

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – September 7, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at Wayland High School.

Present:

Chris Ryan, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair
Jeanne Downs
Erin Gibbons
Jessica Polizzotti

Also present:

Dr. Omar Easy
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Allyson Mizoguchi, WHS Principal
Betsy Gavron, WMS Principal
Tricia O'Reilly, Happy Hollow Elementary School Principal
Emily Charton, Claypit Hill Elementary School Principal
Brian Jones, Loker Elementary School Principal
Jen Nichols, WMS Science Teacher
Michelle Crowell, Director of Teaching, Learning, Assessment & EL
John Pierce, Task Force Consultant

1. Welcome & Call to Order:

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 6:08 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM. The School Committee members shared their experiences during the first week of school.

2. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

3. Superintendent Update:

(a) Introduction of New Staff:

The school principals introduced their new staff members to the School Committee that included a brief bio of each one. Dr. Easy introduced Sarah Sontag, the current WTA President.

(b) Discussion and Approval of the 8th Grade Science Geology New York Trip:

Jen Nichols presented this trip to the School Committee. The students and teachers travel to the Connecticut River Valley to explore and observe the area that includes Fossil Beach and Clarkesville Cave to experience hands on kinesthetic learning and to get to know one another. Ms. Nichols described the goals of the trip, the activities during the trip, and how students are resourceful in supporting their theory. The students, within learning groups, present a theory and support the conclusion with actual evidence that created Massachusetts and Eastern New York over the past 500 million years. Ms. Nichols displayed pictures of actual evidence for rivers or lakes and dinosaurs in the Rift Valley.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the New York Geology Trip for the Middle School as presented.

(c) Discussion and Approval of the WHS Debate Team Trip:

Allyson Mizoguchi presented the WHS Debate Team trip to Yale University from September 30 to October 2 at which students participated in debate tournaments with other high school teams.

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Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the WHS Debate Team trip as presented.

(d) Discussion and Approval of Elementary Chromebooks Maintenance Fee:

The \$20 maintenance fee would cover the elementary Chromebook repairs. A discussion ensued in this regard.

Upon a motion duly made by Jess Polizzotti, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the elementary Chromebook maintenance fee.

(e) Presentation of Findings and Recommendations from the Task Force on Student Assessments:

Michelle Crowell presented the findings and recommendations as a result of several meetings of the Task Force since October 2021 on high school math and science student assessments. John Pierce as the consultant to the Task Force was also in attendance.

The mission was to answer “What is the best practice for assessment that benefit the whole child’s educational experience?” The mission included two goals: 1) To determine what are evidence based best practices in student assessment and 2) To provide a recommendation that provides a consensus regarding assessment. Four major themes of concern emerged on a recurring basis, such as process, social trust, equity, and feedback. Ms. Crowell elaborated on these concerns.

The Task Force directed their recommendations at school level decisions regarding best instructional practices and not according to School Committee policy. Ms. Crowell referred to the recommendations, adding that the practice of withholding individual student exams, with the exception of specific AP test questions that are prohibited from distribution, mid-terms and finals, be discontinued. The Task Force also recommended that reviewing assessments during class should be continued, and all assessments and test questions should be sent home with students so they can use them as a resource to study.

Other recommendations include professional development for faculty in evidence-based research regarding best practices in student assessment, and the continuation of developing and refining common exams. Ms. Crowell explained further. John Pierce presented some ways in which to follow the recommendations. Dr. Easy praised the work of the Task Force, including the students who participated.

In terms of next steps, Dr. Easy will accept the written recommendations and have them put into action for the Math Department effective immediately. He will work with the principal and department in this regard. A discussion ensued about this issue and the process moving forward, as it has been ongoing for the past few years.

(f) Discussion and Approval of Superintendent’s Continued Mentor Program:

Dr. Easy would like to continue the mentor/coach program with Dr. Paul Ash for the next two years at an amount not exceeding \$5,000 per year. Although Dr. Ash does not work with M.A.S.S., Dr. Easy will continue to attend the M.A.S.S. annual conferences and all meetings.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Superintendent’s continued mentor program for an amount of up to \$5,000 for FY23 and FY24 with Dr. Paul Ash in lieu of the M.A.S.S. Induction Program.

Erin left the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

4. Financial Matters:

(a) Loker Roof Update:

Tom Lafleur updated the School Committee on the Loker Roof, adding that the work is scheduled to finish by week’s end.

Erin returned at 7:31 p.m.

Ellen left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

5. Administrative Matters:

(a) The Education Cooperative Update:

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Jeanne informed the School Committee that Liz McGonagle, the Director of The Education Cooperative is retiring at the end of December. Jeanne and the Medfield Superintendent will lead the Search Committee. Twelve districts are in the cooperative that provides collaborative purchasing, professional development, data privacy agreements, and classes for students, including special education students, in these districts.

Ellen returned at 7:33 p.m.

As a member district, Jeanne asked the School Committee members and the public to provide input regarding the search.

(b) **Communications Discussion:**

Jess asked the School Committee if they want to expand its communication to include positive happenings in the schools and upcoming events. She suggested a listserv for the community to receive information via email. A discussion ensued in this regard. Erin will look into the possibility of a School Committee listserv.

(c) **Continued Discussion regarding the Annual Report:**

Erin provided a working draft of the Annual Report and the School Committee reviewed it. Erin asked for feedback and suggestions were made in terms of report content. The final draft will be reviewed on September 28.

(d) **Continued Discussion regarding School Committee Retreat:**

Jeanne updated the School Committee on the process taken thus far to plan the retreat. The School Committee reviewed the discussions at the planning meeting. Jess recommended that the School Committee members read Section “B” of the Policy Manual for the purposes of setting a framework. A discussion ensued on the goals/expectations of the retreat, as well as addressing open communication. Chris suggested revisiting the self-assessment of the School Committee.

6. **Policy Matters:**

(a) **Discussion and Possible Vote to Put Out for Public Comment:**

- GBEB – Staff Conduct
- GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest
- JF – School Admissions

Ellen noted that Policy GBEA, Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest, does not account for exceptions under the law. She suggested adding language/verbiage in this regard.

7. **Consent Agenda:**

(a) **Acceptance of Donation:**

- WHS Robotics Club \$3,100

(b) **Accounts Payables Warrants:**

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant dated August 24, 2022 in the amount of \$465,744.82
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant dated September 7, 2022 in the amount of \$203,064.76

(b) **Approval of Minutes:** August 17, 2022 and August 24, 2022

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

A Spanish Immersion update was suggested for an upcoming meeting. Erin Gibbons commented that based on the introductions at the beginning of the meeting, several of the new staff are either former students and/or parents.

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 7:49 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) discussing strategy

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with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Educational Secretaries Association (WESA), 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 (c) approving the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: August 17, 2022 and August 24, 2022. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Chris Ryan, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Dr. Omar Easy, Superintendent, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

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

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Chris Ryan, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. WMS 8th Grade Science Geology Trip Request
3. WHS Debate Team Trip Request
4. Assessment Task Force Report
5. Draft Annual Report
6. Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics
7. Policy GBEB – Staff Conduct
8. Policy JF – School Admissions
9. WPS Residency Verification
10. WHS Robotics Donation
11. Accounts Payables Warrants
12. Minutes of August 17, 2022
13. Minutes of August 24, 2022
14. Executive Session Motion