

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Session – December 17, 2011

A Special Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 1:00 P.M. in the Conference Room of the Wayland Public Safety Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Chair
Beth Butler, Vice Chair
Malcolm Astley
Ellen Grieco
Shawn Kinney

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent of Schools

Also:

Glenn Koocher, MASC Executive Director

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the Special Session at 1:06 P.M.

1. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

John Flaherty appreciated the available papers, thought the debate from differing viewpoints was useful, urged the School Committee to consider meeting more often, and suggested that the School Committee have more sub-committees and involve others as in a community advisory committee.

2. School Committee Retreat

Glenn Koocher began the Retreat with introductions followed by a review of the goal of the Retreat, which included how to work better as a committee. He then provided background information, including his view of Wayland as a high functioning district but one that has challenges. He also mentioned Nancy Walser and her book, which was recommended as a reference for this Retreat.

The Committee then discussed the characteristics of a high functioning Board as described in Chapter 1 of Nancy Walser's book, which included shared leadership and continuous improvement among others. The Committee also discussed how the focus of the Retreat should be for the School Committee to determine what it needs to do to strengthen as a Board.

Comments from the School Committee were made at this point. It was noted that it was difficult for the Superintendent to make any judgments given he was new to the District and one of the 5 School Committee members was newly elected.

The Committee then reviewed the Self Evaluation Tool developed by MASC, which grew out of the DESE wanting to implement a tool to evaluate school committees, and brainstormed potential goals for the upcoming year. Refer to Glenn Koocher's attached document for a summary of this discussion.

3. Comments & Written Statements from the Public:

There were no public comments.

4. Adjournment:

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the Special Session at 3:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Fletcher, Chair
Wayland School Committee