

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Session – January 24, 2012

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Tuesday, January 24, 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  
Malcolm Astley  
Ellen Grieco  
Shawn Kinney

Also:

Paul Stein  
Superintendent of Schools

Brad J. Crozier  
Assistant Superintendent

Geoffrey S. MacDonald  
Business Administrator

Marlene M. Dodyk (absent)  
Director of Student Services

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the regular meeting at 7:07 P.M.

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

There were no public comments or written statements.

2. **Budget Worksession:**

Barb Fletcher reviewed the order of discussion for the budget worksession.

- Hear input from the administrators in addressing a possible change in the guideline
- Review a draft of the presentation to the Finance Committee
- Get an update on the space utilization study
- Review answers to the questions that the FinCom submitted
- The Boston Globe article related to the 1:1 initiative

Paul reviewed the reasons for the difference of \$155,000, which was originally provided to the Finance Committee by estimating the total cost of COLA's, steps and lanes net retirements. He explained that the administrators realized that there were a few staff members who will return from leaves in FY13, which creates a greater cost when a staff member returns from leave. He passed out back up information, as well as the work related to their recommended cuts. The School Committee reviewed Paul's recommendations under the advice of the administrative staff.

Paul confirmed that the four recommended cuts at the top of the list are listed from the most important to the least important, and the 0.6 FTE teacher position for high school math labs will have the most impact to the sophomore class.

Paul also answered questions from the School Committee regarding the Technology Reclassification and the 1:1 Initiative.

The School Committee discussed their priorities and goals toward eliminating some of the recommended positions/programs. The consensus was to move forward with the Superintendent's recommended budget, but have a conversation with the Finance Committee and explain the analysis done, as well as review the most recent information that the administrators provided.

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Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend to the Finance Committee the FY13 School Budget with an appropriation of \$32,526,704 with the assumption of offsets of \$1,396,235.

Shawn Kinney commented on the FY11 actuals being lower than the FY13 budget, the FY12 surplus, the FY11 restatement not being completed, and the balances in the revolving accounts. He reiterated his support for the budget, but asked the School Committee that if savings are identified or errors are found in the budget between now and Town Meeting, that the Committee have an open discussion about reducing the amount needed for the appropriation.

The School Committee discussed this request and agreed that, if necessary, they would have an open conversation/discussion prior to Town Meeting regarding the FY13 proposed budget.

The School Committee thanked Paul and the administrators for their hard work in providing the necessary information.

3. **Preparation for Meeting with FinCom on January 26:**

Barb reviewed with the School Committee the draft presentation for their joint meeting with the Finance Committee on January 26. The School Committee will forward any changes to the draft presentation to Barb.

The Committee also discussed the ORC Report with respect to the Abrahams Group Report recommended budget format. All expectations were largely met; however, Barb and Shawn will work together to make sure all recommendations by the ORC are fully implemented.

Barb will forward to the Finance Committee the following documents: Budget Drivers, Cost Savings Analysis, FY09-13 annual percentage increases (actuals to budget), and the administrators' recommended cuts.

The School Committee reviewed the list of the Finance Committee's questions, as well as the answers compiled with the administrators, in preparation for the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The administrators answered questions posed by the School Committee. Based on this discussion, the administrators will update the answers and send them to Barb to forward to the Finance Committee.

Malcolm asked the School Committee to consider certain cash capital items be used to fund the potentially cut educational programs, if possible.

**Update on Space Utilization Study:**

Paul Stein reported that John Moynihan had not spoken with TBA Architects yet. Barb asked for an update by the January 26 meeting, as February 6 is the final date for the capital request for the modulars and the FinCom will be presenting their draft operating capital budget at this time.

**Boston Globe Article re: 1:1 Initiative:**

The School Committee discussed their response for the Boston Globe article and agreed that once the School Committee voted on the budget, they would then provide a statement. Barb will also provide information from the FY13 Proposed Budget Book.

Barb reviewed the time and format for the joint meeting with the Finance Committee on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

4. **Public Comment:**

Jeff Dieffenbach commented on Shawn Kinney's comments regarding budget surpluses for FY09-11. He stated that he has addressed Shawn's comments in the Town Crier and the Wayland ENews discussion forum and that these comments were dramatically overstated in terms of what financially took place.

Cynthia Lavenson asked the School Committee to include in their response for the Boston Globe article how the 1:1 initiative ties into the new high school facility. She feels that this is a good opportunity to get the message out.

Stephanie Leong stated that she was pleased with the School Committee's vote on the budget, but she feels that in order to make the RTI Program work at Happy Hollow, the building sub position is very important. She asked the School Committee to fund this position, if savings were found between now and Town Meeting.

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5. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Elizabeth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See attached.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Power Point Presentation to Finance Committee
2. Potential Budget Reductions
3. Questions from Finance Committee