

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Session – May 7, 2012

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, May 7, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Chair

Beth Butler, Vice Chair

Malcolm Astley

Ellen Grieco (arrived at 8:26 p.m.)

Shawn Kinney (absent)

Also:

Paul Stein

Superintendent of Schools

Brad J. Crozier

Assistant Superintendent

Marlene M. Dodyk

Director of Student Services

Geoffrey S. MacDonald

Business Administrator

Also:

Leisha Simon

Director of Technology

Patrick Tutwiler

Principal of Wayland High School

Mary Barber, Technology Specialist

Bethann Monahan, Technology Specialist

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the Regular Session at 7:07 P.M. and informed the audience that the meeting was being taped by WayCAM.

1. **Special Matter – School Choice Hearing:**

Barb Fletcher stated that the School Committee is required by law to hold a public hearing on School Choice, and the Committee had a prior discussion several meetings ago in terms of becoming a School Choice community or not to become a School Choice community. She opened the meeting up to public comment related to School Choice. There were no comments or questions.

**Resolution on School Choice**

**Whereas** the Education Reform Act of 1993 requires the enrollment of non-resident students under the School Choice provision unless the Committee votes by June 1 not to participate, and

**Whereas** the School Choice provision takes money away from the sending district and awards it to the receiving district, and

**Whereas** Wayland's per pupil expenditure is greater than the maximum allowable reimbursement, which means Wayland taxpayers would subsidize each choice student, and

**Whereas** once Wayland accepts a pupil, it must keep the pupil through graduation even though Wayland's demographic situation might change considerably, and

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**Whereas** it is possible that a number of students could return to their sending districts or otherwise leave Wayland, thus creating a potential income loss, now hereby be it

**Resolved** that the Wayland School Committee respectfully declines to participate in the choice program with the provision that should surrounding school districts subsequently and prior to June 1 decide to accept the provisions of School Choice, the Wayland School Committee reserves the right to do likewise in order to protect its fiduciary interest in this matter.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0), according to M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 12, by way of the above resolution, to withdraw from the obligation of participating in School Choice.

**2. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:**

Tom Sciacca commented that he had just returned from a three-week trip to China and was extremely impressed by the country and its culture. He stated that the Chinese initiatives that have been introduced to Wayland should have been started a long time ago, and the goal of Wayland should be to introduce the Chinese language to much younger students. He also commented on the inability of China to exercise creativity/creative thinking; however, noticed the impressiveness of the creativity of China's architecture. He stated that Wayland must teach the students everything there is to know about China, as China will dominate the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**3. Reports on Goals:**

(a) Goal #2 – 2012 Technology Report/Presentation:

Leisha Simon presented Goal #2 to the School Committee, which states “to increasingly employ instructional technology for the purpose of improving student understanding of core content knowledge and skills, including in the areas of formative assessment and differentiation.”

Leisha publicly thanked Mary Barber and Beth Ann Monahan for their commitment and dedication to the district, as well as their support and work for K-12, as their efforts go above and beyond. She also announced that the documents that she will present are on the technology page of the website.

Leisha presented the 1:1 Initiative, and also stated that she submitted the SWOT Analysis Report on initiatives K-12 (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats). Leisha gave a background on the evaluation program as it relates to Goal #2, focusing on the students' understanding of core content and skills in terms of tying the integration of technology to build students' skills around the curriculum. Leisha also referred to a MassCUE Evaluator Program that is offered to all school districts who offer the 1:1 Initiative.

Pat Tutwiler stated that the professional development surrounding this goal was, in his opinion, very intense and comprehensive, but was well delivered. He gave some detail in support of the Evaluation Planning in terms of evaluating the impact of the 1:1 Initiative over a four-year period. A goal statement was developed in order to tie the 1:1 Initiative to student learning outcomes, which contained the 5 C's (critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and global citizenship). Pat explained each of the five evaluation categories (curriculum, Professional Development, infrastructure, community and policies), and gave examples in each category, which included outcome, indicator, and data avenues.

**At 7:34 P.M., there was a brief interruption, as a helicopter was landing on the field outside of the School Committee Room.**

Leisha stated that the School Committee needs to review a Laptop Maintenance and Support Agreement for students and their families; she presented a draft document. Leisha stated that the laptop deployment will take place in August, and there will be a training session for the student(s) and a family member when the laptop is picked up. The School Committee will discuss the draft Laptop Maintenance and Support Agreement at the May 21 meeting.

Mary Barber gave an update on what has been done thus far related to the 1:1 Initiative. She stated there were focus groups for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school parents and teachers; students' focus group is forthcoming. There has been a teacher survey as well as parent and student surveys in a few weeks. She stated that parents supported this initiative, but had some concerns in the areas of critical thinking, ability to write, and organization. One

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expectation of this initiative, by both parents and students, is that the size and weight of backpacks will decrease. Mary commented that all of the baseline data will be collected by the end of May.

Beth Butler thanked the current TTF, as well as the past TTF, in helping to get the infrastructure and the preparation done, allowing this initiative to move along. She recommended a 6<sup>th</sup> C (Connectiveness), acknowledged the work of those present, and asked if they could give last November's presentation again. Pat announced that at his last PIE they will present the ABC's of 1:1.

Paul Stein commented that based on a visioning exercise by Admin Council, they do not want to lose sight of inter-connectiveness in terms of the human connection. He also recommended the book Alone Together, written by Sherry Turkle.

Malcolm Astley shared some concerns in terms of helping parents to understand the initiative and recommended more communication. He also suggested that an online glossary of terminology be created. Malcolm also asked about monitoring the technology landscape as time progresses. At the request of Barb Fletcher, there was an explanation of the support that will be given to the teachers and students going forward.

(b) **China Exchange Update:**

Pat Tutwiler updated the School Committee on his trip to China in March, as well as the progress made regarding the exchange program. He also stated that this initiative fits the school's mission, and is very important to both the Chinese who will come here and to our students who will go to China. He elaborated on the program in terms of the application process, eligibility, the time table, the cost, and what is expected of students who participate.

Pat also shared a few of his reflections of China in terms of the culture and the people.

**4. Consent Agenda:**

(a) Approval of Wayland Cares Youth Trips

- SADD National Conference in California
- Youth to Youth Conference in Rhode Island

There was some discussion regarding the drivers/chaperones of the students to Rhode Island.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee approved unanimously (4-0) the Wayland Cares youth trips.

(b) Approval of Accounts Payables and Payroll Warrants:

A question was posed and answered before the meeting regarding the payroll summary in terms of charging a stipend to the appropriate budget line. It was corrected.

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 5/7/2012, in the amount of \$490,465.31
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll warrant, dated 5/3/2012, in the amount of \$1,134,975.51

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve payment of the above warrant.

(c) Approval of Minutes:

- Special Session of April 23, 2012

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the Special Session minutes of April 23, 2012, as written.

**5. Discussion re: Cost Allocations:**

Geoff MacDonald referred to a letter he received from a consultant, with whom Geoff met to review indirect cost methodology in Wayland. The School Committee discussed three action items related to indirect costs that were discussed at a prior meeting in terms of cost allocations and how Geoff should proceed in defining what the next step should be.

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The School Committee concluded that Beth will look into what other towns are doing, Ellen will follow up with Attorney Jim Toomey about ability to charge market rates for fee-based programs. The consultant will come to the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to present to the Committee options for determining indirect costs and a recommendations for moving forward.

The School Committee posed questions in response to the consultant's memo and in preparation of the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, all of which Geoff will send to the consultant by May 14<sup>th</sup>.

### 6. **Wellness Advisory Committee Appointment:**

As a result of new regulations concerning the composition of the Wellness Committee of each public school district, a member of the School Committee was asked by Marlene Dodyk and Paul Stein to serve on the Wellness Advisory Committee. Malcolm Astley volunteered to serve on the Committee, and Ellen Grieco volunteered to be the alternate.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted (3-0-1) (one abstention) to appoint Malcolm Astley as the School Committee representative to serve on the Wellness Advisory Committee, with Ellen Grieco as the alternate.

### 7. **Superintendent's Report:**

Paul Stein thanked the School Committee for time allowed for the administrators to present the Goal Reports, allowing them to show the community what is taking place within the schools.

Paul informed the Committee that he received a letter from Commissioner Mitchell Chester of the DESE regarding their approval of Wayland's TECH Plan through June 30, 2013.

Paul also stated that in an effort to purchase CASPER software, which allows the technology staff to install and update information on computers remotely, funds would be allocated to technology from the FY12 building budgets. The School Committee had some concerns about the cost and the urgency of the request in terms of priorities.

### 8. **Follow-up and Future Agenda Items:**

#### (a) Continued Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation Tool:

In order to move forward with the process, Beth Butler noted the changes made to the document since the last draft presented at the May 1 meeting. Beth stated that input from community members regarding the Superintendent's evaluation, would not be public record. However, if there is School Committee input, it does become public record. She noted the timeline and the School Committee discussed the process in terms of what and how information is gathered.

Barb Fletcher stated that Paul's evaluation for this year would be based on his entry plan and goals. In answer to Paul's question regarding his focus in the self-assessment piece, Barb asked Paul for his perspective in terms of how the district is meeting its goals by the end of May. She also suggested that he present new information, whenever possible, for each goal that has not been made known to the School Committee.

The School Committee is in agreement regarding the starting point of the evaluation tool and the timetable.

Paul will have a discussion with the Administrative Council in terms of their perspective and time frame in developing goals for next year and will make a recommendation to the School Committee.

#### (b) Continued Discussion of Article 28 Follow-up:

The School Committee reviewed all questions and answers in Article 28 based on their discussion at the May 1 meeting. Barb Fletcher passed out a copy of a draft letter to the State Auditor's office from Fred Turkington, and invited the School Committee to attend the BOS meeting on May 14. In the event the State Auditor declines to conduct an audit, she also passed out background information on a staff member from Melanson & Heath who could be considered a candidate for conducting an audit/review for the Committee.

The School Committee also reviewed a draft spreadsheet breaking out each revolving account, which will be used as a starting point of discussion of Plan B for the revolving accounts at the next meeting on May 21.

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(c) School Committee Report of Part II of Abrahams Group Report:  
Agenda item was tabled.

(d) Review of the Follow-up Status Report:  
Agenda item was tabled.

The status of the Space Utilization Study was questioned and Paul stated that TBA Architects were still in the process. Paul will report on the status at the May 21 meeting.

(e) Public Records Request:

In response to a public records request, Barb Fletcher asked the School Committee to send their emails for the month of April to the School Committee secretary by May 8, as they will be compiled on May 9, and sent May 10.

(f) Alumni Association:

Malcom Astley requested a motion of support for the affiliation of the Alumni Association with WHSPO, contingent upon a conversation with Gini Tate. To become affiliated with WHSPO, a budget must be submitted by May 20.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to support the affiliation of the Alumni Association with WHSPO, contingent upon a conversation between Malcolm Astley and Gini Tate.

9. **Comments from the Public:**

Tom Sciacca commented on Pat Tutwiler's reflections of his trip to China, as well as his recent trip to China. He commented on China's class sizes in city schools vs. rural schools. He stated that China represents a challenge in terms of a democracy. He stated that China is economically successful as opposed to the United States. However, for the past 20 years, they are an authoritarian government with a free market economy, and is interested in seeing how this all ties into the China Exchange Program.

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 10:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See Attached.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Goal #2 Technology Report/Presentation
2. Memos re: WaylandCares Field Trips
3. Special Session Minutes of April 23, 2012
4. May Enrollment Report
5. Analysis of Revolving Accounts
6. Follow-up Status Report
7. Memo re: Indirect Cost Assessments
8. Superintendent Evaluation Tool
9. Letter from NEASC to Pat Tutwiler
10. Resume of Melanson & Heath Employee
11. Letter from State Auditor's Office to Fred Turkington
12. Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants