

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – February 7, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 9:30 A.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair
Jeanne Downs
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Ellen Grieco, Chair

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent

Brad Crozier

Assistant Superintendent

Susan Bottan

Business Administrator

Vice Chair Barb Fletcher convened the special session at 9:35 A.M.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

Sam DeSavino commented on the years of 2007-2010 when the school buses were parked at Wayland High School. The diesel fumes caused by idling buses for more than 30 minutes at a time and bus alarms going off was very disruptive and cause for concern regarding the quality of life for the residents of the Charena Farms development. He believes that buses should not be parked near any neighborhoods in town and considers the old dump site an ideal place to park the buses. Mr. DeSavino encouraged the School Committee to work with the DPW to get the old dump site approved and ready for the buses.

Denis O'Driscoll asked the School Committee to move the discussion of bus parking to the beginning of the agenda. He also supports the old dump site as a consideration for bus parking.

Tom Sciacca commented that 25 years ago he invented a product that removed the heat from the exhaust system of a diesel engine. Tom described the potential of this product and cited research that has been done on heavily traveled roadways on which diesel vehicles travel creating carbon particles in the soil. Researchers also look at air particle concentration near heavily traveled roadways. Tom added that 300 feet is the outer edge in the area of interest to abutters.

Sam DeSavino commented again on the loud and constant sound of the buses as being completely disruptive.

2. Financial Matters:

(a) Continued Discussion regarding School Bus Parking (taken out of order):

Kathie reported that she attended the recent Board of Public Works meeting and during public comment expressed the School Committee's interest in the old dump site for school bus parking. Although the DPW also has their sights on this property for its own needs, they could not discuss it because the topic was not on the agenda. However, the Board of Public Works has put a process in place whereby residents can come to them to discuss the needs of all concerned, as it will be moving forward regarding the usage of this parcel.

Susan commented that since that meeting, the Board of Public Works has authorized the new DPW Director Tom Holder to work with the School Department regarding these parcels to understand if it could accommodate both the DPW and School Department. Susan will be meeting with Tom Holder and a representative from The Engineering Corporation this week to define who has jurisdiction of each parcel as well as the uses of the property and the proper field of work needed. They will be discussing what type of research is needed in terms of any deeds for the property and conceptual plans and cost estimates for all of the steps necessary to determine if the land can be used for the DPW's and School Department's needs. Susan explained the possible jurisdiction of both parcels.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – February 7, 2017

Kathie described the DPW's presentation to the Board of Selectmen and the concern is that .62 acres is not sufficient for their needs. In checking with other towns, most have at least 4 acres available for their DPW. If the School Department was given just under an acre of the parcel, it would be a tight fit for stacking the buses.

Barb informed the Committee that the Finance Committee has requested an updated Capital Improvement Plan related to school bus parking, specifically about the collaborative work between the town and school department and a possible annual expense. Barb added that the Finance Committee did not include any monies into the capital budget for bus parking and is waiting for the updated CIP from the School Committee that would possibly include a named site and the associated costs. Kathie commented on the process thus far noting that the School Committee is exploring every option, including a site outside of Wayland, in an attempt to save the town money. A discussion ensued in this regard, including whether a fall Town Meeting is possible to bring this issue to the floor and the window of time in terms of excavation and construction. Susan will draft a timetable and as much information as possible related to the Rte. 20 old dump site. March 2018 is the target date to move the buses.

Finally, Susan provided the School Committee with documents showing the radius of abutters for the sites being considered, and she described the pre-alarm testing protocol for the buses. In response to a public comment, Susan will look into increasing the mile radius for abutters in her report.

(b) Discuss Finance Committee's Recommended Budget for FY18:

Barb reported that she and Ellen attended the recent Finance Committee meeting at which they presented the budget process that the School Committee went through to find additional funding in the FY18 budget at the request of the Finance Committee. Barb commented that the current capital budget includes funds for custodial equipment, food service equipment at Happy Hollow, the Middle School tile, and the Claypit Hill phone upgrade. These items total \$290,000. It was noted at the FinCom meeting that the town wide budget increased by 3.63%, resulting in a 5.43% increase in the tax rate. Barb further explained why the Finance Committee established a process later in the discussions that would allow them to reach their 2.5% target by cutting another \$850,000. That included the recommendation to the School Committee to reduce its budget by \$314,000, which passed by a 4-3 vote. Barb continued to note the adjustments that could be made by the town, including an adjustment to healthcare. However, this process would not affect the town departmental budgets.

Barb outlined the process of the School Committee's next steps to find additional funding, the possibility of making a statement at the Finance Committee's budget presentation, and preparing the final Budget Booklet. A discussion ensued in terms of the lack of understanding by some during the budget process regarding state mandates and the stepping stones. Paul noted that a change in leadership, given as one reason by the Finance Committee to reduce the school budget, is not a reason to do so. He reiterated the strategic planning process that was put in place as a result of the School Committee's Summits in response to the Finance Committee's request to develop a long-term strategic plan for teaching and learning in Wayland. The stepping stones would help the new superintendent. If the stepping stones were eliminated, there wouldn't be a writing lab at the Middle School, additional stipends at the elementary schools, a high school technology assistant, a 1:1 program in 4th and 5th grades, an elementary world language immersion program, iPad replacement, a high school interdisciplinary program, and an evening custodial supervisor. In addition, the class size issue would continue to grow. Barb recommended the language for the statement to include the elimination of the stepping stones/programs should the School Committee reduce its budget by \$314,000. Based on a chart that Kim and Kathie developed, Wayland is near the bottom of FinCom and school peer towns in terms of overall school budget growth 2012 - 2015. The Committee reviewed this chart, and it will be included in the information provided to the Finance Committee.

Barb stepped out at 10:40 a.m. to call the FinCom chair regarding the FinCom's agenda on Wednesday night. She returned at 10:42 a.m.

(c) Continued Review and Discussion of All School Budgets for FY18, including Budget Drivers:

The School Committee reviewed the Budget Book and discussed the content, charts, student artwork, and the language both in the book and in the executive summary. Given the concerns of many parents, Paul suggested that the message include that the budget is fiscally responsible and is responsive to the needs of the students. A statement was added describing the goals and objectives of the stepping stones, as well as a statement surrounding the Finance Committee's request to reduce the operating budget just under 1% or \$314,000. Susan identified the pie charts to be included and their placement within the document. The Committee discussed the placement of student artwork.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting – February 7, 2017

The School Committee discussed its statement and presentation at the Finance Committee's Hearing, as well as the topics to include, such as the budget process, a description of the request by the Finance Committee to reduce the operating budget by about 1% or \$314,000, the items that will be reduced as a result of the FinCom's request, why the School Committee strongly believes in the stepping stones, given the possible 1% reduction, and the impact to the educational programs if the reduction is approved.

A communication will be sent out to the public announcing the School Committee's Public Hearing and providing the link to the Budget Book. The School Committee will also inform the public of the Finance Committee's request to reduce the budget.

3. **Executive Session:**

- (a) Discuss Strategy with Respect to and in Preparation for Collective Bargaining with Wayland Teachers Association, Wayland Educational Secretaries Association, Custodians Union and Food Service Association, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3):

There was no Executive Session.

4. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Samuel DiSavino, Wayland
Denis O'Driscoll, Wayland
Tom Sciacca, WVN, BUZZ
Amy Simmons, Wayland

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Draft Budget Booklet
3. Capital Plan for School Bus Parking Lot