

## **REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**2014-2015**

**Patti Quigley, Chairman  
Wendy Paul, Vice Chairman  
Matt Kelley, Secretary  
KC Kato  
Tere Ramos**

The School Committee is very appreciative of the continued support of the town and the collaborative support of other town boards and departments.

### **Personnel**

1. Fifty-five new educators began the school year in August 2014. There were also a number of new appointments in administrative positions. Wellesley High School welcomed new principal, Dr. Jamie Chisum, and Bates Elementary School welcomed new principal, Toni Jolley. New senior administrators at the Central Office included Lori Cimeno, appointed as the Director of Student Services, and Gayle McCracken as the Director of Human Resources.
2. In March 2015, Wellesley voters elected School Committee member Anthony Bent and Sharon Gray to three-year terms.
3. Also, in March 2015, KC Kato and Tere Ramos completed their terms as elected School Committee members. The School Committee thanks Ms. Kato and Ms. Ramos for their years of service both to the School Committee and the town of Wellesley.

### **School Operations and Budgeting**

1. School Committee ended FY14 with an operational budget surplus of \$236,028. These funds were turned back to the town and reverted to the Town's free cash. Prior year capital and unexpended encumbrances were an additional \$197,753, for a total turnback from the School Department of \$433,781.
2. School Committee and Town Meeting approved an FY15 budget of \$63,524,619 or a 5.6% percent increase over FY14. The budget was comprised of \$45,417,979 for Instruction, Administration and Operations, and \$18,106,640 for Special Education. The Special Education model in this budget includes all special education costs, not just the high cost categories. The budget was contingent on passage of an operating Proposition 2 ½ override. Thanks to the support of many volunteers and the entire Wellesley community, the override was successful.

3. A number of significant activities focused on teaching and learning. During SY2014-2015, the full-day Kindergarten model was implemented across all elementary schools. Each Kindergarten class was staffed by a full time teacher and a full time teaching assistant. This was also the first year that all freshmen at Wellesley High School took Physics as the first course in the high school science sequence. At the Middle School, the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade 1:1 iPad initiative was rolled out, allowing each student to have a device in school that could be integrated into the WMS curricula.
4. The Superintendent launched a new effort to leverage the intellectual capital within Wellesley through the Superintendent Advisory Committees comprised of staff and community members. The four committees represent: STEAM, District Scorecard, District Technology Plan, and World Language.
5. The School Committee began a comprehensive review of all district policies to ensure compliance with state regulations and updated practices. The Committee contracted with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) to help facilitate this process, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2015.

### **School Facilities**

The major renovations projects for Fiske and Schofield that were approved at Town Meeting in 2014 began this year, with most of the interior work slated to be completed during the summer 2015 and exterior work to be completed in the summer of 2016.

WPS also submitted an application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to support the replacement of the windows at the Wellesley Middle School. The Wellesley application was selected for funding through the MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program. More than 280 windows at the Middle School will be replaced during the summer of 2016.

The School Facilities Committee (SFC), comprised of representatives from the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Facilities Maintenance Department, WPS Administration, and the Town Executive Director, continued to meet throughout the year to examine the options for addressing the facilities needs at the Hardy, Hunnewell, and Upham schools. The SFC is expected to bring a recommendation forward in the fall of 2015.

## **Enrollment**

As of October 1, 2014 in Grades K-12 (includes students in approved foreign exchange programs, participating in ABC or METCO programs, and others):

Elementary Schools	Grades K-5	2,305
Middle School	Grades 6-8	1,178
High School	Grades 9-12	1,486
Beyond Grade 12	Ages 18-22	<u>3</u>

Total WPS Enrollment\* 4,972

PAWS Preschool 111

WPS Students attending schools outside of Wellesley  
(Out of District) 55

The School Committee extends thanks, congratulations and best wishes to the following members of the faculty who retired during the past year. We appreciate their dedication and service to the Town of Wellesley.

Suzanne Chmielinski  
Barbara Joans-Daddario  
Kathy Bonsall  
Phyllis Fermon

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Quigley