

**REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
2005-2006**

**SUSAN JABLONSKI, CHAIRMAN
SUZANNE NEWMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN
SUZANNE LITTLEFIELD, SECRETARY
MARLENE ALLEN
MICHAEL YOUNG**

Under the leadership of Dr. Matthew King, Superintendent of Schools, the Wellesley Public Schools have implemented and continued initiatives to ensure, assess and improve student performance. The School Committee has also continued the planned renovation of the Middle School while developing a plan to address the still-growing elementary school population and working with other Town entities to create a proposal for renovating and expanding the High School.

The School Committee wishes to report the following:

1. School Committee approved a budget request that was a 10.09% increase over FY06. The total FY07 budget approved by Annual Town Meeting in March 2006 required an override of Proposition 2-1/2. Following Town Meeting, the Selectmen developed a “menu” style override asking the electorate to decide three different proposals. The first of the three questions, requesting an override of \$3,158,618 for schools and other general government services, passed. Approval of the budget enabled the schools to reinstate a number of services for students at all levels that had been cut during previous budget years.
2. School Committee received approval from Town Meeting for \$783,652 in funds to cover unexpected special education and heating costs incurred during FY06. These funds supplemented monies appropriated during the Spring 2005 Town Meeting. As promised during the March 2006 Town Meeting, School Committee pursued “circuit breaker” funding through the Commonwealth and received \$272,051 in May 2006 to help cover those incremental expenses. The total \$272,051 was returned to the Town of Wellesley’s general fund at the close of the fiscal year.
3. Work continued on the \$26.1 million renovation of Wellesley Middle School. The schedule calls for completion of all work at the middle school by August 2007. The School Committee and the Permanent Building Committee expect the project to be completed according to that schedule.
4. The new modular construction preschool building was installed and opened in January 2006 on the Hastings Street campus of the Fiske School. Teachers, staff and students moved into the new facility from the temporary site near the DPW headquarters. An official opening of the school occurred in June 2006.
5. In September 2005, the School Committee received a report from Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, who had been hired to evaluate options for expanding, renovating or building a new facility at Wellesley High School. The School Committee held ten “listening forums” during the fall to educate citizens about the four options contained in

the report and to describe the process the Town would follow to develop a specific plan to bring to Town Meeting. Simultaneously, the Facilities Advisory Committee, a group of 12 citizens appointed by the School Committee, met to study the SMMA report and to recommend an option.

6. Following the listening forums and the completion of the Facility Advisory Committee's work, the School Committee requested, and received approval for, \$150,000 to study the program to be offered at Wellesley High School. In July 2006 the Town Moderator appointed a committee of six citizens to drive the programming study process in consultation with Mr. Frank Locker, of DeJong, Inc. Their report is expected in the fall of 2006.
7. In October 2005 SMMA delivered its report regarding a study of five of the seven elementary school facilities in Wellesley, excluding Sprague and Bates, where significant new construction and renovations were recently completed. The report served as the basis of School Committee's five-year capital improvement plan for those schools. Pending trends in Wellesley's elementary enrollment, the report also describes various options future school committees might follow to modernize the physical structures of those elementary schools.
8. Town Meeting approved the School Committee's request for \$2,320,000 for the Fall 2006 installation of seven modular elementary classrooms at Fiske (3) and Schofield (4) Schools. These classrooms will accommodate the significant rise in enrollment at those two schools. It was necessary to acquire modular classroom space because the five other elementary schools are fully utilized and because the School Committee has committed to provide within-district special education services to as many of our special needs students as possible. In-district programs realize significant cost savings over out-of-district placements for special education students.
9. The success of the Wellesley Public Schools continues to be enriched by ongoing support from hundreds of volunteers who contribute their time, energy, creativity and significant financial support. The Parent-Teacher Organizations, the Central Council of PTO's, the Committee for Education in the 21st Century, the Wellesley Education Foundation, sports booster clubs, and many other groups all offer tremendous incremental support to our schools. The schools and the School Committee are deeply grateful for their significant and broad support.
10. In March 2006, voters elected Marlene Allen and Michael Young to three-year terms on the School Committee. Gerald Murphy and Anna Sereiko each served the Town for one three-year term. The School Committee thanks them for their service to Wellesley and for their dedication to public education for our children.

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

Samuel Baker	Arlene Bernstein	Judith Boroschek
Sue Bright-Belanger	Marsha Rogers Canick	Lee Delph
Ellen Fisher	Stephen Rumsey	Eugene Vaccaro
Gail Vaccaro	Charles Walsh	

WELLESLEY RESIDENTS ENROLLED IN SCHOOLS

as of
October 1, 2005 in Grades K-12

WELLESLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	<u>Non-resident*</u>	<u>Wellesley resident</u>
Elementary Schools	Grades K-5 79	Grades K-5 2,184
Middle School	Grades 6-8 39	Grades 6-8 954
High School	Grades 9-12 <u>58</u>	Grades 9-12 <u>1,146</u>
	176	4,284

(Total Wellesley Public Schools enrollment,
both resident and non-resident) 4,460

STUDENTS ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY
(including programs under the direction of The Education Cooperative). 19
STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY
(state-approved special education programs for which Wellesley pays tuition. 48
VOCATIONAL/REGIONAL SCHOOLS 4

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN WELLESLEY

Dana Hall	Grades 6-12	68
St. John's School	Grades K-6	126
St. Paul's School	Grades K-8	43
Tenacre Country Day	Grades K-6	<u>63</u>
	TOTAL	300

PRIVATE SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY**
Grades K-12 457

GRAND TOTAL **5,288**

* Includes students paying tuition, in approved foreign exchange programs, participating in ABC or METCO programs, and others.

** Excluding state-approved private special education schools for which Wellesley pays tuition.