

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – July 20, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Wayland School Committee was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the Wayland Town Building

Present:

Chris Ryan, Chair
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair
Jeanne Downs
Erin Gibbons
Jessica Polizzotti

Also present:

Dr. Omar Easy
Superintendent

Parry Graham
Assistant Superintendent

Tom Lafleur
Director of Finance & Operations

1. Welcome & Call to Order:

Chair Chris Ryan convened the regular session at 6:03 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WayCAM.

2. Public Comment:

Michael Henrick, West Plain Street, and a representative of the Wayland Hockey Association expressed his gratitude for Dr. Easy's immediate attention regarding the concerns about a hockey team and for allowing the kids to have a great season ahead.

Alexia Obar, 18 Dean Road, thanked the School Committee and Dr. Easy for his leadership, as there have been many positive changes made for the students moving forward. Ms. Obar expressed her support for Chris to remain on as Chair.

Chris Ryan read a public comment from Camille Payne and Benjamin Levinson, Oxbow Road, in which they expressed their gratitude to Dr. Christie Harvey as principal of the Claypit Hill School as she had a positive impact on their children. They advocated for a search committee made up of parents, administrators, and teachers to interview highly qualified candidates with several years of experience who can lead Claypit Hill.

Chris Ryan read a public comment from Christine McKenna, Holbrook Road, noted that the Wayland Public Schools had a low COVID rate last year, but the State, in her opinion, has fell short for next year regarding COVID. She asked the School Committee to develop a COVID plan for next year, including the continuation of data reporting. Ms. McKenna also asked that the State is encouraged to provide the necessary resources for tests and masks.

Chris Ryan read a public comment from Christina Rodrigo in which she expressed concerns about the proposed hiring process moving forward, particularly in the event of an unexpected vacancy. She asked the School Committee to require the formation of a hiring committee because it ensures that procedures are followed, it ensures a diversity of perspectives, and requires a consensus in terms of the new hire. Ms. Rodrigo shared her experiences when serving on two hiring committees during which the committee members were flexible with their time, adding that this process should be thorough despite the timing.

Chris Ryan welcomed Tom Lafleur as the Director of Finance and Operations.

3. Superintendent Update:

(a) Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve 2022-2023 Super Wednesday Professional Development Days:
Dr. Easy and Parry proposed September 28 and November 16, 2022 as "super" Wednesdays for professional development which were also recommended by the principals. Two other dates will be presented at a later date. A discussion ensued about why the district does not have two professional development days resulting in no school days for the students.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – July 20, 2022

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the two days as presented for the two “super” Wednesdays with the caveat that as the district enters into negotiations professional development, going forward, will be addressed.

- (b) Discussion and Approval of Happy Hollow Library Inventory for Disposal:
Dr. Easy noted that the library inventory for Happy Hollow is old and non-usable.
- (c) Discussion and Approval of Wayland High School Library Inventory for Disposal:
Dr. Easy also noted that the library inventory for Wayland High School is old and non-usable.

Upon a motion duly made by Jeanne Downs, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the list of books for Happy Hollow and Wayland High School for disposal.

- (d) Hockey Program Update:
Dr. Easy updated the School Committee regarding the boys’ hockey program. He met with Dr. Mizoguchi, Heath Rollins, and the Hockey Association to come up with possible solutions to this issue. Dr. Easy also met with other district superintendents facing the same issue, and it was agreed that Wayland will partner with Watertown, including the use of the hockey rink in Watertown. Financial costs are still being discussed. Dr. Easy noted that the girls’ hockey team partners with Weston.
- (e) Update on Language Based Program at Claypit Hill:
A language-based program was established at Claypit Hill Elementary School, and two staff members will co-teach phonics instruction to those students who have been identified across the district in Grades 2, 3, and 4. Dr. Easy noted that the district has entered into a consulting contract with Landmark School. An Orton-Gillingham instructor was hired for the Extended School Year Program for those students who will be placed in this program next year, and there will also be a reading specialist and a .5 FTE Speech Language Pathologist for the next school year.

Dr. Easy described the consulting services that Landmark School will provide. A discussion ensued about this program in which eight students will be serviced.

4. **Administrative Matters:**

- (a) Request for Additional Programs in Wayland High School Student Activities Account:
The two programs requested to be added in the WHS student activities account is Innovative Pathways, for which funds will be available for supplies and materials. The Summer Bridge Program is in its second year and was grant funded during the first year.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to add the two student activity accounts as proposed by the administration.

- (b) Discussion, Assignment and Possible Vote of Committee Roles and Liaison Positions:
This agenda item was passed over.
- (c) Discussion and Approval of School Committee Calendar:
The School Committee and Dr. Easy reviewed the current meeting calendar for the months of October and November. The Committee agreed to change the October meetings to the 12th and 26th. The meetings in November will be held on the 9th, 17th, and the 30th.

Ellen Grieco proposed a start time of 6:00 p.m. for all meetings going forward. The School Committee members concurred.

- (d) Discussion regarding Annual Report Submission to the Town:
The School Committee discussed the Annual Report which is due by September 30, 2022. Erin Gibbons will draft the report for submission and it will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- (e) Discussion regarding School Committee Retreat:
The School Committee discussed having a team-building exercise for which a consultant would be hired. A discussion ensued about the role of the School Committee, and suggestions were made in terms of additional topics to be covered, such as appropriate communication and how to best support the Superintendent.

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – July 20, 2022

- (f) Discussion regarding the Hiring Process per Policy GCF:
Given the timeline to hire a Claypit Hill principal, the School Committee discussed Policy GCF (Hiring New Staff) and compared it to the MASC policy with the possibility of amending the policy. The two policies are similar to one another. Dr. Easy and the School Committee discussed the search process and timeline going forward, including hiring an interim principal vs. a permanent principal.

Parry reiterated the search process for the Happy Hollow principal two years ago.

5. **Financial Matters:**

- (a) Loker Roof Update:

The Loker roof is under construction and is moving forward to be on schedule for the opening of school, including the installation of the electrical rooftop units. Jeanne noted that additional funding for the electric units was approved and still falls within the project budget. Tom Lafleur will be attending weekly status meetings regarding the roof. Tom commented that several minor issues were raised by the building and fire departments and they are being addressed. The rooftop units are scheduled to be installed between August 1 and 12. Dr. Easy expressed his concern about the temporary electrical panel within the building and the timely manner of obtaining an occupancy permit. A discussion ensued in this regard.

- (b) Bus Parking Update:

The permit to park the buses behind the Town Building expires on August 31; however, the Town applied to extend the permit with the hopes for permanent approval. Concerns were raised by the Planning Board and ZBA which will be addressed. Jeanne described this process moving forward.

- (c): Electric Bus Update:

Although obtaining electric buses is a few years out, the process has been started, including applying for a grant, deadline of August 19 and based on a lottery system, from EPA funds to purchase one town-owned bus and two mini buses. The Town Manager will be the chief procurement officer. A discussion ensued in this regard.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) in support of investigating electric buses.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Accounts Payables Warrant: \$1,031,019.78

- (b) Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2022, June 14, 2022 and June 22, 2022:

Jeanne noted edits to the June 8 and June 22 minutes.

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Jess Polizzotti, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the minutes as modified.

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

None.

8. **Executive Session:**

Upon a motion duly made by Chris Ryan, seconded by Jeanne Downs, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to enter Executive Session at 7:42 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; and (b) approving the following executive session minutes, as permitted by M.G.L. c.30A, §22: June 8, 2022 and June 22, 2022. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Chris Ryan, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – July 20, 2022

The School Committee will be joined by Dr. Omar Easy, Superintendent, Parry Graham, Assistant Superintendent, and Diane Marobella, recording secretary.

The School Committee will adjourn in Executive Session and will not reconvene in open session.

9. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Erin Gibbons, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Chris Ryan, Chair	X	
Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair	X	
Jeanne Downs	X	
Erin Gibbons	X	
Jess Polizzotti	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Omar Easy, Clerk
Wayland School Committee

Observers:

Michael Henrich, Wayland Hockey Assoc.
Rob Desmond, Wayland Hockey Assoc.
Matthew Ali, Wayland Hockey Assoc.
Kevin Pletta, Wayland Hockey Assoc.

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Public Comments
3. Happy Hollow Books for Disposal/Recycle
4. WHS Books for Disposal/Recycle
5. Revised 2022-2023 School Committee Meetings
6. Policy GCF re: Hiring
7. MASC Policy re: Hiring
8. Accounts Payables Warrant
9. Draft June 8, 2022 Minutes
10. Draft June 14, 2022 Minutes
11. Draft June 22, 2022 Minutes
12. Executive Session Motion