

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting – April 7, 2016 – Session 1

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, 10:00 A.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

- Ellen Grieco, Chair
- Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
- Donna Bouchard
- Jeanne Downs
- Kathie Steinberg

Also:

- Paul Stein
- Superintendent

Brad Crozier

Assistant Superintendent

Also:

Kim Reichelt – Member Elect of School Committee

Chair Ellen Grieco convened in open session at 10:04 a.m. and announced that the meeting is being taped by WayCAM. Ellen distributed her prepared Town Meeting comments to the School Committee.

1. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Donna Bouchard, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to convene in Executive Session at 10:06 a.m. for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to threatened litigation under Title IX Anti-Retaliation Provisions and M.G.L. c.149, §185, by the former Athletic Director Stephen Cass against the Wayland Public Schools and the School Committee, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as such discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the litigation position of the School Committee, review and possible declassification of executive session minutes of November 2, 2015 (sessions 1 and 2), November 30, 2015, December 4, 2015, and January 14, 2016, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22, review and possible modification and/or declassification of executive session minutes of August 28, 2014, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22, and review and possible approval of prior executive sessions, as permitted by M.G.L. c, 30A, §22, for the following meeting: March 21, 2016. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair	X	
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair	X	
Donna Bouchard	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Mark Lanza, Town Counsel, Paul Stein, Superintendent of Schools, Brad Crozier, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Diane Marobella, recording secretary, and Kim Reichelt, who will be the new member of the School Committee at the conclusion of Town Meeting.

The School Committee will reconvene in open session to conduct regular matters as noted on the meeting notice.

After consulting with Town Counsel, the School Committee recessed the adjournment of Executive Session to be resumed this evening prior to Town Meeting.

2. **Comments from the Public:**

Police Chief Robert Irving gave the School Committee a copy of his public comment. Chief Irving addressed the meeting of March 21st at which some residents publicly asked for the dismissal of several school administrators as a result of the arrest of Stephen Cass in the fall of 2015. Chief Irving clarified the role of the Superintendent, other administrators, and the School Department after it was reported that there may have been a possible theft of school

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department property. Once an investigation was launched by the Police Department in this regard, the School Department and its administrators were not involved in the events and decision-making process that followed.

Colin Steele noted his concern that Stephen Cass is banned from school property and asked the School Committee if the ban was lifted and, if so, has he been notified in writing. Mr. Steele informed the Committee that Mr. Cass would like to attend Town Meeting. *Paul responded that the “No Trespass Order” is still in effect and was issued under the advice of the Police Department. There was no intent by the School Committee and School Department to keep Mr. Cass from voting or attending Town Meeting. The Police Department will be notified.*

Susan Foster informed the School Committee that Stephen Cass was told by someone at the Middle School that he could not vote due to the “No Trespass Order.” Mr. Cass then informed the Town Clerk who contacted the Police Department. Both departments agreed that he could enter the Middle School to vote. The School Committee and the Superintendent were unaware of this incident. Dr. Stein will look into this matter.

Alice Boelter commented that the initial matter regarding Stephen Cass stems from the School Department for which it is responsible. She asked that the School Committee communicate to other town departments to clarify this matter. *Paul responded that he will clarify and notify the appropriate parties that Mr. Cass can vote at the Middle School and attend Town Meeting. Paul again noted that was unaware of this situation.*

3. **Possible Vote to Declassify Executive Session Minutes of November 2, 2015 (sessions 1 and 2), November 30, 2015, December 4, 2015, January 14, 2016, and August 28, 2014:**

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) that the August 28, 2014 minutes will be released as amended and redacted.

4. **Review and Possible Vote to Approve School Committee Statements for Town Meeting and Statement regarding the Arrest and Prosecution of the Former Athletic Director:**

Ellen asked the Committee to review her Town Meeting statement for content and language. As a result of Donna’s Town Crier article, Barb recommended that a statement regarding the need for an Assistant Principal due to the constantly changing responsibilities of the principal be added. Barb questioned many statements made in Donna’s article that referred to a “boutique” Kindergarten class, per pupil cost, COLA increases, and the FTE comparisons. Barb will craft the additional language.

Ellen added that Donna did support the overall amount of the budget, but did not support some of the allocation of funds. Kathie commented on the fairness of the Committee’s budget process, even though there were five different points of view and a difference of priorities.

Ellen stated that the Committee’s statement regarding the arrest and prosecution of the former athletic director will be passed over and discussed at a later time.

At the advice of town counsel, the School Committee recessed the meeting and the earlier executive session until 6:00 p.m. in Room A149 at Wayland High School this evening.

5. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to recess this meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Police Chief Robert Irving
Colin Steel, Wayland
Susan Foster, Wayland
Alice Boelter, Wayland

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Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Public Comment by Police Chief Robert Irving
3. Town Meeting Statement by Ellen Grieco
4. Executive Session Motion