

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – November 1, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 5:30 P.M. at METCO Inc. Headquarters, 11 Roxbury Street, Boston, MA.

Present:

Erin Gibbons, Chair
Jeanne Downs, Vice Chair
Ellen Grieco, (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)
Erin Mueller
Christina Rodrigo

Also present:

David Fleishman
Acting Superintendent

Betsy Gavron
Interim Assistant Superintendent

Susan Bottan
Director of Finance & Operations

Debbie Dixson
Interim Director of Student Services

Also:

La Toya Rivers, METCO Director
Mark Liddell, WHS METCO Academic Liaison
JaNae Hood, WMS METCO Academic Liaison
Christina Baez, Elementary METCO Academic Liaison
DeVaughn Cooper, Elementary METCO Academic Liaison
Caroline Han, Director of Diversity, Equity & Belonging, METCO Academic Dean
Emily Charton, Claypit Hill School Principal
Tyler Steffey, WMS Interim Principal
Allyson Mizoguchi, WHS Principal

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the group enjoyed dinner provided by Murl's Kitchen. The attendees participated in conversation by answering questions prepared and facilitated by Caroline Han.

1. **Welcome:**

The regular session of the meeting convened at 6:45 p.m.

2. **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

3. **Superintendent Update:**

- METCO Program Update

A film, METCO 2.0, was shown about the voluntary METCO desegregation program, the oldest in the United States. La Toya Rivers welcomed everyone noting that the theme for the meeting is "Bridging Two Communities into One District."

Erin Gibbons also welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting and joining in the conversation.

David Fleishman introduced the history of the METCO program which began with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In 1966, the state legislature passed the Legislature Imbalance Act and this funded METCO. Two years later in 1968, Wayland became a part of the METCO program. David reported that "The Other Boston Busing Story" is a dissertation and case study of past METCO students' lives since they left the program. This was embarked upon by a Tufts professor and researcher who looked at METCO program participants over a span of 20 years. The study included data on 20,000 students and compared those who applied and got into the program to those

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who applied but were not accepted. The findings included the following: 1) substantial gains in MCAS test scores in Math and ESA across Grades 3 to 10; increased four-year high school graduation rates by ten percentage points; higher SAT scores and college aspirations; and increased earnings and a lower unemployment rate in adulthood. The study will be shared at a METCO Showcase on November 14.

Claypit Hill principal Emily Charton and the elementary METCO academic liaisons talked about the efforts to rebuild the relationships between Boston and Wayland families as they were pre-COVID. A survey was sent out to see if there was interest in this regard, and there is much interest with volunteerism and assistance with events. A Friends and Family Committee, led by the Boston liaisons and some teachers, will be formed. This committee will identify three to four key events that will be held throughout the year, such as a talent show, a STEAM Fair, and an Art Show. DeVaughn Cooper added that the first event will be a strings concert at Claypit Hill in two weeks; he described. La Toya Rivers also mentioned that Boston parents will host events in Boston and invite Wayland parents and students.

Middle School principal Tyler Steffey and Middle School METCO academic liaison JaNae Hood reported that the theme for the middle school this year is clearer and easier communication and outreach around building relationships. The Boston Family Outreach Committee was created at the middle school to ensure ongoing contact with staff. JaNae described this effort since school began, adding that staffing and contact information was provided. There will be scheduled check-ins with families in November regarding eSchool and Google Classroom, January regarding the MLK event, and in March to ask if additional support is needed. JaNae described the middle school mentor program which has recently been reinstated since COVID. Caroline Han provides support and has provided training on how to conduct Affinity Groups.

Ellen Grieco arrived at 7:20 p.m.

High School principal Allyson Mizoguchi and High School METCO academic liaison Mark Liddell described the outreach for all high school students. The purpose is to determine barriers that students face when considering involvement in co-curricular clubs and activities, and a survey will be administered this winter in this regard. There are nearly 60 clubs and robust fine arts and athletics programs in which more Boston students should participate. Once the barriers have been determined, they will be addressed as well as determining interest levels in the variety of activities. Two of the challenges for Boston students are transportation and logistics. Everyone was pleased to learn that a 4:30 Boston bus will now be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the remainder of the year, as well as the 6:30 bus already in place. A Boston parent noted that morning clubs are not accessible to METCO students because the bus arrives too late.

Two on-site student workshops are planned, one in the winter (eSchool tutorial) and the other in the spring (deciding on course levels and selection), if there is enough interest. Department leaders and counselors will assist the students with the course selection process. It was suggested that students and families need more information to make informed decisions about course selections.

Jeanne Downs advocated for the 10-week spring Water Warriors swim program that was started many years ago by a high school student. In addition, Support Wayland Gymnastics is currently putting a program together for students based on interest.

As a “METCO Lifer”, La Toya Rivers stressed that she is committed to the program and the students and encouraged everyone to reach out and speak up about what is best for the students. She also hopes to hold more meetings in Boston. JaNae Hood asked the School Committee to hire more staff of color.

This portion of the regular meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda:

- FY24 Student Activity Accounts
- Approval and Declaration of Surplus Items to be Recycled
- Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:
Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payables Warrant, dated 11/1/2023, in the amount of \$588,936.35.
- Approval of Minutes: October 18, 2023 and October 24, 2023

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Jeanne Downs suggested amending the October 18 minutes to add a sentence.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Christina Rodrigo, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the consent agenda with the edit to the October 18, 2023 minutes.

5. **Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:**

None.

6. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Erin Gibbons, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the purposes of (a) approving Executive Session minutes: October 18, 2023 and October 24, 2023, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §22; and (b) discussing the October and October 23, 2023 Open Meeting Law complaints filed by George Harris, pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) . 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	X	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

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

7. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. 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	X	
Erin Mueller	X	
Christina Rodrigo	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Gibbons, Chair
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Shavon Drayton, 159 Orlando Street, Boston
Taisha Stevens, 54 Maxwell St., Dorchester
Paul Wilson Valente, 73 Vincent Road, Roxbury

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. FY24 Fall Recycle Memo
3. FY24 Student Activity Accounts
4. Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants
5. Minutes of October 18, 2023
6. Minutes of October 24, 2023
7. Executive Session Motion