

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – May 24, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at Wayland High School Lecture Hall, South Building 2nd Floor.

Present:

Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair
Erin Gibbons (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)
Erin Mueller
Christina Rodrigo (participated remotely)

Also present:

Parry Graham
Acting Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur

Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Michelle Crowell, Director of Teaching, Learning, Assessment & EL
Allyson Mizoguchi, WHS Principal
Hayes Hart-Thompson, WHS Innovation & Business Teacher
Nicole Hagdoust, WHS World Language Department Head/Teacher
Yuping Wang, WHS Mandarin Teacher

1. Welcome & Call to Order:

Interim Chair Erin Gibbons called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She announced that Ellen Grieco is not present, Christina Rodrigo is participating remotely, and the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM.

School Committee members shared their school experiences, such as attending the Claypit Hill Art Show and Loker movie night. Christina Rodrigo thanked Brian Jones, Emily Charton and other staff for conducting safety drills in a safe and calm manner.

2. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

3. Special Matter:

3.1 Conduct School Choice Hearing and Vote to Adopt a Resolution to Participate or Withdraw from School Choice for the 2023-2024 School Year:

Erin Gibbons opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. and announced that the School Committee will conduct this hearing to vote on the Resolution to participate or withdraw from School Choice for the 2023-2024 school year. This Hearing is conducted every year prior to June 1 after its preliminary discussion at the May 10th meeting. The School Committee has made the decision in past years not to participate in School Choice. Erin read the following:

Effective September 1994, every city, town, or regional school district is required to enroll non-resident students under the choice program, unless the school committee votes prior to June 1 not to participate. The section of the law states in part, "...this obligation to enroll non-resident students shall not apply to a district for a school year in which its school committee, prior to June 1, after a public hearing, adopts a resolution withdrawing from said obligation, for the school year beginning the following September. Any such resolution with said reasons shall be filed with the Department of Education, provided, however, that said department shall have no Power to review any such decision by a school committee..."

The Chair asked the public, as well as the School Committee, if anyone wanted to speak on this matter. There was no response.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the following resolution as read by Erin Gibbons.

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

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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

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.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Erin Gibbons, Interim Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	Absent	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m.

4. **Acting Superintendent Update:**

4.1 *Wayland High School Pathways Grant Update (out of order):*

Michelle Crowell, Allyson Mizoguchi, and Hayes Hart-Thompson presented the Innovation Career Pathway grant update that started during the 2021-2022 school year with the goal of incorporating more industry-based courses at the High School. In collaboration with Mass Hire, they identified those industries in this local area, such as technology, engineering, life sciences, and Business.

During the summer 2022, Hayes implemented a very successful summer program at WHS called Innovation Design and Engineering Academy. The students who participated provided specific and very positive feedback about the program. They moved forward to seek designation as an official innovation pathway and were approved and awarded a \$25,000 grant to begin the process. Ms. Crowell described Part B of the grant which was a very lengthy process and a full team effort. Part B of the grant was approved and WHS will have its first innovation career pathway next year.

Hayes Hart-Thompson runs the three or four year Innovations Career Pathways program in a space at WHS that was created with Wayland Public Schools Foundation (WPSF) funding. There is a continuing collaboration with Boston University and University of Massachusetts to ensure that students are focusing on career skill building and durable skills. Fifty-seven students were accepted to the program, but there was a huge interest which could develop into expanding the program. In FY23, \$75,000 of funding was available through Mass Hire, planning grants, and the WPSF. The focus is to bring ideas to reality; Hayes explained and described each year’s focus, including current projects. Dr. Mizoguchi added that students are already building pathways and found things that existed and built upon them. She gave some examples. Hayes also described the paid internship programs with local businesses, as well as the summer program where industry professionals are invited to teach courses to all students regardless of whether they are committed to the program. A discussion followed. An acting member board made up of parents, community members, and teachers who are working within the field of innovation design and engineering will be created to provide their expertise in terms of making recommendations for the program.

4.2 *Student Representative Update:*

Wayland High School student representative Madeline O’Leary updated the School Committee on students’ concerns. She commented that during the month of May AP tests can take up to five hours after which students are required to attend classes when they are very tired and feel they would not be their best selves in classes.

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She asked if the same testing structure could be put in place for AP tests as is in place for midterms and finals which are shortened days. Madeline explained further.

Security at Wayland High School is also very concerning in terms of safety, and she asked if student ID's could be activated to gain access to the buildings. Madeline and Dr. Mizoguchi did meet about this. Tom Lafleur confirmed that a contract will be forthcoming soon and this concern will be addressed.

A discussion ensued about the testing protocol, and Dr. Mizoguchi updated the School Committee on the current practice and why it is in place.

4.3 *Discussion and Possible Approval of the WHS Trip to Taiwan in April 2024:*

Dr. Mizoguchi, Ms. Hagdoust, and Ms. Wang again presented the two-week Taiwan trip which will take the place of the China Exchange Program and will enrich the Mandarin program. In collaboration with the World Language College in Taiwan, students will attend high school classes while there. Ms. Wang explained further. The students and chaperones will stay in a hotel rather than with host families due to ongoing COVID concerns in China.

The students will develop a work plan with their WHS teachers regarding the work they will miss while they are away over April break and an additional week. The cost of the trip is \$4,600 and potential fundraising was discussed, particularly if some families cannot afford it.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Erin Mueller, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the Wayland High School trip to Taiwan in April 2024 as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

Parry added that emergency drills are taking place at all of the schools during the spring months. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their support, particularly School Resource Officer Shane Bowles who has been working with the principals. Parry highlighted today's Staff Recognition Ceremony for retirees and employees who have reached a milestone in years.

4.4 *Proposed Super Wednesday Dates for the 2023-24 School Year:*

Parry proposed the following Super Wednesdays: September 13, October 4, November 15, December 6, as well as January 10 and February 7. They are super release Wednesdays so that teachers can collaborate and participate in sustained professional development. He further explained why these days are so important, given that there are limited days for scheduled professional development, particularly for elementary teachers as a new math curriculum is being implemented in the fall.

Concerns were expressed for working parents and a discussion followed with a recommendation to approve five days, four at the secondary schools and five for elementary, while understanding the need for professional development.

4.5 *Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Interim Director of Student Services:*

This agenda item was passed over.

5. **Administrative Matters:**

5.1 *Discussion and Possible Approval of the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar:*

The School Committee reviewed the 2024-2025 school year calendar which was also reviewed by the WTA E-Board.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Christina Rodrigo, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as presented.

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5.2 *Approval of the Release with Redactions the Following Executive Session Minutes: January 4, 2023, January 9, 2023, January 11, 2023, January 18, 2023 #1 and #2, January 25 #1 and #2, February 8, 2023, March 15, 2023, March 28, 2023, March 29, 2023:*

Erin Gibbons announced that the following Executive Session minutes were approved in Executive Session to be released, some with redactions: January 4, 2023, January 9, 2023, January 11, 2023, January 18, 2023 #1 and #2, January 25 #1 and #2, February 8, 2023, March 15, 2023, March 28, 2023, and March 29, 2023.

5.3 *Discussion of Vacancies/Appointments: School Committee (1 year vacancy), Wayland Housing Partnership (One (1) three (3) year term), Youth Advisory Committee (Two (2) three (3) year terms):*

6. **Consent Agenda:**

6.1 Approval of Accounts Payables Warrants: There was no warrant.

6.2 Approval of Minutes: April 26, 2023

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the consent agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

7. **Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:**

None.

8. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Erin Mueller, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to enter Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. for the purposes of (a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), Wayland Educational Secretaries Association (WESA), Custodians and Food Service, 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; (b) approving executive session minutes, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22: April 12, 2023, April 26, 2023, May 1, 2023; and (c) Discussion of May 8, 2023 Open Meeting Law Complaint Filed by George Harris, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A §21(a)(1). A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Parry Graham, Acting Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session and will not reconvene in open session.

9. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Mueller, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

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Respectfully submitted,

Parry Graham, Clerk/Acting Superintendent
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See attached sign-in sheet.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Accounts Payables Warrant
3. School Committee Minutes of April 12, 2023
4. School Committee Minutes of April 26, 2023
5. School Committee Minutes of May 1, 2023
6. Executive Session Motion