done. Protocols are similar for staff, and teachers will not be responsible to monitor mask wearing. Protocols will be revisited should positive cases rise significantly.

(b) Update regarding the Claypit Hill Principal Search:

Dr. Easy described the thirteen-member search committee and process taken to find the next Claypit Hill principal. Six candidates were interviewed over the last two weeks, as well as holding a parent forum and teacher forum. Two finalists were brought forth today and Dr. Easy is confident that a principal will be named by tomorrow.

(c) Update on the Task Force on Student Assessment:

Dr. Easy updated the School Committee regarding the Task Force's work from December 2021 to May 2022 during which the members met seven times. The recurring themes discussed were process, social trust, equity, and feedback. Prior to presenting the recommendation and report, Dr. Easy will meet with the math and science

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department heads, Dr. Mizoguchi, and Mrs. Crowell to review the six recommendations made by the Task Force with the possibility of presenting before the School Committee on September 7. A discussion ensued about the process moving forward.

(d) Discussion and Vote to Bring Parity to Leadership Salaries and Work Days:

Given the hiring of new administrators, there is a need to accelerate internal parity for different senior leadership positions with similar responsibilities in order to remain competitive, including the shift to a 12-month contract for the METCO Director and an increase of 15 work days (225 total) for the elementary principals. Parry reviewed the salary recommendations, and Dr. Easy explained the increase in work days for the elementary principals. A discussion ensued about the potential impact to the funds/budget for FY23 and FY24 and the process moving forward. The METCO grant will fund the METCO Director position.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted (4-0-1) (Ellen Grieco abstained) to approve the leadership salary changes for FY23 as proposed.

#### 4. Financial Matters:

(a) Discussion and Approval of a Budget Transfer:

Tom Lafleur explained the Middle School budget transfer from non-personnel to personnel to re-fund a library specialist.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted (4-0-1) (Ellen Grieco abstained) to approve the budget transfer as provided.

(b) Discussion and Approval of FY23 Grants:

The School Committee reviewed the list of FY23 annual entitlement grants and allotments from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: Title I, Title IIA, Title III, Title IV, SPED IDEA 240 Grant, SPED Early Childhood 262 Grant, and the Perkins Grant which is not an annual entitlement grant. In addition, two small grants were applied for and received by the High School, Alliance Energy and Society for Science that require the approval of the School Committee.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted (4-0-1) to approve the entitlement grants as well as the two High School grants as presented.

(c) Q4 Financial Report (Preliminary):

Tom Lafleur presented the preliminary Q4 financial report, as the Town of Wayland has not closed out for FY22. There is \$12,508 left in the FY22 approved school budget.

(d) Bus Parking Update:

The ZBA voted to approve a five-year special permit with a check-in after three years regarding the buses at the Wayland Town Building. Jeanne Downs thanked Becky Stanizzi and Kathie Steinberg for their work in this regard.

(e) Loker Roof Update:

Tom Lafleur reported that Loker School will be opening on time. However, because a few A/C units have not yet shipped, temporary cooling will be set up.

In addition, the pour and place is done at the Claypit Hill playground.

#### 5. Administrative Matters:

(a) Discussion, Assignment and Possible Vote of Committee Roles and Liaison Positions:

The School Committee members expressed their interest for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, Chris Ryan was nominated as the Chair of the School Committee and the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the nomination.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, Ellen Grieco was nominated as the Vice Chair of the School Committee and the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the nomination.

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The discussion continued as the School Committee members shared their interest in subcommittees and liaison roles for the 2022-2023 school year.

- (b) Discussion and Vote to Reappoint Samantha Shullo as School Committee Liaison to the Audit Committee:  
Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to reappoint Samantha Shullo to the Audit Committee.
- (c) Continued Discussion regarding the Annual Report:  
Erin Gibbons will present a draft of the Annual Report on September 7.
- (d) Continued Discussion regarding School Committee Retreat:  
Jeanne has reached out to some meeting facilitators, but the process is still in the planning phase. A discussion ensued about the goals of the retreat which will be determined as the process moves forward. The Committee members will send retreat ideas to Jeanne.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Accounts Payables Warrant: \$660,369.51
- (b) Approval of Minutes: July 20, 2022 and August 3, 2022:  
Jeanne noted edits to the July 20 and August 3 minutes. One board member was virtual for the August 3 meeting, and two roll calls were not taken. Jeanne took the roll calls, so they could be added to the minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda as amended.

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

A discussion ensued about whether water fountains will be accessible this year. Tom Lafleur confirmed that repairs to the filtration equipment were made; however, bottled water will be available if needed.

Dr. Easy described the opening day program for the staff on August 30.

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 7:49 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; 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: July 20, 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	
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.

9. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

**Observers:**

Stephanie Miller, High Rock Road

**Corresponding Documentation:**

1. Agenda
2. Leadership Salaries and Work Days
3. Budget Transfer Document
4. FY23 Entitlement Grants
5. Alliance Energy Grant
6. Society for Science Grant
7. Q4 Preliminary Financial Report Memo
8. Q4 Preliminary Financial Report Backup
9. School Committee Roster/Liaison Roles
10. Accounts Payables Warrant
11. Minutes of July 20, 2022
12. Minutes of August 3, 2022
13. Executive Session Motion