



**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
Erin N. Gibbons, Chair  
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair  
Ellen Grieco  
Erin Mueller  
Christina Rodrigo

## **Wayland Public Schools Wayland, Massachusetts 01778**

### **Wayland School Committee (SC) Newsletter**

For additional details, full recordings of most SC meetings are available on [WayCAM](#) and meeting minutes, once approved, can be found on the SC's website [here](#) or can be viewed at Town Hall.

#### **At the January 17, 2024, SC meeting:**

- Dr. David Fleishman (Acting Superintendent) presented the budget to the Community on January 12. A recording is planned to be available on the District website. **The SC unanimously approved the Acting Superintendent's recommended budget for FY25 of \$53,166,532** which includes the **inclusion of Full Day Kindergarten** eliminating the need for families to pay tuition. Everyone is hopeful that this will remain in the budget for approval by Town Meeting in May.
- More **details about the proposed 8th grade Boston day trips over four days** was shared with a visit from one of the 8th grade house leaders. The SC thanked the teacher for joining their meeting in order to provide more detail and answering a variety of questions. David Fleishman described the plan to form a **working group** to discuss issues and solutions regarding the future of middle school trips. After a lengthy discussion, the SC approved this year's 8th grade trip with the requirement that the working group include an SC member and has the intent of trying to bring the traditional MS trips back for 2025. Approval of the 7th grade trip was deferred until there can be a more detailed description of the trip. The SC unanimously approved the High School overnight trip to the National High School Journalism Convention.
- The District is reviewing **buffer zones** in an effort to balance class sizes, incoming kindergarten enrollment, and the new housing developments. Any proposed changes will be discussed, if needed, at a future meeting.
- Debbie Dixson (Interim Dir. of Student Services) and Ronnie Kessler (Asst. Director of Student Services) detailed extensive work that they have done to evaluate Student Services since they joined Wayland this summer. They presented what they believe to be the most effective and efficient **budget relating to Student Services/Special Education in FY25**. The proposed budget was built using a methodical approach to understand service delivery needs from IEPs, staff caseloads and schedules, program capacity, and any gaps or needs in programming. As part of the proposal they suggest shifting district resources to staff school based **team chairs**, consistent with staffing in other districts, and **language-based classrooms (LBC) in the Middle and High Schools**. Additional **revisions to the ILC, SAILS, ASD, and life skills programs** are being considered. The Finance Committee joined the SC for this presentation.