The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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
Ms. Ellen Korpi came before the Committee to publicly thank Mr. D’Ortenzio, Jr. on behalf of the Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) for his contributions over the last several years, providing the District’s perspective on issues, and facilitating the relationship between the SEC and the School Committee. She wished him well in his future endeavors.

Recognitions
Dr. Lussier recognized the following individuals and groups:

Dr. Lussier announced that the District was recently named a 2019 Green Ribbon School by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, one of only three school districts in the Commonwealth selected to receive this designation. The District is receiving State-wide recognition for its work making buildings more energy efficient, using environmentally friendly cleaning practices, offering healthy food choices, fitness programs and outdoor activities, and developing curricula focused on environmental awareness. Dr. Lussier recognized Phyllis Theerman of Wellesley Green Schools who spearheaded this work.

From Amanda Christy Brown, WHS English Department and Advisor to The Bradford: congratulations to The Bradford staff on earning a Silver Medalist rating from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for their work last year. The judges highlighted the special issue “Wellesley Says #Enough”, published last year following the Parkland shooting and student walkouts, calling it "remarkable and expertly executed" and "an exemplary piece of journalism."

From Tim Eagan, Department Head for Classical and Modern Languages: Congratulations to Rebecca Blouwolff who was named Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Teacher of the Year. She was also a featured guest interviewer on the podcast We Teach Languages. Rebecca will now go on to the national competition.

Dr. Lussier thanked Blythe Robinson, Executive Director of Government Services, for her work and service to the Town of Wellesley. Ms. Robinson is leaving her position effective March 1st.
SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. reported he attended the Evolutions mid-year forum which included excellent presentations of students’ projects. He thanked Planning Director Michael Zehner for his service to the Town. Mr. Zehner recently left for a new position. He also reported that he and Ms. Martin attended the WMS PTO meeting which included great conversation in two specific areas: the rollout of FLES in WMS and HHU swing space. Mr. D’Ortenzio, Jr. also reported the Board of Selectmen voted to support the new softball field project.

Ms. Martin reported ATM Article 20, for the WMS Systems Design Project funding, will be discussed at tomorrow’s Advisory Committee meeting. The Design Review Board will be discussing the WMS Piping Project earlier in the evening.

Ms. Chow informed the group that work continues on the Strategic Plan, and currently the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee (SPAC) has been divided into four subgroups that are working on a number of topics. These subgroups will be meeting in the near future and then report out to the larger group in early March. She also reported that the WOW organization is holding an event this evening to continue the conversation on diversity that was started at a recent Board of Selectmen forum on this topic. Ms. Chow also reported on the Wellesley Creates event scheduled for March 16th. High school and middle school students who live in or go to school in Wellesley will work in teams to create an app. These apps will target specific community problems such as environmental, educational, or health and wellness issues presented in problem statements by local community leaders.

Mr. Kelley and Mr. D’Ortenzio, Jr. held SC office hours on February 14th. Mr. Kelley reported they received feedback that the Committee is not effective in its communication regarding HHU and other WPS projects and suggested that they should take time to review its communication strategies.

Mr. Kelley indicated the Selectmen recently discussed the status of the FY20 budget, which has been balanced without the need to ask Town departments to adjust their budget requests. Savings were realized primarily through health insurance costs. However, the Selectmen discussed their dissatisfaction that the School Committee was over the 3.0 percent guideline and stated that they would prefer the Committee’s budget to be at a 3.5 percent increase instead of a 3.65 percent increase (a difference of $154,899). Mr. Kelley reported that the Selectmen also discussed a last minute addition to the budget for increased social services work which totals approximately $160,000. The Selectmen discussed ways to include this funding in the FY20 budget including reduction of the appropriation for the Special Ed Stabilization Fund by $160,000, using free cash or perhaps further health insurance savings.

Dr. Lussier addressed the proposed increase to the budget for social services work, noting that a group of Town leaders met 2-3 times to discuss this topic, however, no formal recommendations had yet been developed. He expressed surprise that the proposal presented by the Selectmen implies that it is the recommendation of this group that has resulted in this last-minute request for additional social services work. This group’s work involved an inventory of current social services efforts and resources, and
Dr. Lussier had informed them that that the District is requesting an adjustment counselor in its FY20 budget. Although he is very supportive of efforts to increase social services work in the schools and town overall, he is troubled that there would be new proposals for FY20 made at this late date, which have not been adequately vetted and may impact the District’s budget request.

Dr. Lussier is also concerned with the Selectmen’s discussion regarding a reduction to the WPS budget request. He hopes that going forward there can be meaningful discussions on the establishment of budget guidelines based on need rather than an arbitrary number. Mr. Kelley agreed and believes that the Committee should be engaged with the Selectmen early in the budget process to discuss Town and District needs and be provided an opportunity to have input on the development of budget guidelines.

Mr. Kelly announced that the Advisory Committee will be meeting on March 2 to discuss Article 8 of the Warrant which is the Town budget. Advisory liaison Jane Andrews urged the community to learn about the WPS budget and specific initiatives that are being proposed, and reach out to the Advisory Committee with their feedback.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Lussier confirmed that the two outstanding issues on the **SY19-20 Academic Calendar** have now been confirmed: the early release day will be October 16, 2019, and the athletic practice dates in the fall have been voted by the MIAA. Dr. Lussier reported that the first public **Kindergarten RoundUp** was held on February 6th, with 212 students registered to date. The kindergarten projection for the 2019-20 school year is 310 students. He also reported he spent the day in Natick with members of the **ACCEPT Collaborative Board** interviewing candidates for a new **executive director**.

**Strategic Plan** work continues with some exciting concepts being developed. He recognized Melissa Martin and Linda Chow for their work with staff on mapping out next steps. Dr. Lussier informed the Committee that the **2017-18 Progress Report** is being mailed out next week to every residence in Wellesley and Boston families.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes Approval: 1/22, 1/29, 2/5/19 Open Session
- Gift Acceptances: See attached
- Trip Approvals: Civil Rights Trip - April 2019
  - Quebec Trip - Nov. 2019

After a brief discussion and an amendment proposed by Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr., upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. D’Ortenzio, Jr., the Committee **VOTED** to approve the February 5, 2019 minutes as amended. The vote was 4 in favor; 0 against; 1 abstention.

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to approve the balance of the Consent Agenda including the January 22 and 29, 2019 minutes, Gift Acceptances, and Trip Approvals.
The Committee expressed its sincere appreciation for the generous support from community donations.

**FY2019 Quarter 2 Report**
Ms. Mahr presented the second quarter report for FY19. She reviewed budget transfers that reflect adjustments noted during the FY20 budget process, including offsets in various accounts. Special Education expenses have been stable with a small increase needed to cover actual student changes in out-of-district accounts. Ms. Mahr then reviewed salary and other compensation adjustments, as well as expense adjustments in additional costs and savings. The overall adjustment transfers totaled $13,113 from salary and other compensation to expenses.

School Committee asked clarifying questions, and thanked Ms. Mahr for her report.

**Vote: Hunnewell Educational Program**
Dr. Lussier discussed that additional comments on the Hunnewell Education Program were presented at the last meeting and an updated version has been provided to the Committee. Action was deferred pending further review of the revised document by Committee members.

**Playing Fields Task Force Updates**
**Practice Wall Proposal**
Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. provided an update on the practice wall. The Facilities Management Department provided feedback on the current design including orientation of the wall, closeness to the fieldhouse, and whether mitigation costs are included in the project estimate. DPW is now reviewing and revising the design based on this feedback. After approval, a letter will be sent to Sprague neighbors providing relevant information on the project. It is hoped that the wall will be completed in the spring. Jerry Nigro of Wellesley Lacrosse joined the meeting and provided information on the installation process and the timeline of project. A number of Wellesley lacrosse players came to the meeting and players Hugh Callahan and Anders Pineau spoke on behalf of the players in support of the practice wall.

**Proposed Charter and Playing Fields Policy Updates**
Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. then presented the proposed revisions to the PFTF charter and policy and the reasons for the changes. The Committee will need to take action on these revisions at an upcoming meeting.

**Proposed Article 9, Proposed Revision to Town Bylaw Article**
Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. addressed the Recreation Commission’s article regarding using revenue from field rentals to offset the cost of collecting and processing field rentals fees. The proposal authorizes a transfer of funds from the Field Use Funds to help offset these costs fees.

**Hunnewell and Hardy/Upham Projects Update**
Hunnewell School
Ms. Gray reported that the architects have been developing a shortlist of options with new iterations to be presented at tomorrow night’s SBC meeting. The SBC is working on cost analysis, swing space possibilities and receiving community input.

**Hardy/Upham Project**

Ms. Chow removed herself from the table at 8:19 pm

Ms. Gray reported that she will be attending the MSBA meeting on March 4th when it is hoped that the MSBA will approve the SBC’s recommendation of Compass Group as the OPM for the Hardy/Upham project.

Ms. Chow rejoined meeting at 8:20 pm

**Redistricting**

Ms. Gray acknowledged that this project will require redistricting, and the MSBA will require sample redistricting maps before authorizing solutions. The Committee discussed the redistricting process in general and how to create the maps for not only the MSBA, but also for public review. This is not the usual redistricting of 2 schools into 1, but rather 3 schools into 2, and there will be a need to develop full options for both Hardy and Upham redistricting that include maps for each school’s redistricting possibilities. It is planned to develop these maps in the fall, with the Superintendent taking the lead on a committee on redistricting. There will be communication with the MSBA to determine exactly what they require. In addition, there needs to be clarity on Ms. Chow’s participation in this part of the conversation, as it is not specific to one school, but rather the entire district.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Tony Bent and Ms. Wendy Paul, past School Committee members, shared their reflections on working with Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. over the past several years, recognizing his achievement as the youngest Town Meeting member voted in Wellesley and the state, as well as the youngest School Committee member in Wellesley. They both recognized Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr.’s deep and broad knowledge base, presentation skills, respectful nature, and most importantly that he is a principled young man who enjoys work in the public sector. They thanked him for his contributions and wished him the best in his next chapter.

Each School Committee member and Dr. Lussier expressed their appreciation for Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr.’s work ethic, moral compass, and his many contributions to WPS and the community overall. His exemplary leadership skills and his ability to work across boards and committees was recognized, as well as his sense of humor and ability to roll with the teasing about his age! Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. was thanked for his service on behalf of the Wellesley Public Schools community of students, staff and faculty.

Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. thanked everyone for their comments and expressed his appreciation to have had the opportunity to be a part of the School Committee and work on behalf of the citizens of the town. He also expressed his appreciation to his family for helping him make this experience possible.
ADJOURNMENT
At approximately 9 pm, upon a motion made by Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Kelley
Chair

Documents and Exhibits Used:
Trip Approval forms: Civil Rights Trip and Quebec Trip
FY19 Quarter 2 Report and Presentation
Revised Hunnewell Educational Program – 2/26/19 Draft
Memo from PFTF – 2/8/19 – Revisions to PFTF Charter & Policy