



SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Erin Gibbons, Chair
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Wayland Public Schools Wayland, Massachusetts 01778

Wayland School Committee (SC) Newsletter

For additional details, full recordings of most SC meetings are available on [WayCAM](#) and meeting minutes, once approved, can be found on the SC's website [here](#) or can be viewed at Town Hall.

At the November 1, 2023 SC meeting:

- **The meeting was held at METCO Headquarters in Boston and included METCO students and families, members of the Wayland METCO team, and District administrators.** It focused specifically on the history of the METCO program and moving the METCO program forward. Everyone enjoyed dinner provided by **Murl's Kitchen** while they participated in conversations to get to know each other better.
- La Toya Rivers (Wayland METCO Director) started the meeting with the film METCO 2.0 which showed history about METCO being the oldest voluntary desegregation program in the U.S., with a **forward focus on every participating district increasing anti-racism education.** David Fleishman (Acting Superintendent) provided history of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the start of the METCO program soon thereafter, with Wayland Public Schools being one of the first participants, beginning about 2 years later. He also mentioned an **upcoming research study being released in mid-November looking at the impact of the METCO program, including data collected over 20 years of approximately 20,000 METCO students.**
- Emily Charton (Claypit Hill School Principal) and DeVaughn Cooper (METCO Academic Liaison) described the **revamped Friends and Family Committees at each of the Elementary Schools**, the purpose of which is to establish community connections and partnerships between Boston-resident families and Wayland-resident families that support stronger accessibility for all students and families to attend school-wide events. **If your family is interested in supporting this initiative by volunteering to attend and support bridge activities between the end of the school day and evening events, please reach out to your school principal.** The District is excited to promote continued partnership between our Boston-resident and Wayland-resident families!
- Tyler Steffey (WMS Interim Principal) and JaNae Hood (METCO Academic Liaison) described several Middle School specific **programs designed to increase student and family support, such as a Boston Family Outreach Committee, a Mentoring Program for students, and Affinity groups.** This was the first year for Middle School level parent-teacher conferences and many Boston-resident families were able to attend over Zoom.
- Allyson Mizoguchi (WHS Principal) and Mark Liddell (METCO Academic Liaison) discussed **ideas to increase Boston-resident students' participation in co-curricular activities, which include nearly 60 clubs and fine arts programs. Families were pleased to hear of the addition of a 4:30 bus home from the High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays.** A survey to gauge interest in activities and other barriers to participation will occur this winter.