

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – May 20, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held remotely on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 12:00 P.M. broadcast by WayCAM in the Wayland Town Building.

Present and participating remotely were:

Jeanne Downs, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair
Nate Buffum
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Also participating remotely:

Arthur Unobskey
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Richard Whitehead
Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan
Director of Finance & Operations

Also:

Tricia O'Reilly, Happy Hollow Principal
Alison Cohen, HH 3rd Grade Teacher
Deb Dowd, HH 3rd Grade Teacher
May Moynihan, HH 3rd Grade Teacher
Allyson Mizoguchi, WHS Principal
Laura Cole, WHS Asst. Principal
Marybeth Sacramone, WHS Director of Guidance
Ken Rideout, WHS Science Department Chair & Teacher
Lea Anderson, Select Board

Chair Jeanne Downs convened the open session at 12:02 p.m. The meeting was recorded by WayCAM and was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation.

The School Committee thanked the high school staff for their participation in delivering lawn signs and cap and gowns to graduating seniors.

1. Discuss COVID-19 Response:

- Phase Two Remote Learning:
Update of Implementation:

Principal Tricia O'Reilly commented that since the school closure on March 12, the goal has been to keep kids engaged in learning and connected to Happy Hollow School. The staff is keeping social emotional learning as a focus, and the collaboration between teachers, guidance counselors and others has been beneficial in connecting with students.

The Happy Hollow third grade team, Alison Cohen, Deb Dowd, and May Moynihan, presented their approach to remote learning which is consistent for all third graders and allows the ability of a teacher to step in for another teacher, if necessary. Each morning, there is a morning message and a daily learning menu which details the entire day. Links are provided for each subject using Google Classroom, Google Meets, Kidblog, and videos. All of the work provided is about making students feel connected to the school and staff. If students need extra support, there are unscheduled meetings which are the online version of the "Rainbow Table." Teachers and families are working together and adapting to the new normal.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – May 20, 2020

The teachers meet almost daily with their team and the specialists and discuss the “peaches” (positive) and “pits” (negative) aspects of online learning. Some of the positive and unexpected “gifts” that the students are learning include keyboarding, public speaking, meeting etiquette, phone skills, and a greater appreciation and realization that the teachers need these children in their daily lives.

Moving forward, traditional occasions and typical events will take place, such as the 5th grade play, the 5th grade clap-out, class meetings, guest readings, Student Council spirit weeks, cardboard challenge/STEAM, virtual field trips, virtual chess games, the 4th grade endangered species reports, and the continuation of relationship building.

The School Committee asked questions of the 3rd grade team regarding the student participation rate, parent involvement, teacher sustainability moving forward, and the need for additional resources, if any, for next year.

- Discussion and Possible Vote of High School GPA Calculation:

Allyson Mizoguchi commented that this discussion and the presentation is an effort to inform thinking about the GPA and whether to use this year’s students’ grades in his/her cumulative GPA. She added that the team wants to balance the social emotional needs of students and families while reporting accurate achievement and offering rigorous learning experiences. The proposal distinguishes that this year’s grades would not impact the students’ GPA.

The guiding principles from the WHS Remote Learning Plan at the high school level include students’ social and emotional well-being, equity in serving all students, student learning, and the opportunity for faculty growth and sustainability.

Allyson described the grading approach for this school year which changed due to the school closure on March 12 which was six weeks into the third quarter. Before March 12, the Semester 1 letter grade or mid-year average is reflected from Quarters 1 and 2, as well as from the mid-year exam. Since the closure, staff has framed its discussions around how to provide assessments to students in a meaningful and equitable way, since teaching and student support is very different.

The proposal includes the pass/fail system for Quarters 3 and 4 combined (Semester 2) while maintaining the letter grade for the first semester. A pass for Semester 2 is earned by students who meet or exceed expectations for the majority (60%) of learning tasks. Students will earn full credit by passing both semesters; however, neither semester will be included in students’ GPA calculation. The student transcript and School Profile is being customized in order to communicate this unique time in the school year, and will also include a COVID-19 notation explaining the pass/fail decision for Quarters 3 and 4 and that neither semester is included in the GPA calculation. Allyson explained further, including that the GPA typically represents the average of a student’s final grades in normal times, and it should have the same meaning for every student. The transcript will present an accurate picture of the students’ COVID-19 academic year. Colleges and universities do recalculate GPAs for students and, at this time, are planning to review transcripts and applications given this unusual school year.

Other districts, such as Hopkinton, Natick, Lexington, Needham, Lincoln/Sudbury, Wellesley, and Weston have engaged in this same discussion and have made various decisions to change the practice to record a final grade moving forward. Newton Public Schools have yet to make a decision.

Marybeth Sacramone addressed what colleges are doing as a result of this global pandemic, adding that there is a lot of flexibility in terms of college and high school communications. Links and information will be provided to the School Committee, as these resources guided the GPA proposal. High school staff addressed questions that included the possible ability to adjust grades in the first or second semester if the first semester grade was better than the second, a possible plan if next year is the same as this year, could A/P classes be considered in a different manner, what if a student passed the first semester, but failed in the second semester, what if a student drops down in a subject, and is there an option for an incomplete grade. Flexibility is key in planning for next year in terms of students’ grades, and parents are being informed as information from colleges is received. There are also large concerns for those students who need extra support and are not receiving it in the usual manner, as well as the unknowns moving forward. A discussion ensued about the future process in this regard, particularly for next year.

The School Committee vote will be postponed until May 27.

- Discussion of Long-Term Planning for Schools in Response to Closure:

Arthur commented that the Teaching and Learning Group and the Operations Group are making progress on a

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – May 20, 2020

possible scenario for the opening of school in the fall, and the School Committee should receive an interim report on June 3. A more finalized detailed report will be presented on June 17 for the Committee's approval. Arthur added that a survey will be distributed to staff and parents next week in terms of gathering input for the possible proposals being considered.

- Next Steps:
This topic was addressed in previous discussions.

2. Comments and Written Statements from the Public:

Kim read a statement from Wayland resident Craig Wrentmore regarding the structure of the remote learning plan moving forward. He compared the remote learning plan of the Boston Public Schools in which their plan includes daily scheduled morning and afternoon meetings for all students and asked if Wayland could implement the same for this current school year. Mr. Wrentmore stated that this additional structure would be beneficial for all students, as well as keeping the students engaged every day.

3. Financial Matters:

- Review of Q3 Financial Report:
This review was passed over.
- Discussion of FY21 Budget: First Four Months:
This discussion was passed over.
- Review and Possible Approval of Invoices for the Athletic Complex Project:
The invoices submitted by Heimlich Landscaping & Construction, Tower Construction, Weston & Sampson, Eversource Energy, Keys, N.A. and Leftfield total \$271,105.82 and were approved for payment by the PMBC at its last meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Nate Buffum, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve for payment the invoices presented for the School Committee's review in the amount of \$271,105.82. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	X	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

Nate left the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

- High School Athletic Complex and Loker Roof Project Update:
Jeanne commented that the high school athletic complex is almost complete and is currently under budget by about \$100,000. Photos of the complex were reviewed by the School Committee.

4. Policy Matters:

- Review of Policies to Put Out for Public Comment:
 - JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children
 - JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
 - JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care

This agenda item was passed over.

5. Updates:

- Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Timing:
Jeanne noted that the Superintendent's evaluation is usually complete each year by June 30. However, based on Arthur's focus of preparing for a fall reopening and guidance received from the MASC, the evaluation will be pushed out toward the end of the summer.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Special Meeting – May 20, 2020

- Timing of School Choice Hearing:
 The School Committee will have its School Choice Hearing on May 27.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of Minutes: April 23, 2020 and April 29, 2020

The April 29, 2020 will not be approved. Kim added a sentence to the minutes of April 23, 2020: “Kim felt that the FDK families were not getting the extra service that they were paying for, that they were paying for school beyond a half day, and were not getting a full day and that, therefore, they should be reimbursed.”

Upon a motion duly made Kim Reichelt, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the Consent Agenda with the amended minutes of April 23, 2020 and pass over the April 29, 2020 minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	absent	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

7. **Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:**

Richard provided an update regarding Special Education and the department’s plan for the remainder of this year and moving forward to next year.

8. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to enter Executive Session at 1:41 p.m. for the purposes of a) discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers Association (WTA), as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; b) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wayland Teachers’ Association (WTA) regarding health insurance payroll deductions, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), as a discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the School Committee; and c) approving the following Executive Session Minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 22: April 29, 2020. The School Committee will not come back into open session, but will adjourn in Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	absent	
Kim Reichelt	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, Cherry Karlson, Chair, Board of Selectmen, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session.

9. **Adjournment from Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 2:57 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeanne Downs, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Nate Buffum	absent	
	X	

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – May 20, 2020

Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

X

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Unobskey, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. WHS GPA Proposal Presentation
3. Invoices for the WHS Athletic Complex
4. Pictures of the WHS Athletic Complex
5. Special Session Minutes of April 23, 2020
6. Executive Session Motion