

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Session – January 3, 2012

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Mrs. Barb Fletcher, Chair
Dr. Malcolm Astley
Mrs. Ellen Grieco
Dr. Shawn Kinney

Also:

Dr. Paul Stein
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Brad J. Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Marlene M. Dodyk
Director of Student Services

Mr. Geoffrey S. MacDonald
Business Administrator

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the regular meeting at 7:07 P.M.

1. **School Committee Meets with Finance Committee:**

The School Committee met with the Finance Committee to review and answer questions regarding all School Committee capital requests. Two non-facilities related requests were directed to Technology Director Leisha Simon. They are (1) Network Upgrades, and (2) Data Center Upgrades/Expansion. Barb Fletcher stated that in conversations with John Senchyshyn and Leisha Simon, even though the School Committee hasn't talked about it formally, they have agreed to pull the second capital request, as there are ways to meet this request without asking for capital.

Leisha answered questions from the School Committee and the Finance Committee regarding the network upgrades.

Leisha provided a revised list of the prioritization of projects related to the network upgrade that was compiled by the Technology Department and the Technology Task Force. The Technology Task Force believes that \$50,000 is the minimum amount requested for upgrades. She stated that if the 1:1 initiative moves forward, this list might change in terms of priority, also taking into consideration the experiences of the new high school facility. Barb Fletcher will send the FinCom a list of revised prioritization projects related to the upgrade of the network.

Request for New Bus: The School Committee requests funds for a new bus. Geoff MacDonald answered questions from the Finance Committee about this request. There was some discussion about whether revolving funds could be used to purchase the bus, but needs to be looked at further. Cherry Karlson asked that the School Committee keep the Finance Committee apprised of purchasing the bus with revolving account funds.

Building Capital Requests: Since John Moynihan was not able to be present, Barb Fletcher briefly reviewed the need for each building request with the Finance Committee and answered questions.

Bobcat with Attachments: Cherry Karlson commented that a change may have been made to purchase a wacker instead of a bobcat for the same purchase price. She will ask John Moynihan to confirm.

Claypit Hill and Happy Hollow Tile Replacement: The timing of the work will depend on the summer programs; however, Happy Hollow is tentatively slated to be used for this purpose, and the work there could be delayed a year or the work could flip flop depending on the summer program. Cherry Karlson will also follow up with John Moynihan regarding the overall funding.

Claypit Hill Paving: Cherry Karlson stated that John Moynihan is looking to do more paving at Claypit in FY14 in the pathway around the building, but more information is needed. There may be a slight savings if both jobs are done together and, from a workload perspective, makes more sense.

Replacement of Furniture at Claypit Hill and Happy Hollow: Cherry Karlson stated that, according to John Moynihan, was a high priority on the administrators' list.

Middle School A/C Improvements: Cherry Karlson noted that from a workflow perspective, the replacement of the Middle School roof needs to be completed before the A/C improvements can be made.

Middle School Roof Replacement: It was noted that John Moynihan was looking into state aid for this project and is moving forward with this process. Alternative materials will also be considered.

Happy Hollow Modulars: Barb Fletcher stated the School Committee is waiting for a space utilization study to be completed regarding the modulars and has put this capital request as a placeholder in the budget process. The HSBC has allocated about \$70,000 in its project funding to either demolish or move to another site for storage.

Cherry Karlson summarized the action steps for each capital request and will follow up with John Moynihan with regard to the building capital requests.

The Finance Committee left the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

2. **Comments & Questions from the Public:**

- Tom Sciacca provided a handout to the School Committee. It was a Boston Globe column about a Harvard School of Education professor and his scientific research on what makes for successful schools. Tom referred to those “magic ingredients” and stated that the whole column is worth reading, as it relates to the use of technology and tutoring online.
- Kim Cook referred to The Abrahams Group Report and stated that there were several valuable findings in this report and is concerned that these findings and their recommendations will not be utilized. She specifically referred to the outsourcing of custodial services. She also referred to the analysis done regarding union contracts, special needs students, food services, and the BASE program. Last, she commented on the town's free cash going forward.

3. **Superintendent's FY13 Budget Presentation:** Paul Stein presented his recommended FY13 operating school budget to the School Committee. He also handed out copies to the public in attendance. He began his presentation with a budget overview, which is in line with the Finance Committee's Budget Guidelines. He stated that there was a 2.35% or \$746,336 increase from last year.

He also reviewed the Budget Drivers, the assumptions underlying the budget, and the highlights of the new initiatives. These included:

- 1:1 Computer Initiative @ High School
- Health and Wellness Program @ High School
- Chinese Language & China Exchange Program
- High School Math Labs in Grade 10
- Middle School Math Coach
- Elementary Support Programs

The Superintendent noted that this budget format was one step toward what The Abrahams Group recommended, as many things are in motion and, over time, will be instituted.

Barb Fletcher publicly thanked all of the administrators for the incredible amount of time, effort, thought, and old-fashioned debate in creating budget.

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4. **Operating Budget Work Session:** Barb Fletcher suggested that the School Committee review different aspects of the Superintendent's FY13 Operating Budget at each budget work session. She also asked the School Committee to send her questions they may have in time for each meeting (January 9, 12, and 17).

She categorized each discussion as follows:

- January 9 – review general education focusing on each of the schools except for Special Education and any initiative that relates to general administration
- January 12 – discuss and review Technology, Special Education, ELL, operations (custodial and facilities, and central office)
- January 17 – discuss fees, offsets (including revolving accounts), and any outstanding matters not addressed or matters that require follow up

The Committee discussed additional budget related requests that it would like to review as part of its budget work sessions. They include:

- Historical actual as well as FY12 actuals to date
- FTE comparisons for last 4 or 5 years (from Staff Deployment Report)
- Percentage/number of students who would be impacted by each initiative
- Indicate whether we can predict reductions in the Special Education budget, as a result of certain initiatives
- Update Special Education enrollment report/history
- Describe role of math coaches and how they help in remediation efforts
- Narrative describing impact of budget on each building, including enrollment changes and major changes
- More detail on HVAC/electrician initiative
- Comparative information for Technology Job Reclassifications
- Legal requirements and best practices with regard to revolving accounts

Malcolm Astley thanked everyone for questions raised.

5. **Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants:**
Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve payment of the following:
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 12/19/2011, in the amount of \$1,951,558.87 (High School Project)
 - Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 12/19/2011, in the amount of \$253,486.04

6. **Approval of Minutes:**
Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following minutes as amended:
- Regular Session of December 19, 2011

The School Committee discussed the way in which minutes are drafted, i.e. the inclusion of more content, more essential points, and the use of first names vs. titles and last names.

7. **Superintendent's Report:**
(a) School News:
Paul Stein commented that the High School opening was a glorious event at which everyone was upbeat. The principal began the day with a huge assembly. He noted that it was quite an accomplishment by everyone.

School Committee agreed with Paul Stein's comments.

8. **Follow-up and Future Agenda Items:**
(a) Update of Restatement of FY11 Financial Information:
Barb Fletcher provided an update on the latest ORC meeting with regard to the Restatement of the FY11 General Fund and Revolving Accounts. Barb stated that the ORC is supposed to meet within the next of couple of weeks.

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- (b) Review of Minutes re: OML Violation:
Agenda item was tabled.
- (c) Revisit of Financial Information and Town Crier Article:
The School Committee discussed the Town Crier article and the financial information in the article. The consensus was that if the discussion was not concluded, then it should be continued at a future School Committee meeting.

9. **Comments from the Public:**

- Louis Jurist commented on the new high school and the Superintendent's budget.
- Kim Cook discussed some points in the Superintendent's budget, which included additional staff, METCO transportation, and technology job reclassifications. She also referenced The Abrahams Report and the BASE program.
- Tom Sciacca commented again on the Boston Globe article, the proposed Chinese Initiative, and the Concussion Policy as it relates to wellness. He also handed out a list of injuries that was compiled for him regarding injuries on turf fields vs. grass fields. He asked the School Committee to request that this information be compiled routinely and proactively.

10. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) by roll call vote to convene in Executive Session at 10:47 P.M. to review December 19, 2011 Executive Session minutes, which related to the discussion of strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the WTA, as set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (3). A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mrs. Barb Fletcher, Chair	X	
Dr. Malcolm Astley	X	
Mrs. Ellen Grieco	X	
Dr. Shawn Kinney	X	

The Chair announced that they would reconvene in Regular Session for adjournment purposes only.

11. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 10:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:
See attached list.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. December 19, 2011 Regular Session Minutes
2. December 19, 2011 Executive Session Minutes
3. Superintendent's Proposed FY13 Budget
4. A handout re: the middle school fields