

**Advisory Committee**  
**September 25, 2013**  
**Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Marjorie Freiman called the meeting of the Wellesley Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included Bob Capozzi, Mary Crown, Thomas Engels, Becky Epstein, Tom Frisardi, Ann-Marie Gross, John Hartnett, Lucy Kapples, Andy Patten, Ann Rappaport, Deb Robi, and Mason Smith.

Citizen Speak

No one wished to speak.

Wellesley Public Schools Overview

Dr. David Lussier, Superintendent, reviewed the FY14 budget. He outlined the budget goals which include collaboration, support of district priorities and transparency, both in the budget process and the resultant end product. The District will address math and science programs, narrow the achievement gap, expand professional development and develop an educator appraisal system.

School Funding Fiscal Year 2014

Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance and Business Operations, discussed the FY14 budget. The major areas include general operating expenses, including Special Education and cash capital. She discussed the principal components of each section including revenue sources and expenses. Salaries comprise 88% of the total budget of which 75% is teacher compensation. Ms. Belliveau also reviewed current enrollment figures, projected enrollment, class size and other staffing costs.

Dr. Lussier presented the FY15 budget preview. Major considerations include strategic plan implementation, collective bargaining outcomes, development of an educator appraisal system and ELL (English Language Learning) certification compliance.

School Strategic Plan

Dr. Lussier outlined the strategic planning process to date, which includes creating an Advisory Committee, community forums, focus groups, interviews and a community survey answered by 1559 respondents. Key findings such as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were discussed. Four strategic objectives were determined: focusing on every child at all times, investing in educators, providing broad-based learning opportunities and aligning resources with educational needs.

School Facilities Master Plan

KC Kato, Chair of the School Committee, gave an overview of the school facilities. She was joined by School Facilities Committee members, Jack Morgan, Wendy Paul, and Barbara Searle. Ms. Kato discussed the planning process. Capacity versus enrollment, educational programs and facilities infrastructure were considered in creating the Elementary Facilities Plan. The WMS (Wellesley Middle School) Plan is still being processed. Several modeling scenarios were considered including redistricting, reconfiguration, redistricting with renovation and remodeling and reconfiguration with renovation and remodeling. It was concluded that the current number of classrooms will stay within the class size guidelines. All existing schools are still needed, but

plans are being made to retire the old modular units. Changes in educational needs and mandated programs have increased and changed the space requirements. They will implement a parallel path approach to bring all schools to parity.

#### Feedback on Budget Guidelines for September 26 Inter-Board Meeting

Tom Engels, Vice Chair, reviewed the budget guidelines currently being considered for the next fiscal year budget preparations. A budget with no overrides is deemed desirable. He mentioned a 1.75% increase would be the best the Town could handle without any new revenue sources. Discussion followed.

#### Update on Articles Anticipated at Special Town Meeting

Ms. Freiman discussed the changes in the warrant and the expected final list of Articles to be included. She stated that the Town Hall renovation project had been postponed, as well as consideration of providing alcohol in Town buildings. Union contracts for patrolmen will be included if collective bargaining is completed.

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Lucy Kapples to approve the minutes of September 18, 2013. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

#### Liaison Reports

Various members of the Advisory Committee provided their liaison reports.

#### New Business

There was no new business presented for review.

#### Announcements

Ms. Freiman advised the yearly calendar updates could be found in Dropbox. There will be an Inter-Board meeting on September 26, 2013 at the Police Station at 7:30 p.m.

Tom Engels, Lucy Kapples and Andy Patten will comprise the Spelling Bee team from Advisory.

Ms. Freiman adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m. with no objections.