

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – September 22, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 5:30 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the South Building Lecture Hall at Wayland High School.

Present:

Chris Ryan, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)
Jeanne Downs
Jessica Polizzotti (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)
Kim Reichelt

Also:

Dr. Omar Easy
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Ellen Whittemore
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Angela Young, Resident
Brian Jones, Principal of Loker School
Christina Sandza-Donovan, Asst. Principal of Loker School
Lilliana Smith, Spanish Immersion Coordinator

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 5:33 p.m. The meeting was recorded by WayCAM.

1. Public Comment:

Jinglei Whitehouse, 11 Old Farm Road, supports the policy change related to student records commenting that it will help students going forward through this academic year.

Alexia Obar, 18 Dean Road, supports the student records policy saying that it is important that all testing materials are returned to the students. Ms. Obar also supports the policy around the implementation of School Councils, including recordings, reporting, and notifications.

2. Special Matters:

(a) Interview with PMBC School Committee Representative:

Jeanne explained the role of the appointees to the PMBC and the PMBC's oversight of town capital projects. The School Committee interviewed Angela Young who is interested in representing the School Committee as the liaison to the PMBC and would replace Michael Hoyle. Ms. Young is a nine-year resident and has children at Loker School and Wayland Middle School. She described her experience in property management and commented that this appointment would be an opportunity to become more involved in the Town.

Jess Polizzotti arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Chris described the process moving forward, and the School Committee will conduct a vote to recommend an appointee to the Board of Selectmen at its next meeting.

(b) Claypit Hill Elementary Playground Update:

The Town officials were invited to attend this meeting and provide a playground update, but could not attend. Chris announced that this update will be moved to the Capital Projects portion of the meeting.

3. Superintendent Update:

(a) Loker Elementary School: Introduce Staff and Provide Spanish Immersion Update:

Brian Jones introduced Christina Sandza-Donovan, Assistant Principal, and Lilliana Smith, Spanish Immersion Coordinator. Brian described their roles at Loker School and working relationships with each other while always focusing on the goal of meeting the needs of all students in the classrooms. Collaboratively, Mr. Jones focuses on

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – September 22, 2021

the students in 1st, 3rd and 4th grades, and Ms. Sandza-Donovan supports Kindergarten, 2nd and 5th graders. In addition, Ms. Sandza-Donovan oversees facilities issues and Mr. Jones oversees special education issues.

There are four Spanish Immersion classrooms at Loker School and Mr. Jones described Ms. Smith's work in this regard moving forward, including attending PLC meetings and Committee work. The Spanish Immersion program is thriving, and it is Brian's belief that the program should be considered budget-neutral. He explained, adding that this program does not cost additional money, as the classrooms would exist regardless.

Dr. Easy confirmed that the addition of the Assistant Principals has been a plus for the district.

Ellen arrived at 6:03 p.m.

(b) Vaccination Protocols for Staff and Students:

Dr. Easy noted that discussions are taking place with the WTA regarding a vaccine mandate for staff. The WTA is open to exploring this mandate, and a Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted in this regard. Dr. Easy added that other school districts are doing this as well.

Other discussions are focused on asking for proof of vaccination from students in Grades 6 to 12. Although not a mandate, parents will be asked to provide the student's vaccination card, as this will affect close contacts and the use of a ten-day quarantine for unvaccinated students vs. test and stay for vaccinated students.

A discussion ensued about the number of COVID cases reported, both inside school transmission and outside of school transmission. The Dashboard will be updated when needed.

(c) Financial Matters:

- Supply of Drinking Water for Schools:

Ellen Whittemore reported that water is being delivered to the buildings, adding that the water for Happy Hollow and Loker Elementary Schools is being supplied and funded by the Town as those buildings have the highest PFAS levels. Currently, it is unclear who will fund the water for the other three school buildings, Claypit Hill, High School, and Middle School, given that the Town maintains that the PFAS levels are within a safe range. According to the Water Commissioner, the cost ranges from \$6,800 to \$8,000 per month for water which is based on the months from April to June.

A discussion ensued about the safety of the water in all five buildings, and it was noted that the testing can provide different levels of PFAS for different schools when the testing occurs. Chris will send a letter to the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, with the Water Commissioner copied, on behalf of the School Committee in this regard. Some Committee members think the Town should fund water for all the schools. Ellen Whittemore will provide actual water usage for the next meeting.

- Bus Contract:

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed and executed on September 7 and is in effect until September 24. The School Committee agrees that the MOU should be extended until the bus contract is fully executed. Although requested, Ellen Whittemore has not received a draft contract. Dr. Easy noted his concerns given that there isn't a signed contract. For instance, the budget cannot be forecasted, including the METCO transportation allocation, and Minuteman students, funded by the Town, are not being transported due to a bus driver shortage.

4. Policy Matters:

(a) Review and Possible Vote to Approve:

- Policy BDFA – School Councils:

This policy was discussed at the last meeting, but it now reflects the changes highlighted in yellow. Kim added that she did add one sentence under "operating procedures" which she read.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) that the School Committee approves Policy BDFA as revised and that it is also put out for public comment for 30 days.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – September 22, 2021

- Policy JRA/JRA-R – Student Records:

Jess explained the addition on Page 5 regarding accessibility of student work, adding that students learn from their mistakes after reviewing their materials and assessments. She read the added paragraph that included “the tests are the property of the district.”

Ellen Grieco introduced her suggestions to the policy and the School Committee reviewed them. She believes that the School Committee should be explicit about an intellectual property right to all work created within the district by the staff and that the graded work cannot be used by others for commercial purposes. Ellen explained further. Kim disagreed with some of Ellen’s additions to the policy, particularly the reference to tutors who may use the tests to help students.

A discussion followed, including clarifying which assessments should be returned, as the School Committee is in agreement with the spirit of the policy in that everything should be returned and agree with the first paragraph that students do learn from their mistakes. The Policy Subcommittee will discuss this policy again and bring it to the next School Committee meeting.

Dr. Easy will present the proposal(s) to the staff, both with departments in which tests are returned and with those departments that do not return tests.

- Policy JCA – Assignment of Students to Schools:

The School Committee discussed the changes and noted some were provided by MASC.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously to put Policy JCA as revised out for public comment for 30 days.

5. Finance Subcommittee Update:

(a) Discussion of Capital Budget:

At its recent meeting, the Finance Subcommittee discussed the capital needs for the elementary schools. In the FY20 capital budget, \$200,000 was appropriated for a study of the elementary schools, but it was not done. Dr. Easy has recommended that the study move forward in order to produce a master plan facilities study of the elementary schools. A group would be formed to work with Dr. Easy to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the MSBA in the spring of 2022. After a response from the MSBA is received, the School Department has 270 days to secure funding for a feasibility study which may be requested during the FY24 capital budget process in the amount of \$2M. The five-year capital plan will be revised as well during the next Finance Subcommittee meeting and the School Committee will review it at its October 6 meeting.

(b) Capital Project Update:

Ellen Whittemore updated the School Committee on current capital projects. The Happy Hollow chairlift for which a temporary wall was installed due to heating pipes discovered in the crawl space will now move forward after the plumber takes the necessary steps regarding the pipes. The modular elementary work spaces were delivered, and the setup is complete at Happy Hollow and Loker Schools. The setup will be done over the weekend at Claypit Hill School. The advertisement will be placed for bids for the replacement of the elementary wooden storage systems, but the installation schedule remains to be finalized. Dr. Easy explained why this project has been delayed.

In terms of ADA compliance at Happy Hollow School, compliance is being addressed by the school and town counsels as well as the counsel representing the Happy Hollow family. The complaint from DESE will also be handled by counsel.

The Town Administrator emailed Chris Ryan, as she could not attend this meeting, regarding an update of the Claypit Hill playground construction timeline to begin on October 4 and the anticipated additional costs for the removal of and temporary replacement of the fiber wood chips, additional ramp and grass repairs, as well as an additional premium for night workers. Dr. Easy noted that the pour in place for the equipment will not be done this fall if the project begins on October 4, thus, there will be additional costs for the fiber wood chips. Given the timeline, a decision is needed of how to move forward with the project, as the work was delayed due to a funding issue and the contractor was working on another project during this delay. A discussion ensued regarding the options, including wheelchair accessibility to the playground. The consensus was to push the project out to the spring of 2022, but the School Committee wants full assurance of the timeline and the terms of the contract.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – September 22, 2021

(c) Update on Meeting with Finance Committee:

Chris, Ellen Grieco, and Jeanne attended the Finance Committee meeting at which they answered the FinCom's questions. The Finance Committee provided input for the upcoming budget process. Discussions included topics about FTE's, the Spanish Immersion Program, and the budget calendar.

(d) Budget Calendar:

The Finance Committee has requesting moving the budget timeline earlier. However, given that this is Dr. Easy's and Ellen Whittemore's first budget season, several months of data is necessary to provide an accurate budget by December 15. It's possible that the School Committee can submit the capital budget earlier to the Finance Committee with the hope that the current budget timeline with Dr. Easy's budget presentation on December 15 can remain. A discussion ensued about the budget timeline. Jeanne will communicate with the FinCom Chair in this regard.

6. Administrative Matters:

(a) Discussion of Appointment of a School Committee Representatives to the Audit Committees:

Chris commented that a community resident has expressed interest in this appointment to the Audit Committee and will be invited to the October 6 meeting for a School Committee interview.

(b) Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Proposal regarding School Committee Communications:

Jess updated the School Committee on her discussion with Glenn Koocher of MASC regarding the Committee's methods of communication, particularly with the use social media. She recommended moving forward one step at a time by starting with the Facebook page to provide a very brief summary of the School Committee meetings.

(c) Review of OML Determinations:

Going forward, Kim will draft a list of OML determinations in the State and upload the list to Google Docs prior to each meeting. She referenced a non-violation in Wakefield. The one point that came to light was that meetings should be posted in a place that the Town considers/designates as an official place. Kim referred to the Town Building vestibule as the designated posting place for Wayland.

(d) Review and Possible Vote to Approve Annual Report:

The School Committee reviewed the most recent draft of the Annual Report, including a statement about Special Education.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the 2021 Annual Report as revised for approval and submission to the Town.

(e) Facilities Discussion:

The BOS Chair will schedule a meeting with Chris, Dr. Easy, Louise Miller, and school and town counsels either on September 29, 30 or October 5 to try to reach an understanding of the operation of the Facilities Department. The School Committee reviewed the Facilities flow chart and procedures as prepared by Dr. Easy and Ellen Whittemore. Chris stated that the School Committee never approved a consolidation of town and school facilities. Dr. Easy added that the flow chart created by the Town does not follow Massachusetts Education Reform.

(f) Start Time for the October 6 Meeting:

Per Dr. Easy's request, the October 6 meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. given that Loker is having an ice cream social that evening.

7. Consent Agenda:

(a) Approval of Minutes: August 26, 2021 and September 14, 2021:

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda.

8. Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:

Jeanne will attend the Planning Board/ZBA meeting at which school bus parking will be discussed.

Dr. Easy proposed moving forward to select an 11th and/or 12th grader from the AP Politic Class to attend the School Committee meetings. A discussion ensued about past student representatives and possible ways to involve the student in each meeting with topics in which they are interested.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – September 22, 2021

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter executive session at 8:43 p.m. for 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 discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; and (b) approval of the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: August 26, 2021. 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	
Jessica Polizzotti	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Chris Ryan	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Dr. Omar Easy, Superintendent of Schools, 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 Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Jinglei Whitehouse, 11 Old Farm Road
Alexia Obar, 18 Dean Road, Wayland
Robin Sklar, 18 Brooks Road
Jeff Baron, 153 Woodridge Road

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Angela Young Resume
3. Policy BDFA – School Councils
4. Policy JCA – Assignment of Students to Schools
5. Policy JRA – Student Records
6. Annual Report
7. WPS Facilities Procedures Draft
8. WPS Facilities Flow Chart
9. Minutes of August 26, 2021
10. Minutes of September 14, 2021
11. Executive Session Motion