

**REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
2011-2012**

Suzanne Littlefield, Chairman
Diane Campbell, Vice Chairman
Wendy Paul, Secretary
KC Kato
Tere Ramos

This year was marked by several operating and leadership challenges within the district. School Committee worked diligently through them all; focusing on the best interests of our students and the future needs of the District. The School Committee is very appreciative of the continued support of the Town, as well as the collaborative support by other town boards and departments during a challenging year. School Committee wishes to report the following:

Personnel

1. Fifty three new educators began the school year in August 2011. Schofield School welcomed new principal Gerardo Martinez; Bates School welcomed new principal David leong; and Wellesley Middle School welcomed Interim Principal Jamie Chisum. Fiske Principal, Elaine Harold, acted as principal at two schools, Fiske and Upham, for the school year, covering the maternity leave of Tracey Mara, Upham principal.
2. In November 2011, Superintendent Bella Wong announced her resignation from the Wellesley Public Schools, effective June 30, 2012. School Committee appointed a search committee, chaired by KC Kato, to conduct a nationwide search for a new Superintendent. The Superintendent Search Committee, composed of 15 community and school members, conducted an open and inclusive search from December 2011 until April 2012. On May 8, 2012 School Committee voted Dr. David Lussier as new Superintendent of the Wellesley Public Schools, starting July 1, 2012.
3. On March 6, 2012 Wellesley voters re-elected School Committee member KC Kato and elected School Committee member Tere Ramos to three year terms.

School Operations and Budgeting

1. School Committee ended FY11 with an operational budget surplus of \$1.45 million, in addition to prior year capital and other funds of \$687,000. These funds were turned back to the Town and reverted to the Town's free cash.
2. School Committee and Town Meeting approved an FY13 budget of \$58,115,123 or a 4.2% increase over FY12, excluding facilities (see Facilities discussion below). The budget season for School Committee was challenged by the

departure of the School Business Administrator in mid-November, 2011, a critical time in the annual budget season. An interim business manager together with the Central Administration team prepared the FY13 budget in a condensed time period. In addition, support from Financial Services at Town Hall was critical during the FY13 budget development. A collaborative and complete review of the budget done concurrently by School Committee and Advisory's School Subcommittee allowed for a School Committee approved FY13 budget by the end of January. The budget was comprised of \$47,642,485 for General Operating expenses and \$10,472,638 for STTI. Included in the FY13 STTI budget is further expansion of the District's inclusion program with the creation of a therapeutic program in the Middle School and the creation of an additional program, Launch, for 18-22 year olds in the High School.

3. The K-12 Social Studies curriculum review continued during the 2011-2012 academic year. The review was continued into the next year due to changes in leadership across multiple positions.
4. Bully prevention policies were enacted system wide.
5. The District had two financial reviews. First, the Audit Committee conducted a review, done by Powers and Sullivan, of the School Business Office and selected revenue programs. Second, the Superintendent conducted a review of the School Business Office functions and staffing, done by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials. Recommendations of the reviews are being implemented across the system.
6. The District had a Coordinated Program Review: an onsite review focused on Special Education, Civil Rights and English as a second language. In addition, the District had an audit of the Food Service Department. The Program Review and Food Service audit were both done by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
7. In April, 2012 School Committee voted to not renew the contract with Chartwells for food services in the District. Following a Request for Proposals and a complete review of vendors who applied, School Committee voted to have Whitson's provide food services for the upcoming school year.

School Facilities

1. The AdHoc Facilities Maintenance Committee was appointed by the Town Moderator at the March 2011 Annual Town Meeting(ATM). School Committee representative Diane Campbell, attended meetings on behalf of School Committee. The recommendation by this committee to consolidate facilities in a separate Facilities Maintenance Department was unanimously supported by School Committee and adopted by Town Meeting at the Spring 2012 ATM. As result of this consolidation, funds for school facilities were

removed from the School's FY13 operating budget but still reviewed by School Committee in their normal budget review. The School Facilities Director, Joe McDonough, was appointed Director of the new town wide Facilities department.

2. Over Thanksgiving weekend 2011, the Town celebrated the old high school in a series of events under the title "Turn Out the Lights". All the events were well attended and culminated in a sold out concert of alumnae performers on Saturday, November 26, 2011.
3. On February 28, 2012 the Wellesley High School community gathered in the Larsson gym in the old school and then all marched into the new high school. The new high school was completed 6 months ahead of schedule, allowing for an earlier move in date than the originally planned of September 2012. On May 19, 2012 the new high school was officially dedicated after many days of celebrations and tours. In addition, the Katherine L. Babson, Jr. auditorium was dedicated to "Gig" Babson in appreciation for her years of service to the Town, especially for serving as Chair of the Wellesley High School Building Committee.
4. In November 2011 construction of six additional classrooms, including a science lab, was completed in the Wellesley Middle School to accommodate increased enrollment.
5. Work began on a District-wide facilities study to assess all school facilities and grounds. The firm SMMA was hired to conduct the review and a final report was anticipated for Fall 2012.
6. In March 2012 Ilissa Povich stepped down from School Committee following the completion of one three-year term. The School Committee thanks her for her service to Wellesley and her dedication to public education for our children.

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.

Susan Farkas
Bonnie Greenberg
Christine Hall
Jan Fovel
Barbara Ohanian
Nancy Harrison
Elaine Harold

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Littlefield

WELLESLEY RESIDENTS ENROLLED IN SCHOOLS

as of

October 1, 2011 in Grades K-12

WELLESLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	<u>Non-resident*</u>	<u>Wellesley resident</u>
Elementary Schools	Grades K-5 76	Grades K-5 2,279
Middle School	Grades 6-8 55	Grades 6-8 1,121
High School	Grades 9-12 <u>48</u>	Grades 9-12 <u>1,307</u>
	179	4,707

(Total Wellesley Public Schools enrollment,
both resident and non-resident) 4,886

STUDENTS ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY
(including programs under the direction of The Education Cooperative). 11

STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY
(state-approved special education programs for which Wellesley pays tuition. 66

VOCATIONAL/REGIONAL SCHOOLS 0

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN WELLESLEY

Dana Hall	Grades 6-12	74
St. John's School	Grades K-6	96
St. Paul's School	Grades K-8	57
Tenacre Country Day	Grades K-6	<u>83</u>
	TOTAL	310

PRIVATE SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY**
Grades K-12 757

GRAND TOTAL **6,030**

* Includes students 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.