

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – November 5, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, November 5, 2018, at 7:00 P.M. at Boston Police Headquarters, Boston, MA.

Present were:

Jeanne Downs, Chair
Nate Buffum
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair

Also:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Parry Graham

Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead

Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan

Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Brian Jones, Loker School Principal

1. **Boston Parents' Meeting:**

(a) Activity for All – Facilitated by Brian Jones:

Brian began by asking everyone in the room to introduce themselves. Brian explained the activity planned for all those in attendance. The purpose of the exercise was to come up with four things that each group had in common. Everyone formed groups of three and questions were asked of the group, such as "What is your favorite color?" Each individual would give their answer to see if they had something in common. Several questions were asked.

Vice Chair Jeanne Downs convened the regular School Committee meeting at 7:18 p.m.

(b) METCO 2018-2019 Budget Presentation:

Mabel Reid-Wallace presented the FY2019 METCO Program Budget. In FY2018, the grant allotment was \$754,493 and for FY2019, the allotment is \$791,069 which is an increase of \$36,576.

Mabel presented the breakdown of the allocation of funds:

- Staff salaries
- Classroom Teachers
- After School Bus Monitors
- Stipends & Contractual Services
- Supplies
- Travel
- Transportation

(c) School Committee Presentation regarding School Start Times:

Jeanne Downs presented information regarding school start times, including the biological reality and practical implications for adolescents, their sleeping habits, and the impacts of insufficient sleep, such as cognitive/academic outcomes, and emotional and physical outcomes. Although there isn't as much research available, some information was provided for elementary students as well.

After taking into consideration the science in terms of what is best for the students, the Metrowest Adolescent

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Health Survey Report, and input from teachers, staff and community, the School Committee charged the Superintendent and administrators to develop proposals in which the middle and high school students start at 8:30 or later and the elementary students start as close to 8:00 as possible.

The scenarios being considered are as follows:

Scenario 1:

Elementary Start Time: 7:50 a.m.

Elementary Dismissal: 2:20 p.m.

Wednesdays: 1:20 p.m.

WHS Start Time: 8:30 a.m.

WHS Dismissal: 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 3:00 p.m.

WMS Start Time: 8:35 a.m.

WMS Dismissal: 3:05 p.m.

Wednesdays: 3:05 p.m.

Scenario 2:

Elementary Start Time & Dismissal: same as Scenario 1

WHS Start Time: 8:30 a.m.

WHS Dismissal: 3:05 p.m.

Wednesdays: 2:20 p.m.

WMS Start Time: 8:35 a.m.

WMS Dismissal: 3:10 p.m.

Wednesdays: 2:25 p.m.

The School Committee continues to address challenges for possible solutions regarding transportation, daycare, and Professional Development.

(d) Public Comments:

The audience asked many questions and made comments surrounding transportation, consequences for children who arrive late to school due to bussing issues, the financials regarding BASE and transportation, the achievement gap between students of color and white students, sports, after school jobs, and elementary scientific research. Another topic that was addressed was the fact that not all the teachers and students support the change in school start times. A student presented a petition signed by students from 8th to 12th grades. The students and parents felt as if their voices were not being heard because the School Committee is going to move forward with a vote on one of the two scenarios, with possible tweaks, on November 19th.

A discussion ensued in terms of why the challenges and issues cannot be worked out and put in place before the final vote.

Another issue was addressed and discussed in terms of diversity training in Wayland, as one mother passionately related that her son was recently the victim of verbal racial attacks.

2. **School Committee Meeting:**

(a) Superintendent's Report:

None.

(b) Administrative/Procedural Matters:

- Review of Possible Communication regarding School Start Times
- Timeline and Next Steps regarding School Start Times
- Discussion of Possible School Committee Meeting before Special Town Meeting

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The School Committee reviewed a communication that provides a School Start Time update. The Committee also discussed its timeline and whether the Committee would like more information prior to its November 19th meeting.

The School Committee will meet to discuss school start times further on November 13 prior to Town Meeting.

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

None.

4. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See attached.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. METCO Budget Presentation
3. School Committee School Start Times Presentation
4. Petition signed by Students
5. Draft School Start Time Communication