

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2013-2014 FY14

**KC Kato, Chairman
Wendy Paul, Vice Chairman
Patti Quigley, Secretary
Matt Kelley
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. Forty-four new educators began the school year in August 2013. There were a number of new and interim appointments in administrative positions. Hardy School welcomed new principal Charlene Cook, Hunnewell School welcomed new principal Ellen Quirk, and the Central Administration welcomed Dean Blase as the new Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Kathleen Dooley as the new Director of Technology. New Department Heads were appointed in the Middle School Guidance Department, and the High School Science and English Departments.
2. On March 4, 2014 Wellesley voters elected School Committee member Matt Kelley and re-elected Wendy Paul both to three-year terms.
3. Also, in March 2014, Diane Campbell completed her term as an elected School Committee member. The School Committee would like to thank Ms. Campbell for her years of service both to the School Committee and the town of Wellesley.

School Operations and Budgeting

1. 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, with Question #2 receiving 59 percent of the votes. This additional funding will allow the District to implement a full-day Kindergarten model beginning in SY2013-2014.
2. A number of significant activities focused on teaching and learning. K-5 Social Studies curriculum units were written and revised. The grades 6-8 revised

Science curriculum has been purchased and Middle School teachers have been planning for the implementation of the program, which will now include Earth Science curricula that has shifted from the High School. Also, the 9th grade Physics course was piloted successfully at Wellesley High School and will be fully implemented as the 9th grade science course for all students during SY 2014-2015 fall. Three high school educators will attend training on Exploring Computer Science, and will offer a summer version of the course to a select group of students in preparation for their enrollment in Exploring Computer Science this fall.

3. The Superintendent and Advisory Task Force completed the development of a multi-year strategic plan for the Wellesley Public Schools. This process engaged staff and community. This initiative was funded through the generosity of WEF.

The 5-year Strategic Plan focuses on the following key areas many of which will be funded in the FY15 budget:

- a. ***Focus on Every Child, in Every Classroom, Everyday;***
 - b. ***Invest in Educators;***
 - c. ***Provide Broad-Based Learning Opportunities as Part of World Class Public School System;***
 - d. ***Align Resources with Educational Needs.***
4. In the spring of 2014, the School Committee and Wellesley Teachers Association came to an agreement on a three-year contract to support educators in FY14-FY16.
 5. A number of School Committee Policies were revised and voted. The new or revised policies were the Facilities Rental Policy, a Tutoring for Pay Policy, a School Enrollment and Assignment Policy, a revised Bullying Policy, a Student Records Policy and a revised Student Admission to WPS Policy.
 6. Progress continues to be made in the School Business Office and the implementation of policies and procedures recommended by the MASBO review and Audit Committee findings.

School Facilities

The School Facilities Committee, comprised of representatives from the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Facilities Maintenance Department, WPS Administration, and the Town Executive Director, developed a Facilities Planning Framework based on the SMMA conditions inventory conducted in 2012. The planning framework was presented to Town Meeting in December 2013. Town Meeting approved design funds to support renovations at Fiske and Schofield elementary schools, and funds to further study facilities work needed at the Middle School, and Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham elementary schools.

In the Spring of 2014, the School Committee and Board of Selectmen submitted Statement of Interests to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham elementary school renovations and the Middle School windows replacement. In June 2014, the town of Wellesley was invited to participate in the Accelerated Repair Program to replace the Middle School windows.

Enrollment

As of October 1, 2013 in Grades K-12 (includes students in approved foreign exchange programs, participating in ABC or METCO programs, and others)

Elementary Schools	Grades K-5	2,341
Middle School	Grades 6-8	1,164
High School	Grades 9-12	1,435
Beyond Grade 12	Ages 18-22	<u>7</u>
Total WPS Enrollment*		5,041

WPS Students attending schools outside of Wellesley (Out of District)	54
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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.

Haralie Alpert	Mary Fitzgerald
Gretchen Bravacos	Sal Petralia
James Burke	Chuck Tiberio
Meg Davis	Deb Toal
Bill Engels	Linda Waters

Respectfully submitted,
KC Kato