

## MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – October 26, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at Wayland High School Lecture Hall, South Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

*Present:*

Chris Ryan, Chair  
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair (arrived at 5:09 p.m.)  
Jeanne Downs  
Erin Gibbons  
Jessica Polizzotti

*Also present:*

Dr. Omar Easy  
Superintendent

Parry Graham  
Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur  
Director of Finance & Operations

*Also:*

Betsy Gavron, WMS Principal

1. **Welcome & Call to Order:**

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 5:05 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM. School Committee members shared their school experiences since the last meeting, such as Dr. Easy's Claypit Hill parent coffee and the peer mediation training at Wayland High School, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Walden Pond trip.

2. **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

3. **Superintendent Update:**

3.1 Presentation and Approval of 2023 Washington, D.C. Trip:

Betsy Gavron presented the Washington, D.C. trip scheduled from May 8–11, 2023. This trip concludes the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year around Dr. King's work and his legacy, including justice and injustice as taught within the Social Studies curriculum. It allows the students to learn and reflect, as they carry learning logs, they make decisions around what they choose to memorialize and create their own memorial, and they make their own connections to BERT (Belonging, Empathy, Respect and Trust) and/or what makes a particular memorial effective. Students create a Memory Book when they return home. All students are encouraged to participate in this trip, but some families may opt out for various reasons.

Ms. Gavron described how student groups are formed and organized while in D.C., adding that there are choice block activities, such as the Smithsonian, the U.S. Capitol building, the Holocaust Museum and the Arlington National Cemetery, as well as a hiking activity. There are evening activities scheduled, such as experiencing the lit-up monuments, a baseball game, and a dinner and dance.

This year, the group is traveling by two different planes rather than by train, as in past years, and the cost is \$1,249 that includes a refund program and travel insurance options. There will be an annual fundraiser to assist some families with the cost. Ms. Gavron described the calendar fundraising activity that begins on November 16 through December 9.

COVID protocols are being discussed and will be in place for the trip.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Washington, D.C. trip as presented.

3.2 Enrollment Update:

The School Committee reviewed the current enrollment which is 2758 students and includes 63 students at The

## MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – October 26, 2022

Children’s Way, noting that Kindergarten enrollment this year is lower than usual. Most students attend full-day Kindergarten at a cost to the families. A discussion ensued about the new development, Alta Oxbow, on Route 20 and the proposed development at the site that housed Whole Foods, also on Route 20, in terms of potential students and the impact to the schools going forward.

### 3.3 Discussion of Educational Team Leader (ETL) Position at Claypit Hill School:

Dr. Easy noted that there has been a structural change in the Special Education Department which is to shift the team leader position to a non-union ETL model at Claypit Hill, given that the team leader is retiring in December and the school houses specialized programs. He described the differences in the two positions, adding that the ETL would assist with evaluations, the process around IEP meetings, SET meetings, and would act as a point person around procedures. In terms of the budget, this position would be net-neutral.

A discussion ensued about equity access in the three elementary schools and how the FY24 budget could be impacted. The principals all agree that there is a more urgent need at Claypit Hill at this time. Dr. Easy noted that, based on discussions with the WTA, there is more interest in establishing the ETL model at the High School and Middle School moving forward.

The School Committee asked for more information about this new position; thus, this discussion will continue on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Easy noted that his fall series of parent coffees/chats will conclude this Friday at the Middle School.

## 4. Administrative Matters:

### 4.1 Discussion regarding the Boston Parent Meeting Scheduled for November 9:

Dr. Easy reviewed the agenda for the Boston meeting on November 9 that includes dinner, three presentations, a Q & A segment, and a regular School Committee meeting. Dinner could begin at 5:45 p.m.

*Jess Polizzotti left the meeting at 6:06 p.m.*

## 5. Finance Subcommittee Update:

### 5.1 Discussion and Vote to Approve to Increase Student Activity Fund Checking Account Limits:

Tom Lafleur requested a School Committee vote to increase the limits for the High School and Middle School student activity fund checking accounts from \$45,000 to \$60,000, given the amount of checks written. Tom described the deposit and withdrawal process for these accounts.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the checking account limits to be increased to \$60,000 as proposed.

*Jess Polizzotti returned to the meeting at 6:08 p.m.*

### 5.2 Discussion and Vote to Approve the FY24 Capital Budget:

The School Committee reviewed documents provided by Tom Lafleur – the FY23-27 Five-year Capital Plan that includes the projected year of funding as approved by the Town in May. Some items were deferred given the debt level of the Town, and some funds were moved to pay for those items that are needed now, such as the Middle School stage. Tom explained the shift. The request for the MSBA feasibility study was pushed back one year, however, a pre-feasibility study will be done with current appropriated funds.

*Erin Gibbons left the meeting at 6:10 p.m.*

Tom explained the color-coding of the capital projects spreadsheet and the district projects grouped together, such as food service and technology. Tom added that the Loker egress doors are not needed at this time but funds were appropriated in FY22. The proposal is to return the funds to offset some of the increase being asked for in FY24.

*Erin returned at 6:13 p.m.*

Jeanne noted that an additional \$100,000 has been added than was projected for FY24; Dr. Easy explained. Phase three of the WHS project was added as a placeholder, as it was in the capital plan but was taken off in

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – October 26, 2022

FY22. A discussion ensued about adding an estimated cost for this project in an outlier year, which was estimated to be about \$2M. It's possible that this project could get a second appropriation due to inflation. The WHS project will remain as a placeholder. Dr. Easy responded to the question about the math curriculum materials and the equipment/software as part of the capital budget; they will be used over the next several years. It does fit within the criteria for capital projects as discussed with the Town Manager. Also, Dr. Easy noted that two different Student Information Systems are being considered for the district.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the capital budget with the one change regarding the stadium project to add in the date.

- 5.3 Discussion of the FY24 Budget Process:
  - Budget Drivers

Dr. Easy will present the FY24 school budget to the School Committee on December 14, and after some analysis and review by the Town Manager according to the Town Manager’s Act, it will be presented to the Finance Committee on December 15. However, the date the budget is due to the Town Manager will be confirmed.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

7.1 Accounts Payables Warrant:  
Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated 10/26/2022, in the amount of \$437,096.37.

7.2 Approval of Minutes: October 4, 2022

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:**  
None.

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 6:28 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; (b) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual – complaint relative to administrator, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(1), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; and (c) to approve Executive Session minutes: October 4, 2022, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22. 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, and Kevin Bresnahan, Esq.

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

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting – October 26, 2022

<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

**Observers:**

Janet Pappas, WHS

**Corresponding Documentation:**

1. Agenda
2. WMS Washington, D.C. Trip Documents
3. Enrollment Update as of October 1, 2022
4. Educational Team Leader Job Description
5. Student Activity Checking Account Fund Limits Spreadsheet
6. Capital Budget Documents
7. Accounts Payables Warrants
8. Minutes of October 4, 2022
9. Executive Session Motion