

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Session – January 12, 2012

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Barb Fletcher, Chair
Beth Butler, Vice Chair (absent)
Malcolm Astley
Ellen Grieco (arrived at 7:30)
Shawn Kinney (by remote)

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent of Schools

Brad J. Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Marlene M. Dodyk
Director of Student Services

Geoffrey S. MacDonald
Business Administrator

Also: Cherry Karlson, FinCom
John Moynihan, Public Buildings Director
Leisha Simon, Technology Director
Ilene Lieberman, Student Services Coordinator

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the regular meeting at 7:31 P.M. and announced that Shawn Kinney would be participating by remote, and she did receive the appropriate form from Shawn.

1. **Comments & Written Statements from the Public:**

Tom Sciacca referred to the Concussion Policy and an article in the Boston Globe stating that it's possible to prevent life-long injuries by changing the sport in which one participates, as all sports should not be treated equally. He also commented on the proposed budget, i.e. the Chinese Program and felt it was better to start teaching a language earlier in a child's education

The coordinator for the after school Chinese program expressed her support and excitement for the Chinese Initiative and stated that it is time for Wayland, as other towns already teach Chinese.

A BASE teacher, who teaches Chinese to first and second graders, also supports the Chinese initiative. She emphasized that kids are excited about learning language and will have a solid foundation when they reach 7th grade.

Another BASE teacher who teaches Chinese at the Middle School stated that Wayland is a global community and this initiative will increase the students' competitive advantage. She also passed on the opinions and support of many parents in the district.

3. **Budget Worksession**

Building Capital Requests: John Moynihan reviewed the building capital requests and answered questions from the School Committee.

Bobcat vs. Wacker:

John highlighted the benefits of a wacker vs. a bobcat and confirmed that the cost was approximately the same and equipment can be interchanged between the schools and the DPW. He recommended to the School Committee that the capital request be changed from purchasing a bobcat to purchasing a wacker.

Floor Tile Replacement:

John suggested that because the Pegasus Program will be at Happy Hollow during the summer of 2012, the floor tile

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replacement at Happy Hollow be deferred a year and they accelerate the Claypit Hill floor tile program. John recommends that the School Committee take the money allocated for Happy Hollow this year and augment the money for Claypit Hill. He also stated that the long-term plan is to re-tile all of the classrooms in the school buildings.

Paving at Claypit Hill:

John Moynihan suggested that most of the paving at Claypit Hill be done in one year, resulting in a 10% savings. This paving would include the teachers' parking lot, the roadway in front of the school, the circle in front of the school and some of the walkways in back of the school.

The School Committee concurred with John's recommendations.

Middle School Roof Replacement:

John Moynihan recommended to the School Committee that the A/C improvements be deferred for a year, so that the roof replacement can be done first.

John also noted that he has been in contact with the MSBA regarding state funding, and there is a possibility that, although he missed the filing deadline, they could allow him to resubmit the SOI. He will keep the School Committee informed of his discussions with the MSBA.

John also confirmed that the \$350,000 capital request for modulars is a placeholder pending the space utilization study.

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) by roll call vote to change the capital request from a bobcat to a wacker with no difference in cost, moving the date of the Happy Hollow tile replacement and increasing the tile replacement at Claypit Hill by \$45,000, with the understanding that Happy Hollow will get the resources next year, increasing the amount requested for paving at Claypit Hill, and deferring the A/C units at the Middle School.

Facilities Operating Budget Requests:

John Moynihan and the School Committee discussed the request for a HVAC/electrician and cited the reasons why this position would result in savings over time.

The School Committee thanked John Moynihan for attending the meeting.

Technology Capital Request: Leisha Simon discussed the technology capital request and the technology operating budget request with the School Committee. She also answered questions from the School Committee.

Leisha stated that there was a change in prioritization of the network upgrade, as the press box has been pulled from the chart/list and everything else moved up the list. She also noted that these projects should be assessed at the beginning of each school year, as there should be the ability to move some things around as far as priorities are concerned. Cherry Karlson asked Leisha to send Paul Grasso an updated list.

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) by roll call vote to remove the disaster recovery capital request and change the prioritization of the projects within the \$50,000 network upgrade capital requests as noted in the document that was uploaded as of this date.

Technology Operating Budget Request: Leisha Simon discussed the technology operating budget and answered questions from the School Committee. They discussed the 1:1 Technology Initiative and training for teachers related to the 1:1 initiative. Leisha stated that the district has committed four years to a device that was selected by the staff and is mapping a four-year evaluation with set goals. They also discussed the request for an increase in salaries for three technology staff members.

The School Committee suggested that the reporting for the technology budget be simplified going forward in order to obtain accurate and understandable information and showing what is being spent across the district for Personnel and Non-personnel costs at each building level. They also suggested that Leisha keep track of the savings incurred over the next four years .

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ELL:

Marlene Dodyk and ELL Coordinator, Ilene Lieberman, discussed the ELL program and the level of services with the School Committee and gave them a handout pertaining to the ELL population from 2007 to the present. They stated there has been an increase in the population, as well as in the complexity of the students and their needs, which are the result of a number of factors.

Special Education:

Marlene Dodyk reviewed information with the School Committee as it relates to Special Education: 1) a 10-year comparison of out-of-district costs, 2) Medicaid reimbursements, 3) SPED population totals and out-of-district population, and 4) SPED Referrals FY01-FY11. Marlene reviewed the increase in the SPED population, the cost of tuition, and the cost of transportation both in and out of the district. Marlene also answered questions from the School Committee.

Barb Fletcher stated that the Central Office discussion will be moved to the next meeting.

4. **Continued Discussion re: Actuals vs. Budget:**

The School Committee continued their discussion regarding the reporting of actual vs. budget, including offsets. The School Committee agreed that the analysis be changed so the actuals include the offsets.

Geoff MacDonald commented that he provided an analysis on the answers that show the actual offsets that were taken into the proposed offsets and that the number was higher than what was actually budgeted because more of the circuit breaker was used than was planned for in FY11.

5. **Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants:**

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) by roll call vote to approve the following warrants:

- Wayland Public Schools Payroll warrant, dated 1/12/2012, in the amount of \$1,117,863.61
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 1/17/2012, in the amount of \$391,411.13

6. **Superintendent's Report:**

Paul Stein stated that he is anxious to resolve the revolving accounts and will seek a legal opinion in order to move forward.

7. **Follow-up and Future Agenda Items:**

(a) **Middle School Fields:**

The School Committee confirmed that several sites, some of which are school-owned properties, are still being considered for development into new fields. The Committee will ask Bob Virzi to attend a meeting in the future.

(b) **Conflict of Interest:**

Barb Fletcher announced that she filed a "Conflict of Interest" form, as her husband Rod Fletcher is coaching at the high school, and he has waived the stipend.

(c) **Outstanding Checking Accounts:**

Shawn made reference to an email that he sent to the School Committee regarding newly discovered checking accounts. The Chair will put this discussion as an agenda item at a future meeting.

(d) **Alumni Association:**

Malcolm Astley commented on the Alumni Association and expressed a desire for it to remain in place, going forward, possibly as part of WHSPO.

8. **Public Comment:**

Donna Bouchard asked the School Committee and administrators when she can expect a response to questions she sent regarding the budget. It was confirmed that the administrators are working on a response. She also stated that, in her opinion, more financial control was needed.

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9. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) by roll call vote to adjourn the Regular Session at 11:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Louis Jurist
Tom Sciacca
Donna Bouchard

Corresponding Documentation:

1. FY13 Superintendent's Recommended Personnel and Non-Personnel Budget
2. FY13-FY17 Capital Planning - Network Upgrades
3. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants