

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Session – February 27, 2012

A Regular Session of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, February 27, 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  
Director of Student Services

Also:

Justice Smith, Athletic Director  
Chris Brown, Athletic Trainer  
Leisha Simon, Technology Director  
Robert Jeffries & Justin Humphries of TBA Architects

Chair Barb Fletcher convened the regular meeting at 7:05 P.M.

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

Stephanie Leong thanked Dr. Stein and the School Committee for the Space Utilization Study. She stated that she is interested in knowing how the modulars would address potential overcrowding issues in common areas at Happy Hollow.

Tom Sciacca referred to the articles he sent to the School Committee related to concussions and head injuries in young children. He stated that the issue of concussions is largely about football and the School Committee policy should address that issue, as well as the issue surrounding injuries that can lead to life-long impairment. Tom also read a portion of a Boston Globe article written by the Marshfield Athletic Director.

2. **Athletic Concussion Policy (JJIF):**

Barb Fletcher stated that the School Committee approved an interim policy recommended by the MASC that was put out for public comment, and it was reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee and the Administrators. The associated protocol was attached and also was reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee and the Administrators. She explained the changes that were made to the policy and why they were made based on feedback received.

Paul Stein pointed out that the team working on this matter reviewed all the athletic participation forms being sent home to families.

Barb stated that she received one public comment related to the policy and the protocol, which touched on the fact that the healing process should take into consideration academic as well as physical activities and the inclusion of the guidance counselors and teachers in this process.

The School Committee, the Administrators, and the team from the high school engaged in a discussion regarding all aspects of the policy. A concern was raised as to whether the policy addresses the potential great risk of football in terms of advising and educating families of this risk. The School Committee concurred that more research needed to be done and the results will be discussed at a future meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Beth Butler, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Head Injury and Concussions in Extracurricular Athletic Activities Policy, as amended for typographical errors.

3. **Presentation of Space Utilization Study Results:**

Bob Jeffries and Justin Humphries of TBA Architects presented the results of an elementary space utilization study to the School Committee, which was done according to MSBA new construction standards/guidelines. Bob Jeffries also explained how the utilization study was conducted and the criteria by which the study was done in terms of time and space factors.

There were two plans developed for each elementary school – in terms of the purpose for each space and utilization from a space and time perspective.

The School Committee asked questions regarding the study, and Beth Butler referenced language in Section 2.06(4)(b):963 CMR 2.06 from the Code of Massachusetts Regulations regarding the MSBA new construction/guidelines that were used.

Bob Jeffries stated the constraints with using the high school modulars at Happy Hollow and explained the life expectancy of modulars in general, as well as other factors related to modulars.

**High School Modulars:**

Paul Stein recommended that the modulars be demolished for the following reasons: 1) the cost of installation of sprinklers required by law in the entire building and; 2) the cost of moving the modulars into storage and the uncertainty of their possible use in the future.

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to pull the town article as a placeholder and to authorize the High School Building Committee to demolish the modulars.

4. **School Committee Policies:**

As a result of the DESE Program Review, the following policies were reviewed by the School Committee, including the changes made to existing Policy IHBF.

Home/Hospital Educational Services Policy (IHBF):

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve Policy IHBF, as amended.

English Language Literacy & Fluency Policy (IHBEF):

The School Committee and Administrators discussed this new policy and amended to change legal reference and to create a new paragraph.

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve Policy IHBEF, as amended.

5. **Discussion and Review of Policy Manual:**

Beth Butler stated that she spoke to Jim Hardy of the MASC with regard to having them conduct another policy manual review. He referred to this review as a “health check,” since our full review had been completed 5 years ago and that there would be no extra charge for this review. Barb asked the School Committee to review the Policy Manual in terms of what policies should be added, extracted, or revised. She will follow up with a deadline for this review at a future date.

Paul Stein recommended that the School Committee develop a policy regarding foreign students attending Wayland Public Schools.

6. **Approval of WHS WSPN Club Trip to Washington State:**

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Malcolm Astley, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the WHS WSPN Club trip to Washington State to attend the JEA/NSPA Spring National High School Journalism Convention in April 2012.

7. **Approval of Funding for an Additional Teacher Assistant:**

Marlene Dodyk requested a transfer of funds from the Tuition-Out-of-State account to hire an additional teacher assistant due to two students new to the district, whose IEPs call for this level of need. She stated that the special education teacher assistant can be shared between students, and the total cost would be \$6,140.80. Marlene answered questions from the School Committee.

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the transfer of funds from the Tuition-Out-of-State account to hire an additional teacher assistant.

8. **Discussion of 1:1 Initiative and Insurance Fee:**

Leisha Simon recommended to the School Committee that a student insurance fee be charged to support accidental damage to laptops, computer replacements, loaner computers, and training and support charges for the 1:1 Initiative. She also stated that the district should become self-insured for accidental damage or replacement of computers, as everything is not covered under Apple Care. This insurance would be optional to families and is not contingent upon student(s) participating in the 1:1 Initiative.

The School Committee asked questions of the Administrators and other options were discussed. They also asked Leisha to further research other town models/plans in place, as well as requested additional information to be gathered and presented to the School Committee on March 12. The Committee will send any additional questions to Barb Fletcher by week's end. Geoff MacDonald will follow up with the town of Beverly, who has a model in place, in terms of understanding the mechanics of the accounts, how the funds flow, and the statutes by which these accounts would be established.

9. **Second Quarter Financial Report:**

Geoff MacDonald presented the second quarter Financial Report to the School Committee. He stated that the report is about a month behind, due to other priorities demanding his time. The Administrators answered questions from the School Committee, and Barb stated that she will ask John Moynihan for an update regarding FY09 building repairs that are still outstanding.

10. **Preliminary Discussion of School Choice:**

Paul Stein provided a brief summary of the background information related to School Choice, stating that if a district does not opt out, then they are automatically in the program. He recommended that the School Committee opt out because of limited capacity in the elementary schools, as well as a possible influx of students at the high school level. He stated other reasons for not supporting School Choice.

The School Choice Public Hearing will be put on a future agenda.

11. **Review of Draft FY13 Budget Booklet:**

The School Committee reviewed the draft budget message for the FY13 Budget Booklet. Geoff MacDonald will draft the booklet by week's end; thus, if the School Committee has specific concerns or changes, they should send them to Barb Fletcher.

The Administrators answered questions from the School Committee regarding the budget.

12. **Discussion and Preparation for Budget Hearing on March 12:**

The School Committee reviewed the budget presentation for content and format in preparation for the Budget Hearing on March 12. Some changes were made by the Committee.

13. **Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Tool and Process:**

In preparation for the DESE's requirement that by the fall of 2013, the School Committee adopt, adapt, or revise the Superintendent Evaluation Tool, the School Committee discussed the process by which they will move forward to put a tool in place for the short term, as Paul Stein is in his first year as Superintendent and then revisit to establish a

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tool for the long-term.

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint Malcolm Astley and Beth Butler to a Superintendent Evaluation Tool Subcommittee and charged them to review the DESE's information, as well as the Superintendent Evaluation tool currently in place, and report back to the School Committee with their recommendations for the FY12 process.

14. **Acceptance of Gift:**

Upon a motion duly made by Shawn Kinney, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0), in accordance with Policy KHE, to establish a gift account and accept, with gratitude, a donation in the amount of \$19,699.21 from the Space Launch Program, as submitted by the TCW Director Cheryl Fertig.

15. **Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:**

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve payment of the following:

- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable Warrant, dated 2/27/2012, in the amount of \$356,582.26
- Wayland Public Schools Accounts Payable Warrant, dated 2/27/2012, in the amount of \$2,404,866.33 (High School Project)
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated 2/9/2012, in the amount of \$1,131,316.58
- Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated 2/23/2012, in the amount of \$1,214,044.81

16. **Approval of Minutes:**

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Beth Butler, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the Regular Session minutes of January 23, 2012, January 24, 2012, January 26, 2012, and February 6, 2012, as written.

It was also suggested that when a School Committee member is participating by remote, if the call is disconnected, the time be recorded.

17. **Superintendent's Report:**

(a) School News:

Paul Stein passed out information in response to a question from the School Committee at a prior meeting regarding high school graduation/dropout rates.

Paul praised Marlene Dodyk's outstanding work in regard to the DESE Program Review, as well as Brad Crozier's work in securing Title I funds.

Paul commented on his visit to the Happy Hollow Immigration Museum, which he referred to as a joyous community event and a wonderful project for children to exhibit their strengths.

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

Review Draft of School Committee Report re: Part II of the Abrahams Report:  
Agenda item was tabled.

Review Status Report of Future Agenda Items:

Barb Fletcher asked the School Committee to review the current status report and send her any additions or changes. Working with Paul Stein, Barb established a schedule for goal presentations. She will provide the School Committee with deadlines for Committee members to submit questions in advance of such presentation.

19. **Comments from the Public:**

Sheila Carel commented on the possibility of some endangered species in the woods near the Middle School and stated that a bid to study the endangered species is \$7,000. Since the School Committee owns the land, she asked the Committee for their approval to place traps in the vernal pools as part of the study. She thanked the School Committee for their consideration and stated that the findings would be shared with the community. She will also communicate via email with Barb Fletcher in terms of the next steps in the process.

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Stephanie Leong again thanked the School Committee for the Space Utilization Study. She also stated her concerns for the RTI Program and the significant need to provide TA coverage consistently across the District if the program is continued next year.

Tom Sciacca commented on sports injuries and thanked a Committee member for challenging the status quo. He recommended that the School Committee, if doing further research regarding sports injuries, look into injuries that produce life-long effects, as all injuries, including joint vs. broken bones, are worth studying. He also commented that creativity and critical thinking are fundamental skills needed by children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and suggests that extracurricular activities can be used to evaluate students, and he added that finding ways to improve education, while reducing costs, should be the job of the CEO.

20. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Astley, seconded by Shawn Kinney, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the Regular Session at 10:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk  
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

See attached.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. WPS Elementary Utilization Study
2. Athletic Concussion Policy Packet
3. English Language Literacy & Fluency Policy
4. Home/Hospital Educational Services Policy
5. WHS Field Trip
6. WPS Laptop Insurance Plan (Draft)
7. FY12 Second Quarter Financial Report
8. School Committee Presentation for Budget Hearing (Draft)
9. Memo re: Space Launch Gift
10. Regular Session Minutes – 1/23, 1/24, 1/26, 2/6/2012
11. WSC Follow Up Status Report
12. New York Times Article “In Teacher Ratings, Good Test Scores are Sometimes not Good Enough”