

**REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
2006-2007**

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

The 2006-2007 school year was marked by a much higher than usual number of changes in personnel plus completion, continuation and initiation of a number of projects related to our school buildings. The School Committee was pleased with the outcomes and is appreciative of the support received by the Town.

Personnel Changes

In June 2006, Dr. Matthew King announced his intention to retire June 30, 2007, upon the completion of eleven years as superintendent of schools. Following an extensive search with help from a consultant and input from many constituencies within the town, the School Committee appointed Assistant Superintendent Bella T. Wong to become superintendent. Additional significant turnover required us to hire several other school administrators, including Carol Gregory, assistant superintendent; Andrew Keough, high school principal; Adam Blumer, interim middle school principal; Sheryl Boris-Schacter, Hunnewell School principal; and Donna Dankner, Sprague School principal.

In May 2007 the district mourned the death of Ellen Cunniff, who was initially appointed principal of the Hunnewell School in 1992, where she served until becoming principal of the new Sprague School when it opened in 2002.

The School Committee wishes to report the following:

1. School Committee approved a budget request for FY08 that was a 5.5% increase over the previous year and which met the target figure requested by the fiscal plan developed by the Advisory Committee. This budget had the benefit of favorable timing for State special education reimbursement. It provided for energy cost increases that were lower than in previous years and operating improvements in out-of-district special education transportation costs. The budget was approved by Town Meeting in March. No operating override was required.
2. School Committee and the Selectmen agreed to consolidate town-wide building maintenance operations beginning in mid-2006. John Donahue was hired as the town's facilities director. We look forward to operating benefits in future years.
3. Work continued on the \$26.1 million renovation of Wellesley Middle School throughout the year, and when school ended in June, the middle school community began to anticipate with some relief the end of phased renovations that had become a way of life over three years, leading to a completed project in time for the opening of school in September.

4. Town meeting and the voters approved a debt exclusion of \$11.2 million for a three-year program of major maintenance at Fiske, Upham, Hardy, Schofield and Hunnewell schools and other maintenance projects at the middle school and high school. The majority of the expenditure relates to roof and boiler replacements at the five elementary schools.
5. The architectural programming project for the high school that was approved by Annual Town Meeting in 2006 was concluded. The results of this project were widely communicated through public forums and posting on the town web site. This “program” defines the requirements for a new or renovated high school facility.
6. The school committee, moderator, selectmen, and town counsel worked collaboratively to assess the implications of the newly constituted state agency known as the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), which is the body responsible for allocating state funds for the renovation and/or construction of school buildings. In accordance with the MSBA’s new regulations, Wellesley formed a School Building Committee (SBC), with membership from school committee, selectmen, school administration, the Permanent Building Committee, and town citizens who possess relevant expertise in design and construction.
7. The 2007 Annual Town Meeting approved funding for the SBC to engage an architect to help define and evaluate alternative ways to address conditions and limitations in the existing high school. That work is underway. School committee is appreciative of what the SBC has accomplished to date and looks forward to continued collaboration with them.
8. The Wellesley Public Schools is fortunate to have consistent support from hundreds of volunteers who contribute their time, energy, creativity and significant financial resources. PTO’s, Committee for Education in the 21st Century, Wellesley Education Foundation, Parents of Performing Students, and sports booster groups all offer tremendous incremental support to our schools. We are grateful for their significant and broad support.
9. In March 2007 voters re-elected Suzanne Littlefield to a third three-year term on the school committee, and elected Christopher D.T. Guiffre to complete one remaining year in the term of Susan Jablonski, who resigned after five years of continuous membership on the committee. The School Committee thanks Susan for her service to Wellesley and for her 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:

Sherry Birkholz	Bonnie Cole	Ellen McBrien Courchene
Anne Greene	Meg Hamilton	Rob Kahane
Matthew King	Mary Lynn	Beth McGinty
Rena P. Mirkin	Julie Rogers	Joyce Tolken

WELLESLEY RESIDENTS ENROLLED IN SCHOOLS

as of
October 1, 2006 in Grades K-12

WELLESLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	<u>Non-resident*</u>	<u>Wellesley resident</u>
Elementary Schools	Grades K-5 89	Grades K-5 2,231
Middle School	Grades 6-8 37	Grades 6-8 957
High School	Grades 9-12 <u>51</u>	Grades 9-12 <u>1,167</u>
	177	4,355

(Total Wellesley Public Schools enrollment,
both resident and non-resident) 4,532

STUDENTS ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY
(including programs under the direction of The Education Cooperative). 17
STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY
(state-approved special education programs for which Wellesley pays tuition. 44
VOCATIONAL/REGIONAL SCHOOLS 4

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN WELLESLEY

Dana Hall	Grades 6-12	34
St. John's School	Grades K-6	101
St. Paul's School	Grades K-8	33
Tenacre Country Day	Grades K-6	<u>53</u>
	TOTAL	221

PRIVATE SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF WELLESLEY**
Grades K-12 400

GRAND TOTAL **5,218**

* 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.