

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – December 6, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 1:30 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Jeanne Downs, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Nate Buffum

Also:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Parry Graham

Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead

Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan

Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Allyson Mizoguchi, WHS Principal

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the special session at 1:32; the meeting was recorded by WayCAM.

1. Discussion of Return of Student Tests, Quizzes and Work:

The School Committee resumed its discussion from Monday, December 3, so that more clarity could be presented by the administrators on this topic.

Kim Reichelt publicly disclosed that although she has a family member who is a math tutor, this will not affect her ability to have an impartial discussion at this time.

Arthur, Parry and Allyson Mizoguchi commented on this matter while agreeing that time is important to conduct continual and open dialogue on what is an important but complex process that has many layers. Arthur commended the teachers for being extremely dedicated to gathering all assessments, assignments and feedback in order to precisely know their students' strengths. Arthur described how the Math teachers, in particular, create a student's portfolio. Parry pointed out that it is difficult to know where these sorts of decisions reside best – at the school level, the department level, with individual teachers, the Superintendent, or the School Committee. As noted by Allyson, the teachers' process of developing assessments on students is customized, personalized, thoughtful, takes time to craft, and are a reflection of a professional's life work. Assessments are used to reflect on how students learn so that teachers can identify those students who might need extra help. The procedure has been revised somewhat, but it is important to acknowledge the work of the teachers and their focus on what is best for the students. Allyson added that, unfortunately, she and the Math Department Head did not have the opportunity to address this topic with many families before this concern rose to a new level. The administrators will continue to have discussions with faculty and department leadership to move toward a more transparent and well informed process. A discussion ensued in this regard and Allyson explained the shift in this process in comparison to the past.

2. Public Comment:

Stephanie Leong, Rolling Lane, commented that middle school students are taught to keep a very organized math notebook, including a section of assessments. This will help students as they move up to the high school, as it is important to have a good system in place if they need extra help.

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Alexia Obar, Dean Road, is hopeful that everyone can learn from this issue, as there needs to be a better job of communicating to students and parents. She suggested that documents be scanned into Google Docs.

3. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Stephanie Leong, Rolling Lane
Alexia Obar, Dean Road

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda