

**Wellesley Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
January 8, 2019
Great Hall, Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 5 pm. Those present included Committee Chair Matt Kelley, Vice Chair Melissa Martin, Secretary Linda Chow, and members Michael D'Ortenzio Jr. and Sharon Gray; Superintendent David Lussier, and Assistant Superintendents Joan Dabrowski and Cindy Mahr. Mr. Kelley announced that the meeting is being recorded by local media.

PUBLIC COMMENT No one present wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Lussier recognized the following groups and individuals:

From K-12 Performing Arts Director Mike LaCava: Congratulations to the Wellesley High School music students who were recently selected to participate in the 2019 All-Eastern Honors Ensembles. The ensembles consist of the top high school musicians from New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia. These students qualified for consideration by receiving a top score at the Mass. Music Educators All-State Festival last year where each student participated in the All-State Ensembles. They will travel to Pittsburgh to join other top high school musicians for several rehearsals leading up to the All-Eastern Concert on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The selected students are: **Clare Kelley, Liliana Sydorenko, Alex Schneider - All-Eastern Chorus; and Rebecca Eneyi - All-Eastern Band.** Special thanks and congratulations to **Dr. Kevin McDonald**, WHS Chorus Director, and **Mr. Steve Scott**, WHS Band Director, who supported and prepared these students for this program.

Dr. Lussier also acknowledged the **WHS Rice Street** and **Keynote Singers** who performed with the Boston Pops for their "Home Alone Live" performances on December 29th and 30th at Symphony Hall. The students and Dr. McDonald prepared the music and on December 18th Maestro Lockhart came to Wellesley High School to rehearse the ensemble. The students also had a dress rehearsal at Symphony Hall on December 28th. The performances were spectacular and exceeded all expectations. Thank you to **Dr. McDonald** for his time in organizing this amazing opportunity for students and to WHS Choral Accompanist **Chad Weirick** for his work with the students and program.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Martin announced the Committee will hold **office hours** on Thursday, January 10, 2019, from 9 to 10 am, at the Tolles Parson Center.

Ms. Chow reminded the Committee that at the January 14 Selectmen's meeting, there will be a **panel discussion on diversity** which will include Dr. Lussier and

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representatives from various houses of worship, a real estate agency, and World of Wellesley.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lussier announced that **Kindergarten Roundups** are scheduled to register incoming kindergarteners for the 2019-20 school year. Committee members are welcome to attend either or both sessions to meet new and returning families. Registration packets have been sent out to every family identified in the Town census as having a kindergarten-age student. Documents are also posted online. Roundup dates are: January 31, from 10 am to 1 pm for PAWS families only; February 6, from 3 to 6 pm; and March 2, from 9 to 12 noon.

Dr. Lussier informed the Committee that WHS Assistant Superintendent **Lynne Novogroski** has announced her **retirement** at the end of this school year. He congratulated Ms. Novogroski who has been an outstanding administrator, educator and colleague over the past 49 years.

The **Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast** is scheduled for January 21st, starting at 8am, at Mass Bay Community College. Committee members are welcome to attend.

CONSENT AGENDA

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Mr. D'Ortenzio, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee **VOTED** to approve the December 11, 2018 Open Session minutes as amended. The vote was 4-0 in favor with 1 abstention.

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. D'Ortenzio, Jr. the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda including the Gift Acceptances and Trip Approval.

FY20 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Kelley opened the discussion addressing the work that has occurred to date and next steps including continued review and discussion of the Administration's budget recommendation, a public hearing scheduled for January 22nd, a Committee vote on February 5th, and presentation of the Committee's budget to the Advisory Committee on February 6th.

Ms. Mahr addressed an adjustment needed to the FY20 budget presented to the Committee in December. She explained that last year's Town Meeting voted a School budget of \$74,428,917; School Committee voted a budget of \$74,468,917, which was inclusive of \$40,000 in health benefit costs related to the FTEs that were added to last year's budget. The health benefits for proposed staff changes in FY20 should have totaled \$290,000, but the budget only reflected \$250,000 due to the reconciliation of the FY19 voted budget amounts between the Town Meeting vote and School Committee vote. The FY19 health benefit amount of \$40,000 was accounted for while building the FY20 budget and should not have reduced the FY20 health benefit costs. When the overall health costs are adjusted to \$290,000, the proposal as presented in December is a 3.81 percent increase.

There was a question relative to how the Town/Advisory Committee will interpret this change and whether there has been a conversation with representatives from Town Hall to ensure everyone is on the same page. Ms. Mahr will be meeting with members from the Finance Department tomorrow and will discuss this with them.

The Committee began its review of the FY20 budget proposal on an item by item basis, starting with Level Service position requests. There was discussion on the rationale for the inclusion of the various reclassification proposals as Level Service requests, including the restructuring of Special Education positions, redefining of the Director of Library and Innovation position, and reclassification of the PreK-12 Professional Development Coordinator and Coordinator of Assessment and Accountability.

The Committee then reviewed the Strategic Plan position requests, specifically those relating to Spanish FLES and Grade 6 World Language.

There was general agreement that those positions with direct impact on students have higher priority than those that do not.

Due to timing, the budget discussion was tabled to address the Hunnewell project options.

HUNNEWELL SHORTLIST OF OPTIONS

Ms. Gray indicated that Committee members attended the joint meeting with the SBC and Selectmen in December where SMMA presented the 10 proposed options for the Hunnewell project. Ms. Gray is requesting feedback from the Committee on these options to bring forward to the SBC in consideration of developing up to four options for the short list.

The Committee discussed each of the options, including concerns with the options that do not appear to have strong focal points or centralized areas for learning; the number of floor levels in the building; concerns with flow and traffic around the building; allowing for indoor/outdoor classrooms and use of the Fuller Brook for this purpose. Sustainability is of concern including the restoration of the tree and the 1938 section of the building, as long as restoration of these areas do not compromise the long-term design of the building in providing the flexibility needed for 21st century learning. Dr. Lussier also discussed the need to sequester community use areas such as the gym, cafeteria, and stage away from learning areas to allow for use after hours while still keeping classroom areas secure.

Ms. Gray indicated that at the January 10th meeting, it is anticipated that the 10 options will be reviewed with the refinements made by SMMA, and that the group will reach a tentative agreement on a shortlist of four options. School Committee does not need to vote on the shortlist, but should be in overall agreement with the attributes that should be included. SBC representatives will be attending the January 24th Hunnewell PTO meeting and will hold a community forum on January 29th to share the shortlist options and timeline. It is planned that a final decision on the four options will be reached at the January 31st SBC meeting.

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HARDY-UPHAM AND HUNNEWELL FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE

Hardy/Upham

Ms. Chow removed herself from the table at 6:59 pm

Ms. Gray reported that the Hardy/Upham OPM selection committee met on Thursday, January 3, and reviewed eight proposals. Four candidates were selected for finalist interviews on January 17th, and she anticipates a decision will be made at the end of that evening. Once a selection has been made, the information on the finalist selection will be submitted to the MSBA for presentation to the Owner's Project Manager Panel in March. When a decision is reached in March by the MSBA, the SBC can then go forward with the architect selection process.

Ms. Chow rejoined the meeting at 7 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phyllis Theerman of Sustainable Wellesley is hopeful that the energy analysis will occur after the shortlist is decided and be part of the full development of the options.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 7:02 pm, upon a motion made by Mr. D'Ortenzio, Jr. and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee ***unanimously VOTED*** to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Kelley
Chair

Documents and Exhibits Used:

Trip Approval Form: German Exchange

FY20 Budget Overview Sheet

FY20 Budget Presentation – 12/11/18

Hunnewell Project Joint Mtg Presentation – 12/20/18