

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting – May 6, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at 12:00 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the Wayland Town Building.

Present and participating remotely were:

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

Also participating remotely:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Betsy Gavron, WMS Principal
Carrie Dermeikis, WMS ELA Department Head & Teacher

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session at 12:02 p.m. The meeting was recorded by WayCAM and was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation.

The School Committee acknowledged our teachers on Teacher Appreciation Day and expressed the School Committee's heartfelt appreciation and its full support during this unprecedented time. Arthur also expressed his appreciation to our teachers.

1. Discuss COVID-19 Response:

- Phase Two Remote Learning:

Update of Implementation:

Betsy Gavron prefaced the ELA presentation by Carrie Dermeikis by saying that as the remote learning model was structured, the staff focused on a balance between Social Emotional Learning and academics. The hybrid model includes both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Carrie Dermeikis presented the Middle School ELA Distance Learning for Spring 2020. The staff kept two main goals in mind when planning its distance remote learning: 1) maintain and continue to support relationships, and 2) maintain general literacy by keeping reading and writing habits alive. Carrie described the weekly schedule and activities for students which includes reading aloud, Quick Write, a Podcast from which students can write a response, journaling, and Word Play. Carrie provided examples of student writing, as well as examples of different technology being used, such as MOTE, Google Classroom, and Screencastify.

Carrie addressed questions from the School Committee regarding student participation, how the teachers are monitoring those students who are not as engaged, and the teacher/student connections beyond the online classroom.

Discussion of Current and Future Feedback Process:

Arthur updated the School Committee regarding the upcoming teacher and families surveys regarding their experiences with remote learning. The survey will be designed in a way to address different experiences at different grade levels. It will also include questions about the social emotional connections.

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The Committee offered suggestions surrounding the questions asked, such as:

- Do teachers have the resources and support they need to offer more social and emotional support?
 - Is the social service network available to families?
 - How much time are the teachers spending in this regard?
 - What are the parents' work plan in the fall and do they have some work flexibility?
- Update of BASE and Food Service Staffing for Remainder of School Year:
Jeanne commented that Louise Miller reviewed the budgets for BASE and Food Service, and the Town supports the School Committee's decision not to furlough employees since the cost to the Town would be more expensive because it is responsible for half of the \$600/ week stimulus provided by the Federal Government. The employees in these fee-based programs have been notified about this decision and will continue to work through June 24.
 - Discussion of Long-Term Planning for Schools in Response to Closure:
Arthur introduced this discussion and why summer and fall planning is important and imminent, given the teachers will not be available after June 24 as well as the budget restrictions moving into FY21.

Operations Group:

As the facilitator of this group, Susan Bottan described the work that the Operations Group will pursue in the coming weeks. The Operations Group will take its lead from the Teaching and Learning Group once a decision is reached about the deliverance of instruction. There are foundational elements to consider while developing a safe and healthy plan to reopen schools during the school year. The group will also consult with state experts, as well as researching what other school districts, states, and countries are doing in this regard. Susan reviewed the areas that the group will address in its meetings. Since there will be some costs directly related to reopening the buildings, the group will determine what is absolutely necessary, such as medical equipment.

Teaching & Learning Group:

Parry Graham, facilitator of the Teaching & Learning Group, confirmed that the two groups will work collaboratively to come up with structures for instruction and safe buildings. Teaching and learning will depend on the classroom/building structure in terms of how many will be allowed in a building at one time and parents' work schedules as it relates to childcare. Parry offered examples of different scenarios and how they will inform the decisions from one level to another. He added that it is imperative that the districts receive state guidance as soon as possible. Both Parry and Susan will report back to the School Committee at a future date.

Arthur and Kim will work with these two groups in effort to provide research that will inform the decisions.

- Next Steps:
This topic was addressed in previous discussions.

2. Comments and Written Statements from the Public:

There were no comments or written statements from the public. Jeanne reminded the public that they can email Committee members, and their comments will be read at the meetings if the writer so desires.

3. Review and Possible Vote to Approve Policies Out for Review:

- IJOA – Field Trips
- DBC – Budget Deadlines and Schedules
- DBJ – Budget Transfer Authority
- DGA – Authorized Signatures
- JH – Student Absences and Excuses

Kim informed the School Committee these policies have been put out for public comment and comments were not received. Arthur confirmed that the Committee should move forward with its approval of Policy JH, and Allyson Mizoguchi and high school staff will continue to work on the implementation of the policy as well as any implications that may come up.

Ellen asked if the policy would interfere with the ability to appropriately put procedures in place for remote learning. At this time, the implications are not totally clear.

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Upon a motion duly made by Kim Reichelt, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the policies as listed on the agenda. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

4. **Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of Minutes: April 15, 2020

Upon a motion duly made Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

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

Richard updated the School Committee and noted that remote learning plans were issued this week to all Special Education students. The staff is concerned about opening school in September for many reasons, adding that there may not be a lot of Federal relief which adds to the concerns.

6. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 1:41 p.m. for the purposes of a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; and b) approving the following Executive Session Minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 22: March 24, 2020 and April 7, 2020. The School Committee will not come back into open session, but will adjourn in Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session.

7. **Adjournment from Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 2:05 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	Absent	

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Kim Reichelt	X
Kathie Steinberg	X

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Operations Group Draft Summary
3. Policy IJOA – Field Trips
4. Policy DBC – Budget Deadlines and Schedules
5. Policy DBJ – Budget Transfer Authority
6. Policy DGA – Authorized Signatures
7. Policy JH – Students Absences and Excuses
8. Special Session Minutes of April 15, 2020
9. Executive Session Motion