

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – January 19, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, January 19, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair (arrived at 8:27 p.m.)

Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair

Jeanne Downs

Kim Reichelt

Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Paul Stein

Superintendent

Susan Bottan

Business Administrator

Vice Chair Barb Fletcher convened the regular session at 7:02 P.M.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

1. **Comments & Written Statements from the Public:**

Finn Driscoll, a Middle School student, read his statement regarding the proposed locations for school bus parking, specifically the Middle School and the area closest to his home on Commonwealth Road/Route 30. Finn spoke about his younger years to the present of spending time in the woods behind his house discovering animals and enjoying nature and the environment. He related his experiences to the works of the Middle School Mission Statement and house mentors, Rachel Louise Carson, Henry David Thoreau, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Out of respect for the environment and the community, Finn asked the School Committee to consider a different location to park the buses.

Amy Michaels opposes the bus parking at the Middle School. She commented that she lives in proximity of the Middle School and the noise and pollution would affect those homes within 1000 feet. Ms. Michaels asked the School Committee to consider other sites, as there should be environmental justice for everyone to enjoy a healthy environment as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sheila Carel commented that the school buses should not be parked near any school. She referred to an air quality report in 2012 that was done at the Middle School, and noted that the children and elderly are the most vulnerable in dealing with pollution issues. Ms. Carel asked the School Committee to find a better solution.

Linda Segal thanked the School Committee for re-opening public comment at the last meeting regarding this issue. She referred to the old dump on Route 20 that was used 40 years ago but now has restrictions placed on it. Ms. Segal recommended that the School Committee approach the DEP and other well-informed people in town to ask if the old dump can be used before time and money is spent on sites that won't work.

David Spencer believes that as an environmental engineer, the engineer's cost estimate for the Damon Farms site is very conservative, and other sites being considered would be half the cost. He stated his concerns about the Damon Farms site situated in the busiest part of Wayland, thus, creating traffic issues, as well as there being an environmental impact to the community. Mr. Spencer commented on the Rivers Edge site at which the buses are now. Mr. Spencer asked the School Committee to use the funds to support the children's education, not for a bus parking lot.

Reed Newton, speaking as a soccer parent, commented on the possible impact the school bus parking at Claypit Hill could have on the athletic programs in that area. He does not support the Route 30 sites as well, and asked the School Committee to consider the old dump on Route 20.

A resident of Joyce Road commented that the wooded area at the Middle School is used to teach the students and to be enjoyed by all. She related a story about the wildlife in those woods. She asked the School Committee to reconsider using the Middle School for school bus parking.

Sheila Carel commented that the Middle School woods are used as an outdoor classroom. She further described how the children would be impacted if that were to change and asked the School Committee to consider other locations.

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Alexia Obar commented that it is important to look at the historical information regarding the land transfer of a parcel of land from the Highway Department to the Recreation Commission in December 1958 under Article 6. She commented on the environmental issues, as the buses would be in close proximity of a day care center and an assisted living facility. Ms. Obar also asked the School Committee to do an appropriate traffic study on all sites and feels that the Claypit Hill site would be the most viable.

2. **Educational Matters:**

Paul announced that the Martin Luther King Day celebration at the Middle School will be held tomorrow evening and invited the public to attend.

3. **Financial Matters:**

(a) Review and Discussion of All School Budgets, Budget Drivers, Assumptions, Fees and Funding Sources, and Possible Frequently Asked Questions:

Susan distributed a draft containing answers to some of the frequently asked questions. The School Committee reviewed the FAQ's for content, as they will be included in the budget book. A discussion ensued to include slides containing information such as the schools' revenue and expenses and peer town information. Kathie will update the data regarding regional towns.

(b) Continued Review of Budget Meetings and Development of Budget Book, FAQ, and Presentation for the Budget Hearing:

The School Committee discussed postponing the budget hearing from January 30th to February 13th, as the Finance Committee may have additional requests for budget information after FinCom's next meeting on January 23rd. The Committee will schedule a meeting on January 25th at 2:00 p.m.

The School Committee reviewed a draft of the budget book narrative drafted by Ellen. The narrative is modeled to last year's narrative, but will include pie charts and student artwork from each school. The Committee will review another draft at its January 30th meeting in time for distribution to the public on February 6th. The Committee also reviewed the budget presentation prepared by Barb that included, but not limited to, the budget process and the budget drivers and a review of the capital budget.

Barb reiterated the meeting schedule and process going forward.

(c) Continued Discussion regarding School Bus Parking:

The Engineering Corporation (TEC) provided draft drawings of additional ideas of other possible locations on the Middle School campus, including different configurations for vehicles and buses and estimated costs. The range of costs is about \$500,000 to \$550,000 for this site as well as other sites. Susan reviewed and explained this information with the School Committee. A discussion ensued about the space available for the buses to turn around and the possible placement of the buses.

Susan met this day with several town departments, town committees and companies in order to bring everyone up to date regarding the status of school bus parking. Information was received from each participant and a list of pros and cons, questions and considerations was created by the group. In addition to the four sites recommended by TEC, they discussed a few additional sites not being considered, including the old dump on Route 20. Susan distributed a list of those present at the meeting and the pros and cons they identified for each site. Susan shared information about the old dump in terms of why this location might not be a viable site, as it has DEP and preparation timing issues. The School Committee asked Susan to further research the old dump.

Ellen arrived to the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Susan updated the information related to the Claypit Hill site, such as the challenges of the traffic flow. River Road is not an option for various reasons. Susan commented that the representative from First Student stated that splitting up the buses at two different locations was almost impossible due to logistics and management of the fleet and drivers. However, Susan will ask First Student about the costs to do so. Susan referred to the fact sheets provided by the Board of Health.

Ellen reopened public comment regarding the bus parking.

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Linda Segal suggested that the town planner, surveyor, or facilities director may have written documents available about the old dump which could save time and money.

A resident asked which two sites did not have any pros identified. The School Committee replied that they were Loker Conservation and Route 30.

A resident asked about the timeline to move the buses from Rivers Edge. The Committee replied that there is no firm date to move the buses; however, a free location has been offered during the summer months.

A discussion ensued regarding next steps in this process to develop a location, such as approvals, permitting, traffic and environmental studies, and the RFP process. Susan noted that the consensus among the participants in the meeting is to focus on school-owned properties; the School Committee agreed.

4. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

(a) Continued Discussion regarding Superintendent Search Process and Timing, including Selection of Screening Committee and Communications:

Jeanne commented that Art Bettencourt of NESDEC thanked the School Committee for its role in forming the Screening Committee. Ellen informed all of the applicants of the School Committee's selections for the Screening Committee.

(b) Update and Discussion regarding School Start Times:

Kim commented that the surveys are ready to go, and she is working with Leisha Simon to develop pages on the school website dedicated to school start times.

(c) Discussion of Letter to the Attorney General regarding Potential Open Meeting Law Violation:

The School Committee discussed the January 11th posted meeting in terms of the order in which the meeting was convened and the possibility of being in violation of the Open Meeting Law. Ellen will contact the Attorney General in this regard. Jeanne will draft the minutes to reflect the order of the meeting.

(d) Discussion of Public Communications, including Request for Interview with Wayland BUZZ:

Ellen informed the School Committee that Wayland BUZZ would like to interview her and Cherry Karlson in March regarding the Open Meeting Law. Ellen and Cherry prefer to have a positive discussion about complying with the Open Meeting Law. They will be given questions in advance of the interview. Paul may participate in an interview with the department chairs regarding the language immersion program.

Kim asked the School Committee if they had any comments regarding the article about Foundations. Jeanne was the only member who had a suggestion. A discussion followed about writing an article on the Mary L. Johnson Travelship and the recipients' trip experiences.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated January 19, 2017, in the amount of \$133,840.08
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated January 19, 2017, in the amount of \$399,872.69
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Student Activities Warrant, dated January 19, 2017, in the amount of \$3,328.41

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented tonight.

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

Barb commented that she attended the Recreation Commission meeting regarding the High School Campus Strategic Plan prepared by Warner Sampson. This topic will be discussed at the January 30th School Committee meeting.

7. **Executive Session:**

(a) Discussion regarding Strategy with Respect to and in Preparation for Collective Bargaining with regard to WTA, WESA, Custodial and Food Service Unions, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3):

The Executive Session was not held due to Brad Crozier's absence.

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8. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Tom Sciacca, WVN, BUZZ
Carol Plumb, Wayland
Amy Michaels, Wayland
Ana Maria and Jorge Vinha, Wayland
Linda Segal, Wayland

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants
3. Public Statement from Amy Michaels
4. Public Statement from Finn O'Driscoll
5. Draft Budget Booklet
6. Draft Budget FAQ's
7. Draft Budget Presentation
8. Current Report from The Engineering Corporation
9. Conceptual Drawings re: Bus Parking Locations
10. Information regarding School Bus Meeting
11. Board of Health Fact Sheets
12. 2011 Middle School Athletics Fields Feasibility Study
13. 2012 Indoor Air Quality Assessment of the Middle School