

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – November 7, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Monday, November 7, 2016, at 7:30 P.M. at Boston Police Headquarters, Boston, MA.

Present were:

Ellen Grieco, Chair
Jeanne Downs
Kim Reichelt
Kathie Steinberg

Absent:

Barb Fletcher, Vice Chair

Also:

Paul Stein
Superintendent

Brad Crozier

Assistant Superintendent

Marlene Dodyk

Director of Student Services

Susan Bottan

Business Administrator

Chair Ellen Grieco convened the regular session at 7:31 p.m.

1. **Boston Parents' Meeting:**

(a) Presentation of UNITED Goals by Dr. Paul Stein:

Paul presented the UNITED goals for the 2016-2017 school year. The goals are placed into six different categories:

- **Using Data Wisely**
- **Nurturing Early Childhood Development**
- **Infusing Technology & Design**
- **Training Global Citizens**
- **Elevating Achievement**
- **Deepening Wellness Skills & Insights**

Paul briefly explained each goal and why they are important when the administrators develop their action plans and School Improvement Plans.

(b) School Start Times Presentation:

Kim showed a presentation on the consideration of changing school start times, including why this is being considered, what options are being presented, and the challenges and opportunities to make this change.

Kim noted that current start times run exactly counter to the biological needs of students and sleep deprivation causes a variety of health issues, risky behaviors and reduced school performance. Kim presented statistics provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and noted that sleep issues are nationwide. The Metrowest Health Survey given to Wayland students finds that the CDC statistics also hold true for Wayland students. A WHS survey by students in the AP Government class concluded that 77% of WHS students support later starting times.

Kim reviewed research that shows why older students aren't getting enough sleep, adding that younger students do get the required amount of sleep. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommends that high school and middle school students do not start school any earlier than 8:30 a.m., as less sleep causes risky behavior in students ranging from cigarette smoking, drugs and alcohol use, tardiness and absenteeism, just to name a few. There is also an increase in automobile accidents.

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Kim reviewed the schedule options that are being considered and the challenges associated with these time changes, such as impacts to childcare arrangements, athletics scheduling, and staff schedules. However, there are many benefits to a later start time, such as better academic performance, positive health, and wellness and safety benefits. School districts in the Middlesex County League have agreed to change their high school start times to 8:30 or later by the 2018-19 school year. Some districts have made changes – Sharon, Nauset and Duxbury.

The audience expressed what they thought would be positives in making the time change, such as less traffic to get to the bus stop, an easier commute, more sleep for the older students. Some challenges noted were sleep deprivation for the younger students that could lead to poor behavior in class, difficulty for working parents if buses are delayed, and Boston students who play sports would have a much later drop off time.

(c) Activity for All – Facilitated by Brian Jones:

Brian explained the activity as the “Responsive Classroom” which is about building community, getting to know one another in the classroom, sets classroom routines, helps with problem solving, develops respect for one another, and teaches that everyone has a voice that will be heard by all. The parents and Wayland staff members formed groups at which time Brian instructed the groups to discuss a question that he conveyed to them. After 2 to 3 minutes the groups moved into different groups and were asked a different question.

2. **School Committee Meeting:**

(a) Comments from the Public:

A Boston high school student asked how funding for public schools would be impacted by the charter school question.

A parent described the large number of students in 4th grade this year creating the need for an additional 5th grade classroom at Loker.

(b) Continued Discussion of Selection Criteria for Peer Towns:

Kathie distributed a peer town chart that she developed. She looked at a total of nine different measures, including MCAS scores, performance ratings, average income, and enrollment. Kathie noted that Needham, Westford, Southborough, and Westford came closest to Wayland’s performance ratings.

A discussion ensued and the Finance Subcommittee will review and discuss this chart at its next meeting.

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

The concern regarding temporary parking for the school buses was raised. Paul commented that the Board of Public Works is requesting that the School Department send them a formal letter requesting an acre parcel of land to park the buses, cars, and trailer.

4. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stein, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda