

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – January 7, 2019

A Regular Meeting/Budget Work Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, January 7, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Jeanne Downs, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair (arrived at 7:24 p.m.)
Nate Buffum
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Allyson Mizoguchi, WHS Principal
Betsy Gavron, WMS Principal
Heath Rollins, Athletic Director
Steve Correia, Finance Committee

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the regular session at 7:05 p.m.; the meeting was recorded by WayCAM.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

There were no comments or written statements from the public.

2. Special Matters:

(a) School Committee Thanks the Wayland Support Organizations:

School Committee, administrators, and members of the Wayland Support Organizations made introductions at the beginning of the meeting. On behalf of the School Committee, Jeanne Downs sincerely thanked the following support organizations for everything they do for the Wayland Public Schools: Boston Parents' Council, Wayland Public Schools Foundation, Boosters, the Parent Teachers' Organization (PTO), the Parent Organization of The Children's Way (TPO), and the Creative Arts Parents' Association (CAPA), as well as the Lauren Dunne Astley Foundation, Henley Foundation, and the Gossels Family. During FY18, approximately \$586,000 was raised and donated to the schools for various programs and projects that are not possible through the school budget.

On behalf of the Superintendent, Richard Whitehead also thanked the organizations for their efforts and generosity in supporting instructional leadership and providing engaging experiences for the students. He cited examples of some of the wonderful donations, such as sound equipment at Happy Hollow, the Community Book Stop at Loker, a mindfulness coach at Claypit Hill, full day funding of professional development for The Children's Way, Arts experiences at the Middle School, varsity jackets at the High School, and the support of the Boston Parent Council for the fall barbecue.

Allyson Mizoguchi and Betsy Gavron also thanked the support organizations.

(b) Budget Work Session – Review of Budgets for Wayland High School, Wayland Middle School, and Athletics:

Wayland High School:

Allyson Mizoguchi described the new innovative programming that has been funded by the Wayland Public Schools Foundation and incorporated into the High School budget. They are a .1 FTE journalism teacher, a .2 FTE teacher coach and choral accompanist, and a .1 FTE for media support. There are two club stipends as well for the WHS French Home Stay Program and the Ultimate Frisbee Team. Allyson explained the funding of these two club stipends. Allyson provided detail for the enrollment driven requests for staffing in the High School budget, such as an additional section of English requiring a .2 FTE teacher, a .2 FTE World Language Spanish teacher.

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The School Committee and Steve Correia of the Finance Committee posed questions to Allyson regarding the following areas:

- the student elective selectivity process and the curriculum balance for students
- the possibility of broadening offerings via online courses and/or the virtual classroom
- World Languages, current and future considerations
- the current process for those students who are interested in a vocational school education
- field fees in other districts until the high school master athletic project is complete

Finally, Allyson feels that the budget is adequate for now and the high school is in a good place.

Wayland Middle School:

Betsy Gavron stated that although she is expecting the same number of students for September 2019, there will be some staffing increases as follows: .4 FTE World Language, .2 study hall, .1 music teacher from the elementary level, and an additional math section. Betsy explained the rationale of these requests, adding that the number of students taking World Languages has increased substantially, and the performing music groups are also increasing resulting in staffing and space issues. Betsy noted that given the Middle School is moving to Standard Based Grading, there could be some small long-term financial implications. Betsy would like to expand the Global Citizens' Program next year from three to four groups (2 in 6th and 2 in 7th grades) and is hopeful that a WPSF grant can help with this expansion. If successful, she would add it to the FY21 budget. Betsy also feels that current budget fully supports the Middle School's goals.

Athletics:

Heath Rollins noted that there were 73 teams and 1,140 roster spots last year, and there was a great deal amount of support and success in the athletic program. With that success, there is an increase in the budget to accommodate more games and transportation. In addition, a middle school volleyball team was added and, moving forward in an effort to treat every sports team fairly in terms of funding, he would like take on girls' and boys' hockey, sailing, and crew, as well as the partial ski and swim budgets, which are all operating through fundraising.

Heath answered questions regarding the success of the rotation of uniforms and the \$30,000 operational cost of transportation and field rentals during construction of the high school renovation project if approved, given that there are non-operational fields in Wayland currently.

- (c) Continued Discussion of Budget Drivers, Assumptions, Fees and Funding Sources and Requests for Information:
The School Committee reviewed the budget schedule for the various budget presentations in anticipation of having a quorum present requiring the posting of the presentations.

Susan presented one slide within the power point presentation regarding the budget's most recent list of unmet needs. Susan explained how the unmet needs were identified and how they were prioritized. An updated list was created based on the fact that they couldn't be funded at this time because more data was needed to determine funding and/or they would not fit within the FinCom's guidelines. In researching the possibility of the full funding by the budget of Full Day Kindergarten, it was discovered that in other fee based programs, fee payers pay 35% of the cost and the district pays 65% of the cost. Therefore, funding for Full Day Kindergarten could be set up in a similar way resulting in a cost for families of \$950 for the year. Half day kindergarten would continue to be offered.

Jeanne informed the Committee that if money is found unexpectedly, the Finance Committee has asked that this money be used to reduce the budget and not to add items within the budget. A discussion ensued in this regard.

In addition, the January 10th meeting was discussed because Kathie will be participating remotely and Jeanne will leave the meeting at some point to attend the PMBC meeting. Therefore, it is imperative that the three remaining members be present.

3. **Educational Matters:**

- (a) Hear Superintendent's Report:
- School Visits

This agenda topic was passed over.

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- (b) School Start Times Update:
This agenda topic was passed over.

4. **Financial Matters:**

- (a) OPEB Status Update:
After Susan and Arthur met with Louise Miller and Brian Keveny to discuss the feedback from DESE and the Department of Revenue and to review OPEB reports, Louise would like to move forward with learning more from Cliff Lewis about the methodology that was used and to inquire about the formula and the basis for how the charges to the schools of \$962,000 and to the town of \$236,000 were determined. It was agreed by all those at this meeting that the School Committee postpone its OPEB parity vote until a better understanding is gained of this matter. A discussion followed in terms of the history of the discussions and presentations with the School Committee. Jeanne will contact former School Committee member Barb Fletcher for any information she can offer.

5. **Consent Agenda (taken out of order):**

- (a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated January 7, 2019, in the amount of \$460,645.39
 - Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Student Activities Warrant, dated January 7, 2019, in the amount of \$50,035.07
- (b) Approval of School Trips:
- WHS Debate Team
 - WMS Cape Cod Trip
- (c) Approval of Minutes:
- December 12, 2018

Jeanne commented that the trip for the Debate Team was slightly different from other trip requests that have been approved by the School Committee. Parry and Allyson noted that a parent would be chaperoning the students rather than a staff member, and 3 students would stay with a relative and 3 would stay at a hotel. Allyson provided some background for this unique request. Arthur and Parry are supportive of this request.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kim Reichelt, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda with the caveat that Parry will look into the liability issue for the Debate Team trip.

6. **Financial Matters continued:**

- (b) High School Master Athletic Plan:
- Project Status
 - Budget Update
 - Warrant Article

Jeanne updated the warrant article with the exception of the dollar amounts, as they will be known on January 14th at the PMBC meeting. The School Committee will review the article for its January 10th meeting, as the submission deadline is January 15th. Kathie noted that moving forward the School Committee should address potential maintenance costs that are included in the Order of Conditions.

7. **Finance Subcommittee Update:**

- (a) Discussion of Support Organizations:
As Heath Rollins mentioned earlier in the meeting, there are some sports that are not part of the budget and must participate in fundraising, such as the hockey program. Arthur and Susan met with the Wayland Hockey Association to discuss how hockey could operate more like Wayland funded sports. At its next meeting in February, the hockey board will discuss its options. Kathie noted that hockey is run like a support organization and may have to follow similar guidelines. A discussion ensued regarding these independently run sports, but in conjunction with Wayland athletics.

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8. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

(a) Discussion of Superintendent's Review Process, including Elements for Review and Feedback:

This agenda topic was passed over.

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

The School Committee discussed a request by the Wayland Student Press Network (WSPN) regarding a project they are doing about the relationship of the School Committee with the administration and faculty of the High School because of the issues raised this year, such as school start times and high school student math tests. Jeanne described what will be involved and what will be asked of the School Committee. The Committee members would participate and suggested that the students come to a meeting to discuss this project.

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Kim Reichelt, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Sejal Srinivisan, PTO
Abbie Wonderly, TCW
Allison Kates, TCW
Melissa Spilman, PTO

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. Questions & Responses regarding the FY20 Budget
3. List of Current Unmet Needs
4. Draft of Article J: HS Athletic Complex Renovation
5. Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrants
6. WHS Debate Team Trip Request
7. WMS Cape Cod Trip Request
8. Regular Session Minutes of December 12, 2018