

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – January 25, 2016

A Regular Meeting/Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, January 25, 2016, 7:00 P.M. in the Senior Center and then the School Committee Room of the Wayland Town Building.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair

Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair

Donna Bouchard (left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.)

Jeanne Downs

Kathie Steinberg

Also:

Paul Stein

Superintendent

Brad Crozier

Assistant Superintendent

Susan Bottan,

Business Administrator

Marlene Dodyk

Director of Student Services

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the joint meeting with the Finance Committee at 7:00 P.M. in the Senior Center.

1. **Comments & Written Statements from the Public at the Joint Meeting:**

Speaking for herself, Donna Bouchard explained why she, as a School Committee member, voted “no” on the FY17 recommended school budget. In her opinion, the budget does not characterize the school district “thriving in place,” but is continually expanding despite declining enrollment. Donna gave a chart to the Finance Committee that contained data from past and present Staff Deployment Reports, and commented that even though enrollment is declining, there has been an increase of 62.77 FTEs over the last five years. Donna continued to explain how she computed this information from the reports. Although Donna supports most of the budget, she does not support the addition of an assistant principal at Claypit Hill and believes that the some of the Claypit Hill students could have been redistricted to Loker School at the time of the elementary reconfiguration. Donna commented that the Waste Water contract has doubled since the beginning of the contract of \$44,400 and the budget does not cover this increase. Donna does not support the July 1, 2016 staff raises and noted that more than 2.5% should not be added to the budget, since the taxpayers in Wayland have different needs and some, especially the seniors and middle class, cannot sustain the increases. Donna thanked the public for funding the schools, as Wayland is one of the best districts in the state.

2. **Presentation and Discussion with Finance Committee regarding School Committee’s Recommended FY17 Operating Budget:**

Ellen Grieco informed the Finance Committee how the School Committee deliberated during its budget process after Paul Stein’s FY17 budget presentation, including many discussions with all administrative staff. Seven meetings were held in total, and Ellen noted that the job of the School Committee is to represent all citizens of Wayland, many of whom support the school budget and many who are opposed to the budget. She noted that \$119,236 of changes were made to the budget because of errors and adjustments since the Superintendent’s recommended budget. She reviewed with the FinCom the chart from which the Committee worked at its last meeting to include each member’s budget preferences and, in some cases, reallocate these funds to other areas in the budget. Ellen pointed out the district’s unmet needs that were not included in the Superintendent’s recommended budget. The School Committee as a whole felt that Dr. Stein presented a budget that reflected an effort to achieve efficiencies and savings, while preserving the needs of students and the excellence in Wayland schools. The Committee added back four priorities not in the Superintendent’s recommended budget, including a 0.4 FTE at the high school and a 0.4 FTE at the middle school, a 0.4 FTE for a Health and Wellness department chair, and funds to assist the Business Office. Ellen further explained the rationale of adding a Health and Wellness Department Chair and additional funds for the Business Office. The final budget, noted as Budget #7 on the chart, was voted by the School Committee (4-1) in the amount of \$37,722,833 or a 2.73% increase over the FY16 budget, and slightly lower than the Superintendent’s recommended budget.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – January 25, 2016

The Finance Committee asked questions of the School Committee related to the budget.

- What percentage of the budget is for Special Education and ELL cost increases from last year? Are the costs mandated or does the School Committee have control over these costs? *Barb referred to the budget drivers in terms of increases and shifting of funds on page 9 of the Superintendent's budget. She elaborated on the particulars. In terms of funding Special Education, Donna commented that the district can apply for grants, as Manchester-Essex has done.*
- Have the custodial costs been addressed? *Barb noted that Edvocate's preliminary custodial assessment was just received by the Committee, and the Committee has not discussed yet. She added that the consultant commented on the understaffing of custodians and that outsourcing would not save the district money. In addition, the FY17 budget does not include funds to hire additional custodians.*
- The budget supports 77% of computer replacement in the district. What does that mean? *Barb commented that the total technology funds represent 77% of the district's goal to replace computers, including computers for the elementary levels. Leisha Simon added that the goal will take place over a five-year period, including the replacement of 100 teacher computers.*

Carol Martin, also the School Committee liaison for the Finance Committee, applauded the School Committee's diligent work regarding the budget. She also thanked the Committee and administrators for responding to the FinCom's questions prior to this joint meeting. Carol applauded the Finance Subcommittee for its huge efforts, particularly Susan Bottan. Carol asked for a confirmation of new benefit plans in the district.

- In terms of the size of Claypit Hill School and the addition of an assistant principal, as noted in a public comment, is it feasible to send some students to Loker School? *Paul addressed this question by describing the process and the variables of the elementary reconfiguration. He added that transportation costs would be increased if Claypit Hill students were sent to Loker. Ellen addressed the changed role of the school principal due to state mandates.*
- What is the average class size at Wayland High School? Comparisons were made to other districts. *Paul responded that a high school schedule is subject to the critical mass of students that are there or not there at the school. Thus, no matter the size of the school, similar programs must be offered. Paul elaborated further on the courses that are offered at Wayland High School.*
- How is enrollment projected? *Susan described the process that she undergoes when preparing the Enrollment Report, which includes NESDEC's compiled data.*

3. **Comments from the Public (continued):**

Molly Upton compared last year's Finance Committee Guideline to this year's Guideline. She commented that next year's situation in terms of property taxes should be considered when putting the FY17 budget together, as many residents will have difficulty in paying their property taxes and may have to leave Wayland. Going forward, every little bit helps or hurts the taxpayer.

Dave Watkins, Finance Committee member, read a note from Linda Segal in which she respectfully requested that a budget increase does not exceed the Finance Committee's guideline of 2.5%. She supports the 2.5% budget guideline for many reasons and called for fiscal balance, responsibility, and sustainability by the School Committee. Linda commented on declining enrollment and increasing staff FTEs over the last 5 years.

Dave Watkins also read an email from David Morat regarding the budget who is in support of funding all unmet needs. He believes that the Finance Committee's decisions about the budget affect the economic diversity in Wayland. He noted that the recession is over and all unmet needs should be funded. Wayland should not be representative of the rich only, but of all economic levels. Mr. Morat urged constant responsible frugality and restraint from the Finance Committee.

George Harris commented that the Finance Committee has limited ability, according to the law, in terms of influencing the School Committee's decisions regarding its budget, and the School Committee can present any budget at Town Meeting. He noted that the School Committee budget is much higher than the Omnibus budget due to benefits, insurance, and OPEB, etc. Mr. Harris commented on the decrease in enrollment this year of about 1.5% which is also projected for next year, but the increase in FTEs since 2010 is about 17% --- 15.3% from the operating budget. He was of the opinion that the number of teachers would decline because of technology in the district. Mr. Harris expressed his misunderstanding of this situation.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – January 25, 2016

Ellen Grieco spoke on behalf of herself. Based on facts presented at the last School Committee meeting, Ellen noted that 17.5 FTEs were removed from 2010-2011 due to reduction cuts, but added back during the next six years. There were 8.5 FTEs added back during that time frame due to state mandates regarding ELL and SPED services, and 11 FTEs were added back because of the elementary reconfiguration that was voted and approved in 2014.

The School Committee left the joint meeting, with the exception of Barb Fletcher, at 7:52 p.m. The School Committee meeting resumed its regular meeting at 7:55 p.m. in the School Committee Room.

Donna did not return to the meeting.

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

There were no comments and written statements from the public.

3. **Educational Matters:**

- (a) Hear Superintendent's Report:
Paul did not have a report this evening.

4. **Administrative/Procedural Matters:**

- (a) Review and Possible Vote to Approve Response to Questions Submitted by the WRAP Committee regarding School Property:

The School Committee reviewed its responses to the WRAP Committee as prepared by Kathie, and some changes were made to the responses. A question arose in terms of the student capacity at the Middle School. Susan will have an answer for the Committee on Tuesday.

Barb returned to the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve that Kathie send the responses to the WRAP Committee's questions to the WRAP Committee as amended.

5. **Financial Matters (continued):**

- (a) Discuss Content of School Committee FY17 Budget Booklet and Timing of Budget Hearing:
Barb made suggestions in terms of what should be included in the Budget Booklet, such as an Executive Summary and much of the information from the Superintendent's Recommended Budget Book regarding budget drivers, but changing slightly to reflect the School Committee's changes. A discussion ensued regarding the format and order of information presented in the Budget Booklet. Ellen and Barb will work together on the narrative.

Regarding the Budget Hearing presentation, the Committee discussed the format and information to be presented. Among other topics, it will include the budget process, a summary page, the difference between the Superintendent's and School Committee's recommended budgets, budget drivers, a peer community analysis related to per pupil expenditure, and the capital budget.

A discussion ensued in terms of the possibility of compiling an FTE analysis and enrollment comparison from Wayland's peer communities, as well as the number of staff who take benefits in Wayland.

The Committee agreed to hold its Public Budget Hearing on February 22nd, and a meeting will be posted for Special Town Meeting on February 11th.

- (b) Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Fees for FY17:
Jeanne pointed out a discrepancy about the athletic fee cap. It was voted by the Committee to be \$1,200, but it is in the Budget Book as \$1,100.

The fees will be voted on when the School Committee votes its recommended FY17 budget. The School Committee discussed dates for approving the budget.

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

None.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – January 25, 2016

7. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Approval of Accounts Payables & Payroll Warrants:
 - Wayland Public Schools Payroll Warrant, dated January 21, 2016, in the amount of \$1,278,943.90
- (b) Approval of Minutes:
 - Regular Session of December 14, 2015

Upon a motion duly made by Kathie Steinberg, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented tonight.

8. **Comments from the Public:**

There was no public comment.

9. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Barb Fletcher, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to convene in Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Custodians, as permitted by M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3), as such discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and an Executive Session is necessary to protect the bargaining position of the School Committee, and to approve minutes from prior executive sessions, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 30A, §22, for the following meetings: January 14, 2016 and December 4, 2015. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Ellen Grieco, Chair	X	
Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair	X	
Donna Bouchard (absent)		
Jeanne Downs	X	
Kathie Steinberg	X	

The School Committee will be joined by Paul Stein, Superintendent of Schools, Brad Crozier, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will reconvene in open session for adjournment purposes only.

10. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Barb Fletcher, seconded by Ellen Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

There were no observers at the second part of tonight’s meeting.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda & Backup Information
2. School Committee Draft Budget Spreadsheet
3. Regular Session Minutes of December 14, 2015
4. School Committee’s Responses to the WRAP Committee’s Questions
5. Payroll Warrant dated January 21, 2016