

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – June 7, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at Wayland High School Lecture Hall, South Building 2nd Floor.

Present:

Erin Gibbons, Interim Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair (absent)
Erin Mueller
Christina Rodrigo (participated remotely)

Also present:

Parry Graham (participated remotely)
Acting Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur

Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Leisha Simon, Director of Technology & Accountability
Abigail Dressler, Director of The Children's Way

1. Welcome & Call to Order:

Interim Chair Erin Gibbons called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. She announced that Ellen Grieco will be absent, Parry Graham is participating remotely, and the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM.

Erin Mueller's commented that her son was excited about the traveling A Cappella band that performed in all of the schools this week. This program was sponsored by the PTO.

2. Public Comment:

Jeanne Downs, 195 Concord Road, thanked Tom Lafleur for his technical expertise and communication skills, as he has addressed and accomplished so much in the past year, such as streamlining finance and operations. Jeanne mentioned a few more accomplishments, adding that he has prepared for a seamless transition when the new Director of Finance & Operations comes to Wayland in July. Jeanne also thanked Parry Graham for the past five years in Wayland, for his positivity, empathy, and his incredible flexibility give he has been doing two jobs for the past few months. She wished both well as they move into their new districts.

3. Acting Superintendent Update:

3.1 Discussion and Possible Approval of a Four-Year Lease Agreement for Chromebooks and Five-Year Lease Agreement for Classroom Interactive Flat Panels:

Leisha Simon presented the two lease agreements for the schools, noting that she is working toward providing sustainable hardware leases in the technology operating budget, as the goal is to refresh the hardware every three to five years. She updated the School Committee on the lease process for the last twelve years, including the bid process. The four-year refresh lease agreement is for Middle School and elementary student Chromebooks leaving the district and those that are coming in, as well as 125 Chromebooks for Teacher Assistants. The five-year lease is to replace old classroom projectors with interactive flat panels in forty classrooms. Leisha answered a question regarding the service fees.

Upon a motion duly made by Christina Rodrigo, seconded by Erin Mueller, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the proposed leases.

3.2 Presentation by Abigail Dressler regarding The Children's Way:

The Children's Way joined the Wayland Public Schools as its sixth school on July 1, 2022. Abigail Dressler shared and described all of TCW's successes, such as increasing enrollment and an aligned Pre-K curriculum as being advised by DESE. The Children's Way also offers Enrichment programs supported by a very active Parent Organization (TPO), such as Yoga and Mindfulness lessons, musicians, and a petting zoo. There is a lot of family support in every way resulting in a sense of community that includes an amazing teaching staff. Several Central Office staff, particularly Dr. Cataldo and Mrs. Sweeney, have been supportive and helpful in terms of guidance and recommendations. Professional development was offered on the district's Super Wednesdays; Abigail described.

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In an effort to streamline the Kindergarten process, a pre-screening questionnaire was developed and distributed to all daycares, preschools and families with rising Kindergartners. In order to create more balanced classes for the fall, Abigail and Lisa Raftery of the Special Education Department reviewed the forms to gather data for the elementary teams. Screening for Kindergarten EL needs also began this year at TCW and fourteen students have been identified to receive EL support with seven at Level 1 (Emergent English). In addition, 42% of TCW children are on IEP's.

Looking ahead to 2023-2024, community screenings will be offered on Wednesday afternoons for those families who are concerned about their child's development, as well as implementing "clubs" or intervention groups on Wednesday afternoons for those children who are recommended by the teachers. Abigail explained further. Finally, The Children's Way staff, in collaboration with the district, will continue to work on aligning the curriculum with the Massachusetts Pre-K standards.

The School Committee asked questions about the "clubs", current enrollment vs. pre-Covid enrollment, inclusive vs. sub-separate classrooms, the Social Thinking Model vs. the Pyramid Model in terms of SEL, and the potential increase in enrollment and capacity. Abigail added that the day ends at 2:00 which results in childcare difficulty for families.

3.3 *Introduction of Dr. Katharine Chagnon, the Early Childhood Coordinator:*

Abigail Dressler introduced Dr. Katy Chagnon who will serve the district as the half-time Early Childhood Coordinator going forward, and will continue as a half-time physical therapist in the Wayland Public Schools. Abigail offered some background information for Dr. Chagnon.

3.4 *Discussion and Possible Vote to Appoint Tom Lafleur as Interim Director of Finance & Operations from July 1, 2023 – July 9, 2023:*

The School Committee reviewed the draft contract for Tom Lafleur as his employment in Wayland will officially end on June 30 and his replacement begins on July 10. Tom has agreed to stay as Interim Director of Finance & Operations until July 9 to take care of those matters that need immediate attention such as purchase orders, and he has agreed to do this without compensation.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Mueller, seconded by Christina Rodrigo, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to appoint Tom Lafleur as the Interim Director of Finance & Operations from July 1, 2023 to July 9, 2023 and allow Erin Gibbons to sign the contract.

4. **Administrative Matters:**

4.1 *Review of the Proposed Schedule for 2023-2024 School Committee Meetings:*

The School Committee reviewed its meeting schedule for 2023-2024 and a brief discussion followed.

Upon a motion duly made by Christina Rodrigo, seconded by Erin Mueller, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the proposed School Committee meetings for 2023-2024.

4.2 *Approval of the Following Executive Session Minutes with the Intent to Withhold Said Minutes: April 12, 2023 and May 1, 2023:*

Erin Gibbons announced the approval of the following executive session minutes at the last meeting with the intent to withhold said minutes for April 12, 2023 and May 1, 2023.

5. **Policy Matters:**

5.1 *Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Policy ACE – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability:*

Erin Gibbons updated Erin Mueller and Christina Rodrigo about the previous discussions and revisions for Policy ACE with the Office of Civil Rights. The school attorney and the attorney for the Office of Civil Rights have reviewed the revisions.

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Mueller, seconded by Christina Rodrigo, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to approve Policy ACE, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability.

Parry will prepare the final version and notify the community.

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6. **Consent Agenda:**

- 6.1 Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:
 - Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated June 7, 2023, in the amount of \$635,336.24
- 6.2 Approval of Minutes: May 10, 2023
- 6.3 WHS Robotics \$1,000 Donation

Upon a motion duly made by Christina Rodrigo, seconded by Erin Mueller, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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 (3-0) to enter Executive Session at 6:52 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: May 10, 2023; (c) discussing the May 8, 2023 and May 26, 2023 Open Meeting Law complaints filed by George Harris, as permitted by M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1); and (d) discussing the May 30, 2023 Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Kim Reichelt, as permitted by M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1). 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 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 Christina Rodrigo, seconded by Erin Mueller, the School Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn at 10:14 p.m. 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	

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Gibbons, Interim Chair
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Courtney Conery – Wayland SEPAC

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Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Technology Lease Agreements
3. MOA for Tom Lafleur
4. Policy ACE – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
5. Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants
6. School Committee Minutes of May 10, 2023
7. Executive Session Motion