

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting – January 29, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, January 29, 2018, 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
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg (by remote)

Also:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Susan Bottan
School Business Administrator

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the regular session at 7:02 p.m.; the meeting is being recorded by WayCAM. Before public comment, Ellen read a statement regarding the current situation of school bus parking and the reasons for this unexpected turn of events.

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

Gretchen Dresens addressed the School Committee regarding the possible decision by the School Committee to temporarily relocate the school buses next year to 195 Main Street as a result of unanticipated and untimely budget reductions in the FY19 recommended budget as requested by the Finance Committee. Ms. Dresens recalled the discussions surrounding bus parking last fall, including the potential health hazards to children, teachers, and residents. In her opinion, the latest budget development affecting the bus parking has not been transparent, and she emphatically stated that she does not want the buses parked at the Middle School.

Sheila Carel thanked the School Committee for providing the latest information read by Ellen before public comment. However, Ms. Carel commented that the residents feel that they are not being listened to and being able to trust the School Committee is a matter of concern. She recalled a school decision that took place about ten years ago when the residents' trust was broken. Ms. Carel asked the School Committee to rethink how business is being conducted in this town.

Tom Sciacca expressed his approval of the Connect Program at Wayland High School, adding that, in his opinion, connections are critical, and failure to teach connections is a failure of a school system. Climate change, for example, is connected to everything. Tom commented that Wayland is rich with connections and spoke of his recent trip to Washington, D.C. Some of the exhibits he experienced have a direct connection to Wayland. It is Tom's view that the quality of education can be greatly improved without spending any extra money, and the Connect Program is the result of innovative thinking.

The School Committee discussed posting Ellen's statement online that relates to the recent budget development and school bus parking. The Committee reviewed the statement's content and its message to the community. A discussion ensued as to what led up to Ellen and Jeanne's inquiry of the DPW about the potential usage of 195 Main Street, as well as the School Committee's intent (or not) to park the buses at 195 Main Street going forward.

2. **Financial Matters:**

(a) Continued Review and Discussion of All School Budgets, Budget Drivers, Assumptions, Fees and Funding Sources, Requests for Information, and Discussion of and Potential Vote to Approve Response to Finance Committee's Request to Reduce Budget, including Memorandum to Finance Committee:

Susan informed the School Committee that Rick Watkins of HDR Holdings was asked if he would delay the contract to park the buses until March or April of 2019. He will speak to his colleagues and legal counsel and report back. According to town engineer Paul Brinkman, the buses could remain at the River's Edge site until sometime during March 2019, at which time construction should begin. Susan added that, according to the law, any negotiation of a contract with HDR Holdings must be discussed in Executive Session.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Special Meeting – January 29, 2018

The School Committee resumed its discussion of the statement regarding bus parking, as well as the Committee's temporary parking options moving forward, such as a contract re-bid, First Student's suggestion to park buses in another town for an additional fee, or park the buses at HDR Holdings from March to June 2019. Susan addressed the funding in the town's budget to park the buses temporarily.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Nate Buffum, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) and will not take any action to park the buses at 195 Main Street. 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		By remote

The School Committee discussed its response to the Finance Committee regarding FinCom's request to make adjustments/reductions, together with the town, to the FY19 recommended budget. The Committee reviewed three draft memos to FinCom – two from Nan Balmer and one from Arthur. Ellen reiterated discussions regarding a response, joint or otherwise, during meetings at which Nan Balmer, Arthur, Ellen and other town officials were present to address this matter. The Committee members and Arthur expressed their preferences as to which memo to send to the Finance Committee, including from whom. Susan requested that the vote the School Committee took this evening regarding no school bus parking at 195 Main Street be reflected in the memo.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to authorize Ellen, as Chair, to sign a joint January 30th memo with Lea Anderson, as Chair of the Board of Selectmen, in the form of the January 30th FY18 Budget Guidelines memo, if possible, and if that is possible, we send that memo with Arthur's memo of January 30th titled FY2019 Budget Guidelines Suggested Adjustments, as amended by Susan, together to the Finance Committee tomorrow – Option 1. In the event that the Board of Selectmen does not want to sign the January 30th joint memo titled FY2019 Budget Guideline Adjustments, we include a disclaimer in that memo that the figures from the town are based on the January 29, 2018 memo from Nan Balmer and the figures from the schools are based on our own figures and with that disclaimer language that memo be signed by Arthur alone and sent to the FinCom with the January 30th detailed memo titled FY2019 Budget Guidelines Suggested Adjustments.

Ellen modified the motion to read: The first preferred option would be to send the joint memo signed by Nan Balmer and Arthur Unobskey as it is written right now, covering both Arthur's more detailed memo of budget guidelines and suggested adjustments and Nan's memo of January 29th. The second option is to send the short memo signed by Ellen and Lea with both memos behind it, and the third option is that the School Committee send the short memo with the disclaimer language as discussed and just Arthur's detailed memo behind it. In all three circumstances with Arthur's memo as modified and suggested by Susan related to bus parking. 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		By remote

(b) Review and Finalization of Budget Presentation for Finance Committee and Upcoming Budget Hearing and Budget Booklet:

This agenda topic will be discussed at the February 5th meeting in preparation for the February 13th Budget Hearing.

(c) Discussion of Budget Calendar, Budget Presentations, Finance Committee Guideline, Communication with Finance Committee:

This agenda item was passed over.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – January 29, 2018

- (d) High School Master Athletic Plan Update:
- Communication with other Town Boards and Committees
 - Resolution of Outstanding Order of Conditions
 - Update on Owner's Project Manager and Architect Selection Process
 - Conservation Commission's Permit Requirements
 - Draft Warrants for Annual Town Meeting
 - Review of Project Timeline
 - Next Steps

Jeanne informed the School Committee that Weston & Sampson has been chosen as the architect for the High School Master Athletic Plan. They, as well as the Owner's Project Manager, will attend the PMBC meeting on Tuesday evening.

Ellen reported that the the Conservation Commission Administrator agrees that extra work to close out the older Order of Conditions is not necessary. However, a site survey will be done by Weston & Sampson and submitted to the Conservation Commission and the DEP before Town Meeting.

3. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

- (a) Review and Discussion of any Outstanding Document and/or Minutes Requests:
There were no outstanding document and/or minutes requests.

- (b) Discussion of Open Meeting Law Response Process, including Possible Review of Spreadsheet and Discussion of Open Meeting Law Complaints Filed by George Harris on November 3, 2017 (Alleging that Proper Procedure was not Followed in Responding to a Previous OML Complaint.) and September 28, 2017 (Alleging Failure to Produce Minutes in a Timely Manner):

The School Committee discussed Mr. Harris's latest OML complaint, but connected to the original OML complaint of September 28, 2017 stating that the School Committee did not produce the minutes he requested in a timely fashion. A discussion ensued regarding the Committee's acknowledgement in open session that a mistake was made, whether minute notes can be considered a draft and the timetable once a document exists. Kim will review the process taken thus far.

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

None.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Approval of Minutes:
- January 11, 2018

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda. 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	By remote	

6. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. to review and a potential vote to release amended Executive Session minutes of March 27, 2017, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

The School Committee will be joined by Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will reconvene in open session for a potential to release the March 27, 2017.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – January 29, 2018

<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	By remote	

7. **Potential Vote to Release Amended Executive Session Minutes of March 27, 2017:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to release the amended and redacted Executive Session minutes of March 27, 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	By remote	

8. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. 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	By remote	

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Gretchen Dresens, 155 Main Street
Tom Sciacca, WVN
Sheila Carel, Wayland

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Three Draft Memos to FinCom re: FY19 Budget Guidelines and Suggested Adjustments
 - Dated 1/29/18 from Nan Balmer
 - Dated 1/30/18 from Nan Balmer and Arthur Unobskey
 - Dated 1/30/18 from Arthur Unobskey
3. Regular Session Minutes of January 11, 2018
4. Executive Session Motion