

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Session – January 23, 2012

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, January 23, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. in the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

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

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent of Schools

Brad J. Crozier
Assistant Superintendent

Marlene M. Dodyk
Director of Student Services

Geoffrey S. MacDonald
Business Administrator

Also:

Lea Anderson, HSBC Chair

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the regular meeting at 7:04 P.M.

1. **Shawmut Design Construction Co. Change Orders 13a & 13b:**

HSBC Chair Lea Anderson reviewed Change Orders 13a and 13b with the School Committee and noted that the HSBC had reviewed and voted on the change orders at their January 12th meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve SDC Change Orders #13a in the amount of \$100,165.00 and 13b in the amount of \$27,767, for a revised contract value of \$57,422,516, and to authorize Chair Barbara Fletcher to sign the contract on behalf of the Wayland School Committee.

Lea Anderson gave an update on the timing of the high school demolition, as well as commenting on the open house. She also answered questions from the School Committee.

The School Committee and the Superintendent, on behalf of the Wayland community, thanked Lea for a job well done.

2. **Public Comment & Written Statements:**

- Jeff Dieffenbach thanked and commended Paul Stein and his team for a great budget and for their level of detail.
- Betsy Meindl of Wayland Cares announced that there will be a Wellness Summit program on March 18 and invited everyone to attend.
- Tom Sciacca gave the Superintendent and two members of the School Committee an application to join the Wayland Historical Society, in lieu of the weekend program related to the High School.
- Jean Adel commented that she believes the town is fiscally sound and no changes should be made to the proposed budget, specifically the Chinese and math coach initiatives. She also noted that her family moved to Wayland because of the schools.
- Edie Hotchkiss, on behalf of young families, commented on the budget process and recommended that the School Committee work through the budget piece by piece. She also commented on the Chinese Language initiative, the math coach initiative, and the 1:1 laptop initiative, all of which help students excel at learning.

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- Kevin Murphy commended Paul Stein for his thoughtful budget presentation and is excited about the Chinese Language initiative and the 1:1 Laptop initiative. He commented that people are judged on their ability to use tools available to them and using technology early in life is incredibly helpful and valuable.
- Ted (a resident) also commended Paul Stein and stated that he moved to Wayland for the education. As a member of the TTF and Middle School Council, etc., he urged the School Committee to keep the 1:1 initiative and the Chinese language initiative in the budget, as it would keep Wayland at the forefront.
- Karen Miller gave her support for the Superintendent's proposed budget and, as a member of the WPSF, she is supportive of all programs and asked that cuts not be made to the budget.
- Leslie Cutitta stated that she has lived in Wayland for 23 years and supports the proposed budget, as she fully expects to see the budget thrive. She believes Wayland would be left behind if cuts were made.
- Shelby Morss supported the proposed budget and commented that kids must have better skill sets and globalization is important in today's world.
- Sharon Burke supported the budget and is grateful that Paul Stein is the Superintendent. She stated that her husband was a graduate of WHS and they moved back to Wayland. As a school volunteer, she stated that much is needed in the classrooms and she supports the initiatives.
- A community resident and BASE instructor stated that today was the Chinese New Year and supports the Chinese initiative, as the language can connect to all aspects of education well into the future. She urged that no cuts be made to the budget.
- A community resident echoed her support of the proposed budget and asked the School Committee to move forward with the budget without making any cuts.
- Kate Moore commented that she also moved to Wayland because of the schools.
- Brenda Hsu reiterated support for the Superintendent's proposed budget and asked the School Committee to look at the historical numbers, as well as the merits and the greatness of the school system when deciding the budget. She stated that the budget increase is one of the smallest increases in the past nine years. She commended Paul Stein for having a great vision.
- Louis Jurist noted that there was a lot of support present for the proposed budget and that the budget is also people and the education of the children, not just numbers. He compared Wayland's per pupil cost to Weston's and noted that Wayland does an excellent job and the residents get the most for their money. He also thanked the School Committee for the countless hours in preparing for their meetings and their time spent at the meetings.
- Tom Sciacca commented that although schools are a major asset in the town of Wayland, there is much more to Wayland.
- Julianne Rainville asked the School Committee to make sure the budget numbers are accurate and noted that there was an absence of the cash flow in the budget numbers; a budget should include all revenue and expenses. She commented on the 1:1 laptop initiative and the Chinese initiative and stated that when initiatives move into future years, it's uncertain how cash flow will look. She asked the School Committee if they are confident that all information is provided to make decisions. Barb stated that her question would be addressed during the budget discussion.

3. **Approval to Submit SOI for MSBA Funding re: Middle School Roof:**

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest, dated January 18, 2012, for the Middle School located at 201 Main Street, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and priority for which the Town of Wayland may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

Priority 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of a school facility system. This project will replace the 124,000 SF EPDM roofing system on the entire building, and further more specifically acknowledge that by submitting this statement of interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Wayland to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the building capital request for the replacement of the Middle School roof, including the Statement of Interest submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority dated January 18, 2012.

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4. **Budget Discussion Continued:**

The budget discussion will include: 1) the comfort level with the percentage increase, 2) the prioritization of specific aspects of the budget, 3) revolving accounts, and 4) the sustainability of funding computers.

Barb gave the School Committee a corrected spreadsheet regarding annual percentage increases over different periods of time that they had reviewed the week before. Barb reviewed and discussed with the Committee the changes that had been made.

Barb reiterated that the administrators have been asked to put together a list of potential cuts totaling \$155,000, as the budget came below the FinCom's guideline due to actual Cola's, steps and lanes, and there were more retirements than expected.

The School Committee also reviewed the spreadsheets regarding Budget Driver History and Savings Analysis. They looked at the drivers in relation to how the budget was developed and the identified savings from prior fiscal years in terms of how the savings were spent and, if not spent, how the money was returned to the town.

The School Committee addressed the question posed during the public comment portion of the meeting. The Committee agreed that there is enough information and enough cash flow to move forward with the budget; however, in terms of initiatives they would like to have long-term plans in place. Paul reviewed the 1:1 initiative and stated that the money will be built into the budget. He also added that if the Chinese initiative is successful, it may impact other languages over time. The School Committee recognizes that the budget book is a work in progress, and they will continue to make improvements going forward.

Barb also informed the public that the FDK information was available and encouraged them to look at the end-of-the-year report for FY11 and the quarterly report for FY12, which includes the entire operating budget, revolving fund balances, revenue and expenses, grants received, and all capital projects.

The School Committee will vote whether to recommend the FY13 proposed budget to the Finance Committee at its next meeting on January 24th.

Discussion re: Prioritized Needs:

The School Committee supports Paul Stein's recommended FY13 budget and concurred that the school district's needs have been met and are excited about the new initiatives. However, it was suggested that the schools' needs should be tracked long term in areas such as FDK financing, preschool financing, languages in the early grades, and the supervision ratio.

Revolving Accounts:

Ellen Grieco reported that she spoke to Attorney Jim Toomey and within a week's time, he will provide a general assessment of the appropriateness of the revolving accounts and what, if anything, can be done with the money that has accumulated in those accounts. The Bureau of Municipal Finance has also answered some of what the Committee is asking and Jim Toomey will incorporate this information into his opinion. It was recommended that Town Counsel Mark Lanza be involved in this process, as Paul had also communicated with him regarding the revolving accounts.

Sustainability of Computers:

Leisha Simon provided the School Committee with a long range plan for different devices by grade level. The Committee would like more information regarding the sources of funds for Ipads and how the FY12 capital money was spent.

January 24th Meeting:

Barb Fletcher reviewed the agenda for Tuesday night and announced that the FinCom would meet with the School Committee at 8:30 P.M.

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

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve payment of the following:

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- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 1/23/2012, in the amount of \$1,582,125.29 (High School Project)
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable warrant, dated 1/23/2012, in the amount of \$110,311.47

6. **Approval of Minutes:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0-1) (Beth Butler abstained) to approve the following minutes as written:

- Regular Session of January 9, 2012

7. **Superintendent's Report:**

(a) School News:

Paul Stein commented on the Wayland Historical Society's and the Wayland Public Library's presentation at Wayland High School on January 22. The presentation consisted of the history of the 5 Wayland High Schools and was interspersed with historical analysis, storytelling and reports from graduates of WHS going back decades to the present time. Paul stated that it was an excellent presentation and people were riveted to what was being said because 1) it's such a point of pride in the community, 2) there were good stories, and 3) there was a thread of how a teacher or program made a difference in people's lives.

Paul Stein commented on the MLK Day Program at the Middle School, which tied into themes of history classes and also with the evening METCO Program fundraiser. The program was done in a respectful way, which included a keynote address from Dr. Willey, a classmate's of Dr. King in college.

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

(a) Middle School Fields:

The School Committee discussed the Middle School fields, as they were informed that the Rec Commission would not be bringing any capital projects related to school property. Barb stated that a member of the Rec Commission will attend a future meeting to talk about school property in terms of maintenance and improvements.

9. **Comments from the Public:**

- Dianne Bladon commented on the Abrahams Group Report and its conclusion regarding the revolving funds. She noted that because something is written or recommended in that report, due diligence is needed to understand what is in the report before coming to any conclusions. She also commented on the fee-based programs and information on the website of Municipal Finance linked to relevant laws that are related to fees. Dianne cited some of the requirements and cost studies that have been done and quoted some of the statements from the DOR's handbook. She commented that there are many components and variables that should be considered when setting fees. Dianne will send the School Committee the information to which she was referring.
- Betsy Meindl stated that she went to the ORC meeting and commented on a section of the Abrahams Group Report that was factually inaccurate. She has reservations with the recommendations that were made because of her intimate knowledge of one business segment. In her opinion, they did not understand the bigger picture or understand the details behind certain information in this one section.
- Tracey Sheidemantel also commented on the Abrahams Report and the efforts made to achieve cost savings and collaboration. She noted her trust for the School Committee and the administration in regard to what they bring to the table.
- Julianne Rainville said that she read about half of the Abrahams Report and there was some basic accounting that the town does not do, such as cost allocation to fee based accounts. She stated that financial controls should be in place to make sure the monies are being spent appropriately. She also encouraged the School Committee to continue on path to do what is necessary to be sure that the monies collected are being put to good use.
- John Flaherty agreed with previous comments.
- Tom Sciacca compared expensive computers vs. less expensive computers and stated that the market is based on what people want to purchase. However, he added that computers will get better, given the \$1,000 threshold, and the Committee should assume that is what people will want. He also discussed the "cloud" which can replace the disc drive in computers and save money. He also reiterated his earlier comments that a lot goes on in Wayland, but feels that there has been a cultural divide growing over the last 10 years, and that

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there is no general recognition that we are one town. He also noted that there has been a major environmental movement in Wayland. He asked Paul Stein to help in this context.

- Michael Delman commented on the budget and agrees with having transparency and detailed explanations. He also supports the Chinese Program and feels that it is critical for the kids to have this opportunity. He noted that technology is vital in today's world and everyone should have a computer, but not sure if the town should cover the expense for his child and every child in the school district, especially those who can afford to purchase a computer on their own.

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Dianne Bladon
Betsy Meindl
Tracey Sheidemantel
Julianne Rainville
John Flaherty
Tom Sciacca
Michael Delman
Jeff Dieffenbach
Edie Hotchkiss
Kevin Murphy
Kate Moore
Leslie Cutitta
Karen Miller
Louis Jurist

Corresponding Documentation:

1. HMFH Memo re: Shawmut Design Construction Co. Change Orders 13a & 13b
2. Language for vote to approve SOI for MSBA funding re: the Middle School roof
3. Regular Session Minutes of January 9, 2012
4. Accounts Payables Warrants