

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – August 21, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, August 21, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair
Nate Buffum (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Brad Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Susan Bottan
School Business Administrator

Marlene Dodyk
Director of Student Services

Also:

Ben Keefe, Public Buildings Director
Asa Foster, Recreation Commission
Heath Rollins, Athletic Director

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the regular session at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

Tom Sciacca commented on the limitations of CPA money according to a revised law. Land and historical preservation and affordable housing are considered to be primary uses for CPA money and recreation use is secondary. Tom noted that the revision to the law did not allow the use of an artificial turf field, but the law, in his opinion, was drafted carelessly; he explained. Tom commented on grass maintenance and the importance of how lawns and fields are properly built, receive proper mowing, and have appropriate water drainage. Tom believes that outdoor activity is better for children than playing on a sports team. However, playing sports is one way to be outdoors. In addition, Tom commented that football is not healthy and injures kids according to much evidence, and it should not be continued to be promoted given all of the evidence presented.

Speaking for himself, Brud Wright provided a different view from the previous comments, but agreed with the comments regarding field maintenance. The fields are being overused because of the success of the athletic programs in Wayland. The field at the town building will be the first field to be rebuilt and the future use on this field will be limited. However, with the installation of a turf field in town, it will help alleviate the use of some of the grass fields and help to maintain the right balance using a mix of fields. Brud believes that outdoor activity is good, but sports teaches kids so much about life lessons, including learning how to win and lose graciously. Finally, he commented that the master plan has been needed for a long time and he looks forward to it coming to fruition.

Joe Schwendt commented that he and his children play sports on many of the fields in Wayland and added that most grass fields cannot be used when there is a wet spring. He noted that Wayland's fields are not as nice as surrounding towns and supports moving forward with the master plan. Finally, Joe believes that sports are incredibly important and fosters behaviors in kids and enriches their lives beyond the classroom.

Chris Fay runs a national non-profit that is related to sports and firmly believes that sports play a huge role in the success of the lives of kids. He commented that 70% of kids in New England drop out of all sports before their teenage years causing them to miss out on those life lessons that sports provides, such as doing better in school and in relationships, as well as staying from drugs and alcohol. Therefore, Chris believes that investing in sports fields will play a huge role in the success of the community.

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2. **Special Matter:**

Update regarding the High School Master Athletic Plan, including Outreach to Other Committees/Boards, Community Members, Staff and Students, Review of Draft Article for Special Town Meeting, and Possible Vote to Co-sponsor and Submit Article with Recreation Commission, and to Present Article to the Board of Selectmen:

Jeanne updated the School Committee on a meeting with other Boards that some School Committee members attended to review and discuss the High School Master Athletic Plan and to receive input in terms of drafting a warrant article. The meeting was attended by Council on Aging, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, Library Committee, River Stewardship Committee. Kathie has communicated with the Board of Health and Conservation Commission in this regard, as they did not attend the meeting.

The feedback and questions received were about the master plan, why it was being pursued at this time, and the use of the Loker Conservation site. Jeanne explained the designation of monies in the turf field replacement fund for the replacement of the High School turf field, and she referred to a memo to the Board of Selectmen issued by the Finance Committee regarding the request for emergency funding only at the Special Fall Town Meeting. Ellen informed the School Committee of her discussion with the Finance Committee Chair in terms of the requests for funds at Fall Town Meeting and alternative funding sources.

CPC funds are available but have limited uses and currently exclude stadiums, bleachers, lighting and turf fields. Kathie explained the process were the School Committee to submit an application for design fees from the CPC. Jeanne presented an overall description of the use and the necessary non-use of the facilities at this time by the High School athletic teams and town youth sports.

Given the different sources from which money will be available to fund the design fee, the request for \$152,000 at Fall Town Meeting is needed to make up the difference. A discussion ensued regarding the urgency/emergency of such a request for funding. Athletic Director Heath Rollins confirmed and elaborated on the upcoming track schedules, including the need to travel to other towns for team competitions, the condition and use of the tennis courts, and the possible safety issues on the fields.

The School Committee reviewed and discussed the draft article for language and the accuracy of information in the article. The Committee discussed the potential schedule for the design, bidding and construction phases, particularly the possibility of having some flexibility in the process, and the potential of submitting two articles. Ben Keefe contributed to this conversation in terms of the process, including the Loker conservation land. It was suggested that an additional document be provided explaining the urgency and/or emergency in requesting funds at Fall Town Meeting. Jeanne and Heath Rollins will work together on a cover memo for submission. A School Committee meeting will be posted for August 29th to meet the article deadline.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the article for submission to the Board of Selectmen for inclusion for Fall Town Meeting as drafted and amended tonight and to authorize Jeanne Downs to further amend it as discussed.

Ellen Grieco moved that the School Committee vote to submit an application to the CPC for \$126,000 to fund the design phase of the High School Master Plan, as discussed, and that the School Committee authorize the Finance Subcommittee to draft and submit the application. The motion was seconded by Kim Reichelt.

After further discussion regarding the amount of money requested for Parts 1 and 2 of the project, the previous motion was withdrawn.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to apply to the CPC for design fee funding for Part 2 and for Part 1 as appropriate on the High School Master Plan as discussed this evening and that the School Committee authorize the Finance Subcommittee to prepare and submit the application.

Another discussion in terms of what CPC funds will pay for followed the motion.

3. **Financial Matters:**

(a) Report from Finance Subcommittee:

Jeanne reported on the ongoing work of the Finance Subcommittee, such as the High School Master Athletic Plan, the Loker kitchen, the use of data relative to MUNIS and RADAR as gathered by Susan Bottan, and a review of the

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budget calendar with the hopes of the School Committee liaisons to the schools present the FY19 budget.

- (b) Review and Discussion of 2017-2018 Wayland Youth Basketball Gym Use Agreement and Possible Vote to Authorize the Chair to Sign the Agreement:

Ben Keefe commented that the gym use fee for FY18 is the same as last year.

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to authorize Ellen Grieco to sign the agreement with Wayland Youth Basketball.

- (c) Review of Schedule for FY19 Budget Preparation, Analysis, Presentation, and Coordination with Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen:

The School Committee reviewed its budget schedule. Ellen reported that the Finance Committee is currently engaged in “modeling” for the purpose of a forecasting budget tool and will provide the Committee with its budget model by September 15th. A discussion ensued in this regard.

The School Committee discussed following last year’s process whereby each member presents the superintendent’s recommended budget during the first two weeks of January at its assigned school aligned with the school principals and PTO representatives. Other presentations will include the town stakeholders, such as the Council on Aging. The Finance Committee may be invited to a School Committee meeting in September for the purpose of receiving the budget guidelines.

- (d) Review Draft FY19 Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for Wayland Schools, including Five-Year Capital Plan and Outstanding Capital Projects:

Susan reported that Brian Keveny has released the deadlines and guidelines for the capital and operating budgets for FY19. The principals will identify their school building capital needs on September 6, and the School Committee will review and approve the first draft of the FY19 CIPs on September 18. Ben Keefe addressed the High School Master Athletic Plan in terms of capital requests for spring Town Meeting for which he will write to include Parts 1 and 2. Susan updated the School Committee regarding the proposed FY19 CIP for the Loker School kitchen.

4. **Educational Matters:**

- (a) Hear Superintendent’s Report:

Arthur informed the School Committee that Administrative Council’s retreat will be held at the Koch Institute on the first day and the Public Safety Building on the second day. He referred to the agenda, which includes goal setting. Arthur noted that the teachers and other staff will return on August 30th and students return on September 5th.

- (b) Update regarding School Start Times:

Arthur reported that there are three evening meetings scheduled for the task force: September 11th, September 25th, and October 23rd. The task force will present its work to the School Committee in early November. Arthur commented that, depending on the decision, March is the deadline to change teachers’ schedules. A discussion ensued in terms of timing and communicating to the public once a decision is reached.

A member of the audience suggested that a poll be established for the purpose of getting public opinion on the options that will be presented.

5. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

- (a) Discussion of School Committee Protocols and Goals for FY18:

Although School Committee protocols exist, the School Committee discussed establishing a set of annual goals in November after the district goals are established. Ellen clarified some of the issues that will be addressed this school year, such as school start times and the High School Master Athletic Plan.

- (b) Review of Process and Timing for Superintendent’s Evaluation for FY18:

The Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee will meet in the imminent future.

- (c) Preliminary Discussion and Review of Draft of Annual Town Report:

This agenda topic was passed over.

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(d) Discussion of Ongoing and Future School Committee Communications with the Public:

The following is a list of ongoing and potential future topics in terms of communications with the public:

- New Student Information System
- High School Master Plan
- School Start Times
- Use of Facilities after School Hours
- Community Programs
- The Creation of a Welcoming Environment in the Schools
- What's New in STEAM
- Social and Emotional Trends and the Need for More Services
- Concussions, Safety, and the Future of Football
- The New Website
- Benefits of Team Sports
- Northeastern Study Follow-up
- The Benefits of the Solar Panels, including Cost Savings

A discussion ensued about the types of information that is provided in the student information systems.

(e) Discussion of Respective Roles of School Committee and Finance Subcommittee:

The School Committee discussed the appropriate protocol/guidelines that its subcommittees should follow when drafting agendas, having meeting discussions, and communicating with other town boards and the School Committee. The School Committee will continue this discussion at a future meeting.

(f) Discussion of School Committee Meetings and Topics for Fall 2017:

This agenda topic was passed over.

6. **Policy Matters:**

(a) Review and Vote to Approve Policy JLCA (Physical Examinations):

Upon review of Policy JLCA, one change was made.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve Policy JLCA (Physical Examinations) as drafted and discussed with one amendment.

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

Some School Committee members will attend the August 30th staff meeting.

8. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated August 21, 2017, in the amount of \$553,044.59
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated August 16, 2017, in the amount of \$291,967.64

(b) Approval of Minutes:

- Special Session of April 2, 2017
- Special Session of May 23, 2017
- Regular Session of July 24, 2017

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda.

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 9:34 p.m., to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with Custodians, including Potential Request for Funding at Fall Town Meeting, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) as such discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the bargaining position of the School Committee; discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with non-union personnel as listed on the meeting notice, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2), as such discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the

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School Committee and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the bargaining position of the School Committee; and approval of the following Executive Session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: August 7, 2017. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools, Brad Crozier, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, John Senchyshyn, Human Resources Director and Assistant Town Manager (by remote), and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will reconvene in open session for a possible vote to ratify the Custodial Memorandum of Agreement and a possible vote to approve the non-union contracts as listed on the meeting notice.

9. **Regular Matters (continued):**

(a) Possible Vote to Ratify the Custodial Memorandum of Agreement:

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (6-0) (including John Senchyshyn by remote) to ratify the Custodial Memorandum of Agreement.

(b) Possible Vote to Approve the Non-Union Contracts as Listed on the Meeting Notice:

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the non-union contracts as discussed.

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Tom Sciacca, WVN and BUZZ
Heidi Seaborg, Recreation Commission
Elisabeth Rainge, 18 Old Tavern Road

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Wayland Youth Basketball Gym Use Agreement
3. Capital Projects & 5 Year Capital Plan
4. Status of Capital Projects
5. Policy JLCA – Physical Examinations of Students
6. Draft Joint Warrant Article re: the Master Athletic Plan
7. Regular Session Minutes of July 24, 2017
8. Executive Session Motion