

**Wayland School Committee  
9/6/23 Regular Meeting  
Minutes**

**Attending:**

Erin Gibbons, Chair  
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair  
Erin Mueller  
Christina Rodrigo

**Absent:**

Ellen Grieco

**Also Attending:**

David Fleishman, Acting Superintendent  
Betsy Gavron, Interim Assistant Superintendent  
Susan Bottan, Director of Finance and Operations  
Debbie Dixon, Interim Director of Student Services

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Erin Gibbons called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. She commented on the positive energy of opening day for staff and the first two days of school.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Acting Superintendent Update**

Summer Program Recap

Debbie Dixon updated the Committee on the Extended School Year (ESY) summer program. All students on IEPs are eligible for the program which strives to prevent substantial learning regression. ESY had 37 staff who serviced 97 students across its various programs for five weeks this summer (three weeks for The Children's Way students) and many students received related services including occupational therapy and speech and language. Funding for ESY comes from the operating budget and various grants. Future considerations include monthly planning meetings starting in the fall, revisiting the ESY calendar, and increased family communication.

Betsy Gavron updated the Committee on the high school's Innovation Design and Engineering Academy summer program. Forty-five students attended this no fee program which is in its second year. The program is a hands-on student driven program that develops leadership skills and confidence in students. The program interfaces with a group at Boston University and culminates with an Expo Day.

The Summer Literacy and Math Bridge program is offered both in English and Spanish. One hundred students participated over two weeks with two teachers and at least two teaching assistants at each grade level. Transportation of Boston resident students was discussed.

The Summer Bridge program at the High School had seventy students attend with fourteen additional students helping with the program. The purpose of the program is to decrease anxiety for incoming freshman. It includes workshops to let students know expectations and resources available as well as community building activities.

#### New Educator Orientation

David Fleishman updated the Committee on the orientation which included twenty-eight new educators. The orientation focused on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and included a panel of diverse students who shared their experiences in Wayland. LaToya Rivers presented the history of the METCO program and Caroline Han presented on diversity, equity and inclusion.

#### Staff Opening Day

David Fleishman noted that this day sets the climate and tone for the year. He thanked the speakers, performing arts department and students for their participation noting that this was the first time the Wayland Teachers Association president had spoken on staff opening day.

#### **Youth Advisory Committee and the Wayland Housing Partnership Appointments**

No candidates have come forward for the Wayland Housing Partnership position. Another email will be sent to the community seeking candidates.

Several candidates have applied for the two Youth Advisory Committee positions. The Committee discussed interviewing those interested candidates at the next meeting. Erin Mueller will contact the candidates with details.

#### **Recap of August 24th Training and Discuss Next Steps for Communication with the Community**

The Committee discussed getting information from School Committee meetings to the community quickly. Christina Rodrigo proposed a communication similar to Wellesley and will work with Diane on it. The communication will be sent via email to the community and posted on the Committee's facebook page and the district's website.

#### **Annual Report**

Jeanne Downs will draft the annual report for the next meeting. The report is due to the town by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **High School Turf Field update**

Erin Gibbons updated the Committee on the High School turf field. Weston and Sampson is designing a new piece of equipment to help with the drainage and it will be peer reviewed by a third party. A monthly maintenance contract is in place.

#### **Update Regarding the Committee's Review of Executive Session Minutes from 2010 to Present**

Erin Gibbons noted that the comprehensive review of executive session minutes from 2010 to the present has been completed. The review began in June and consisted of several members reviewing different sets of minutes on their own time to determine the status of the minutes and whether further review is needed. No more than two members reviewed any one set of minutes. Currently any minutes identified as needing further review for continued disclosure or release are being reviewed. The outcome of those and any other future

reviews will be announced by the Chair going forward. Additionally, two Committee members were formally appointed in July to oversee the review of executive session minutes.

**Approval of the Release with Redactions the Following Executive Session Minutes: January 16, 2020 and March 2, 2022 (taken out of order)**

Erin Gibbons announced the release with redactions of the January 16, 2020 and March 2, 2022 executive session minutes.

**Minutes Approval Process**

Erin Gibbons noted that per the Attorney General and Open Meeting Law (OML), minutes of a public body's meeting must be approved within the next three meetings or 30 days, whichever is longer. However, the OML does not govern the method for approving the minutes. A discussion ensued. Upon a motion made by Christina Rodrigo, seconded by Erin Mueller, the Committee voted unanimously (4-0) that the School Committee by default approve minutes at an open meeting for open meeting minutes and executive session for executive session minutes. Under extreme circumstances the Chair may approve minutes outside of a meeting to be compliant with the OML and the minutes will be immediately reviewed by the Committee at its next regular meeting as practical.

**Finance Subcommittee Update**

Jeanne Downs gave an overview of the Finance Subcommittee priorities including regular financial reporting and the long term elementary building project. Erin Gibbons noted the importance of reporting back to the Committee.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon a motion made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Christina Rodrigo, the Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the consent agenda with the revisions to the August 23, 2023 and August 24, 2023 minutes as discussed.

**Matters Not Anticipated**

Christina Rodrigo raised the community posts from the past few days regarding the WTA contract. Erin Gibbons noted that the WTA contract was ratified in June after a long negotiation period with a positive outcome. The Committee fully supports the terms of the agreement which include a salary increase. Because the contract was not ratified by annual town meeting in May, the salary increase dollars for FY24 are currently in the town's reserve fund and not the school's operating budget. As was made clear during negotiations, it takes a town meeting vote to move the funds and Wayland's annual town meeting occurs each spring. The cost of a Special Town Meeting (ie, an additional meeting to town meeting) is \$30K-\$50K and it is not under the School Committee's jurisdiction to call a Special Town Meeting. It is not a question of whether the salary increase will be paid, but when.

**Executive Session**

Upon a motion made by Erin Gibbons at 7:45 pm, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to enter Executive Session for the purposes of (1) discussion regarding strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Wayland Educational Secretaries Association (WESA) and possible vote to approve WESA Memorandum of Agreement, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3); (2) discussion regarding strategy with

respect to the following litigation matters where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee: a) Richard Whitehead v. Omar Easy and Wayland School Committee (CA No. 23-1862) and b) Easy v. Wayland Public Schools, et al (MCAD Complaint), pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A §21(a)(3); (3) approval of executive session minutes, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22: August 23, 2023 with the intent to withhold said minutes and March 1, 2023 with the intent to redact and release said minutes; (4) discussion of August 17, 2023 Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by George Harris, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1). A roll call was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Erin Gibbons, Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco	absent	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

The School Committee will be joined by David Fleishman, Acting Superintendent, Betsy Gavron, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Susan Bottan, Director of Finance and Operations, Debbie Dixson, Interim Director of Student Services, and Kevin Bresnahan, Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane.

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

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Christina Rodrigo, the Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 10:54 pm. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Erin Gibbons, Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco	absent	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair  
Wayland School Committee

- Corresponding Documents:**
- August 23, 2023 Draft Minutes
  - August 24, 2023 Draft Minutes
  - Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants