

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Session – December 5, 2011

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Mrs. Barb Fletcher, Chair
Ms. Beth Butler, Vice 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

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the regular meeting at 7:06 P.M.

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

- Tom Sciacca commented on the proposed Middle School fields. His concerns were about the use of artificial turf, including potential leg and knee injuries, temperature and lead issues.

2. **Discussion re: Town Crier Article:**

Agenda item was tabled until the Business Manager could participate in the discussion.

3. **Full Day Kindergarten Financial Outlook:**

Dr. Stein updated the School Committee on the status of the FDK financial outlook and asked for the School Committee's approval to issue refund checks to FDK and BASE families, as well as conduct a similar analysis in FY13. He answered questions from the School Committee regarding transportation and other overhead costs.

He also reported that Loker Principal Brian Jones will report on a FDK survey at the next meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Mrs. Grieco, seconded by Dr. Astley, the School Committee voted (5-0) unanimously to approve the FDK and BASE refunds and authorized Dr. Stein to move forward.

4. **First Quarter Financial Report:**

Agenda item was tabled until the Business Manager could participate in the discussion. Mrs. Fletcher asked the School Committee to send her specific questions pertaining to the first quarter financial report by December 9 for discussion at the next meeting.

5. **Student Activity Accounts:**

Dr. Stein reported on the student activity accounts, particularly regarding limit changes for the High School and Middle School. It is recommended by Mr. MacDonald that the limits be raised so that requests are less frequent and funds remain adequate. Going forward a request form will be sent to the Business Office as well as backup documentation and then placed on a warrant for School Committee approval.

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Kinney, seconded by Mrs. Grieco, the School Committee voted (5-0) unanimously to increase the recommended limits in the High School student activity accounts to \$35,000 and Middle School accounts to \$25,000.

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6. **Discussion of ORC Report re: Part 2 of The Abrahams Group Report:**

The School Committee continued their discussion regarding the ORC Report pertaining to Part 2 of The Abrahams Group Report. The School Committee asked Dr. Stein to look into administrative staffing at Claypit Hill and the enrollment at Claypit over the past 10 years.

7. **Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Mrs. Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve payment of the following:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 12/5/2011, in the amount of \$434,322.05
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll warrant, dated 11/30/2011, in the amount of \$1,126,763.03

8. **Approval of Minutes:**

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Kinney, seconded by Dr. Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the following minutes as written:

- Regular Session of November 21, 2011

9. **Superintendent's Report:**

(a) School News:

Dr. Stein reported on the status of the Wayland Public Schools' participation in the Race to the Top. Dr. Stein recommended that Wayland withdraw from the program, as Wayland would receive no funding, but would have to develop and negotiate changes to the teacher evaluation tool by September 2012. All districts will need to implement these changes by September of 2013. He described the steps Wayland would take, should we decide to withdraw from the program, including developing a pilot and assessments. The Committee supported Dr. Stein's recommendation to withdraw from the program.

(b) High School Technology Surplus:

Dr. Stein discussed the surplus of computers at the high school and asked the School Committee for approval to dispose of these computers in a way that is environmentally safe. He also provided the Committee with a list of surplus computer equipment.

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Kinney, seconded by Mrs. Grieco, the School Committee voted (5-0) unanimously to declare the list of computer equipment provided as surplus.

(c) Visit to Middle School Math Department:

Dr. Stein commented that he was very impressed with the Middle School math program.

10. **Budget Process for FY13:**

Mrs. Fletcher announced that Dr. Stein's budget presentation will be on January 3, 2012. The Budget Forum will be on January 9 and budget work sessions will be scheduled for January 12 and 17. On January 23, the School Committee will present their recommended budget to the Finance Committee. Communications will be sent out to residents regarding this meeting schedule.

Mrs. Fletcher also stated that at the next meeting (December 19), the Committee will discuss the Quarterly Report and will work to finalize the School Committee report of Part 2 of the Abrahams Report. She will distribute a public survey of fees to the Committee for their review over the holiday break.

11. **Follow-up and Future Agenda Items:**

(a) Finalize School Committee Report re: Part 1 of The Abrahams Group Report:

Mrs. Grieco provided a draft of the report to the School Committee. The Committee reviewed each finding and some general changes were made to the introduction of the draft report. Mrs. Grieco will finalize the report and send to Mrs. Fletcher.

Upon a motion duly made by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Dr. Astley, the School Committee voted (5-0) unanimously to approve the School Committee response to Part 1 of the ORC Report of the Abrahams Report, as amended.

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- (b) Review of Minutes re: OML Violation:
Agenda item was tabled to December 19.
- (c) Middle School Fields Update:
Dr. Astley updated the School Committee on the Recreation Commission Hearing and provided a written summary of the meeting.
- (d) Thanksgiving Celebration:
Dr. Astley updated the School Committee on the Thanksgiving Celebration. He reported that 150-180 alumni attended the breakfast and approximately 140 registered. Dr. Astley asked for suggestions from the School Committee to keep this concept alive.
- (e) Town Crier Special Edition:
Mrs. Fletcher commented on the Town Crier Special Edition regarding the high school project. Funds will be kept with WHSPO in abeyance until project is completed and will be used for needs that weren't addressed by the project. This suggestion was supported by the other School Committee members.
- (f) Remote Participation Training:
The remote participation training will take place on December 12 and Mrs. Fletcher and Ms. Butler will be attending. Dr. Kinney may attend.

12. **Comments from the Public:**

Sheila Carel commented that the area where the middle school fields are proposed is an environmentally sensitive area. She commented that flooding is a risk if the trees are cut down and that the property is a Native American ceremonial landscape.

Carol Kaplan commented that the middle school science department uses the proposed area as a laboratory and also supported Mrs. Carel's comments regarding the proposed fields.

Steve Schneider said he had a letter written from an Indian Council recommending that the land be preserved. He also commented that this area is the only rural area in the Cochituate side of town.

John Flaherty commented on the possibility of flooding in this area and reminded the Committee of the past flooding of the Public Safety Building.

13. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Astley, seconded by Dr. Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to convene in Executive Session at 9:19 P.M. to review November 21, 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	
Ms. Beth Butler, Vice 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.

14. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Dr. Kinney, seconded by Dr. Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 9:23 P.M.

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Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

John Flaherty
Tom Sciacca
Louis Jurist
Sheila Carel
Carol Kaplan
Steve Schneider

Corresponding Documentation:

1. November 21, 2011 Regular Session Minutes
2. November 21, 2011 Executive Session Minutes
3. Memo re: Student Activity Checking Account Levels
4. First Quarter Financial Report
5. Memo re: FDK Tuition
6. Handout re: Middle School Fields Recreation Committee Hearing
7. High School Technology Surplus List