The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Those present included School Committee Chair Matt Kelley, Vice Chair Melissa Martin, Secretary Linda Chow, members Sharon Gray and Jim Roberti; 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**

Elizabeth Lange, Hunnewell parent, expressed the concern of many Hunnewell parents with the condition of Hunnewell School and the need to rebuild it sooner than later, especially in light of recent issues in the boiler room and now the fire in the classrooms. She indicated that although Hunnewell parents are interested in a swing space option that would keep all the students together, they are open to other options that will get Hunnewell rebuilt as soon as possible.

Nichole Bull, Schofield parent, read sections of an email previously sent to the School Committee addressing her concerns with the negative educational and social aspects for students if the internal swing space proposal goes forward. She also expressed concern with the addition of students to schools that are already overcrowded.

Ashley Quates, Hunnewell parent, noted that the majority of Hunnewell parents are in favor of an early Hunnewell project, citing the recent fire as increasing the urgency of this request. She added if it is determined that internal swing space is the best solution, parents are in favor of moving forward with this proposal. She noted that this is not a Hunnewell problem but a WPS community issue, and hopes the community will come together and help to temporarily accommodate students while their school is rebuilt.

Ginger Chong, Schofield parent, suggested the Committee find solutions that will contain the students in one location near the Hunnewell School to avoid adding to the existing traffic congestion in town.

**RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Lussier recognized the following individuals and groups:

Wellesley Public Schools has been selected as a [2019 US Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee](#). This award acknowledges Wellesley’s commitment to sustainable practices and recognizes the District for its leadership in school facilities, health, and sustainability learning. Dr. Lussier thanked the members of the SEC and Wellesley Green Schools, specifically Phyllis Theermann; FMD Director Joe McDonough, Food Services Director Matt Delaney, representatives of the Municipal Light Plant, and the many partners who worked hard to make this possible.
From Michael LaCava, K-12 Director of Performing Arts: On Friday, May 3rd, members of the Wellesley High School Band traveled to the Great East Music Festival where they performed for a panel of judges. As a result of their outstanding performance they were awarded a gold medal. Congratulations to the WHS Band Program and Director Steve Scott for this recent success.

On Tuesday, May 7th, the Wellesley Middle School Monday Jazz Band participated in the Massachusetts Association of Jazz Educators Middle School State Festival for the first time in several years. As a result of their outstanding performance, the Jazz Band received a silver medal. Directors Awards were given to Zachary DuPont on drums, Benjamin Harris on the Bass, and Teddy DePeyster on the Trumpet. Teddy DePeyster also received the prestigious MVP for Division II. Congratulations to Director Dave Adams and the members of the WMS Monday Jazz Band.

On Friday, May 10th, the Wellesley Middle School 7th Grade Band and 7th Grade Chorus traveled to the "Trills and Thrills" Music Festival. At the festival, each group was adjudicated by a panel of musicians who provided feedback on their performances. As a result of their outstanding performances, the 7th Grade Band earned an "Excellent" rating and the 7th Grade Chorus earned a "Superior" rating. Congratulations to all of the 7th grade students involved and to their Directors Ms. Connors and Mr. Adams. Also special thanks to Choral Accompanist Valerie Stark who performed with the group and helped chaperone the trip.

From Elisa Morris, WHS Mathematics Department Head: On Saturday, May 23rd, the Massachusetts Affiliate of the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT) announced their Aspirations Awards honoring young women at the high-school level for their computer-related achievements and interests. Wellesley Seniors Jessica Cheng and Chloe Xie, and Junior Shayla King were awarded Affiliate Awards and Junior Allison Goehringer was honored as an Affiliate runner up. Dr. Robert Cohen, WHS Math and Computer Science Teacher, was awarded the 2019 Massachusetts Educator Award for encouraging high school women’s interest and participation in technology pursuits.

School Committee Reports
Ms. Chow reported the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee (SPAC) recently held its last meeting of the school year. The process has been going well and has produced excellent information. She is looking forward to completing the plan in early fall.
Ms. Chow also attended METCO’s Reflections event and was struck by the courage and candor exhibited by the METCO seniors, some of whom have been in WPS since kindergarten.

Mr. Kelley also attended METCO Reflections indicating how powerful it is to hear student voices addressing the issues that are being discussed throughout the District.

Ms. Martin expressed her appreciation for the input from the student representatives on SPAC. She recently met with the team working on the WMS steam pipes project
which will be kicking off at the end of school year. The project should have minimal impact on the neighbors.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Lussier reported the fire at Hunnewell School last week resulted in the school closing for the balance of the week. He thanked the Wellesley Fire and Police Departments for acting quickly to contain the fire; Facilities Maintenance Department for organizing cleanup crews and testing to ensure a Monday opening, and to Recreation Director Matt Chin for creating a 2-day camp for families in need of childcare. Two classrooms will be offline for the remainder of the school year. With regard to makeup days, the DESE Commissioner’s Office has agreed that Wednesday will not count as a missed day, and one day will be waived, however one day will need to be made up. The next two Wednesdays will be full days, rather than half days, to make up the one day.

Dr. Lussier was excited to announce the appointment of Leigh Petrowsky as the new Sprague Principal. Ms. Petrowsky will be introduced at an upcoming Committee meeting.

Dr. Lussier provided an update of elementary enrollment and assignment for school year 2019-20. He reported the following schools and grade levels where enrollment is nearing the high end of the class size guidelines and where reassignments could take place in the near future:

- Kindergarten – Bates, Hardy
- Grade 2 – Fiske, Hunnewell, Schofield, Upham
- Grade 5 – Hunnewell

The website will be updated with this information listed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes Approval - April 23, May 6, 2019 Open Sessions
- Trip Approval: Spain/France - April 2020

After a brief discussion upon a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. Roberti, the Committee **VOTED** to approve the April 23, 2019 Open Session Minutes as written. The vote was 4 in favor; 1 abstention.

After a brief discussion upon a motion made by Mr. Roberti and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee **VOTED** to approve the May 6, 2019 Open Session Minutes as written. The vote was 3 in favor; 2 abstentions.

After a brief discussion upon a motion made by Mr. Roberti and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to approve the trip to Spain and France in April 2020.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES**

Dr. Lussier was pleased to present his recommendation of Sarah Orlov as the new Director of Student Services, effective July 1, 2019.
After a discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Chow and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to appoint Sarah Orlov as the Director of Student Services, effective July 1, 2019.

Ms. Orlov expressed her appreciation for the appointment to the position and looks forward to working with the WPS community.

The Committee recognized Ms. McCracken for her work on this search, in addition to other high level searches that she has been conducting over the past several months.

**WPS Summer Hours**
Dr. Lussier announced the WPS summer hours, consistent with previous years, is as follows:

- **June 17 thru 28th**, 8 am to 3:15 pm.
- Mondays thru Thursday hours in **July**: 8 am to 4 pm
- Closed Fridays in **July**.
- **August 1 thru 28**: 8 am – 3:15 pm

**Annual Food Service Report**
The Committee was joined by Whitsons Food Service Director for WPS Matt Delaney, who presented the SY2018-19 Food Services Report. He reviewed Whitsons mission, staffing and highlights from the 2018-19 and plans for the 2019-20 school year.

This year’s highlights include ‘fun lunch’ offerings and organic smoothies and parfaits at the elementary level, and all schools now have organic salad dressings and chicken products, with local produce and seafood used as available. In 2019-20, plastic straws will be replaced with paper straws. In addition, it is planned to work towards a 50 percent reduction of single use plastics, more organic fruit and vegetables, local seafood year-round, and a complete rollout of the online staff order system for lunch delivery at all schools. Mr. Delaney informed the Committee that the initiation of composting programs at all levels is being discussed in collaboration with the Facilities Maintenance Department, the Business Office and the Recycling and Disposal Facility. If approved, composting will begin in school year 2019-20.

Meal participation rates were reviewed for 2017-18, 2018-19 and projected for 2019-20, noting increased participation at all levels.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) was reviewed. This is a state and federally assisted meal program that operates in public schools. The program ensures nutritionally balanced, low cost or free lunches to qualifying children each school day. Mr. Delaney reviewed the federal and state reimbursements for different qualifying meal types and the reimbursement rates, noting that school food authorities that meet the requirements for the Nutritional School Lunch Program and are approved, will receive an additional six cents for each reimbursable lunch. Wellesley Public Schools meets the nutrition standards and has been approved to receive the additional $.06 per meal reimbursement.
Committee members asked clarifying questions and then commended Mr. Delaney for being a great partner with WPS, and for his continued efforts to improve the District’s food service program and his efforts relating to increased sustainability that contributed in the award of the Green Ribbon award for WPS.

**FOOD SERVICE PRICE INCREASES RECOMMENDATION**
Ms. Mahr reported that the Business Office met with Whitsons representatives to review the FY20 proposed budget. With no price increases, the initial budget has a deficit of $10,811. The contractual guarantee provides for at least a break-even performance. It was noted that in past years, the Middle School meal portions were slightly smaller than those at the High School, but are now comparable in size and quality. As a result, Ms. Mahr is recommending a price increase in the Middle School lunch price of 15 cents per meal, which brings the cost per meal to $3.65. The annual price impact for a student who purchases a meal daily is $27. No other price increases are being recommended for next year. If approved, the guaranteed profit to the district is an even budget.

Action is slated for the Committee’s next meeting.

**FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL RECOMMENDATION**
Ms. Mahr discussed Whitsons Culinary Group history and performance with WPS since becoming the District’s food service management company in 2012. The current contract is part of a five-year renewal which started in the 2015-16 school year and ends with the 2019-20 school year, and has had annual votes to affirm renewal.

Ms. Mahr indicated Whitsons has continued to serve the District well in providing a quality and fiscally sound lunch program, while meeting or exceeding its target net income. Matt Delaney, the District’s Food Service Director since 2012, has taken an active role in the District including membership on the School Wellness Advisory Committee, green community committees, and supporting the Town-wide STEM expos as well as many PTO and District functions. Ms. Mahr is recommending that WPS renew the contract with Whitsons Culinary Group for the 2019-20 school year which is the fifth and final year of the contract.

Action is slated for the Committee’s next meeting.

**VOTE: STANDARD-BASED REPORT CARD**
After a discussion and clarifying questions, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Roberti, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to approve the K-5 Standards-Based Report Cards for implementation in school year 2019-20.

The Committee thanked Dr. Dabrowski, Mr. LaCava and the entire team for their thoughtful work on this project.

**SY18-19 END OF YEAR DISTRICT AND SUPERINTENDENT GOALS REPORT**
Drs. Lussier and Dabrowski presented the Committee with the final status of both the District and Superintendent Goals for the school year. Dr. Lussier indicated it has been a very good year overall, noting that the goals listed do not reflect all of the important
work that goes on every day in the District. He thanked his staff for their continued work and support.

Updates were provided on the status of the searches for the positions of Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Director of Libraries and Innovation.

Committee members commended Dr. Lussier for his exemplary leadership and work on meeting these goals, as well as the day-to-day work and all the unexpected ‘fires’ that arise during the year. In addition, he was complimented on his selection of an excellent and caring team who carry forward the work of the District.

Mr. Kelley reminded members that this EOY goals report is one of the tools used in preparation of the Superintendent’s evaluation.

**HUNNEWELL AND HARDY/Upham Projects Update**

**Hunnewell School**

Ms. Gray thanked the community for their continued feedback on the Hunnewell process which has informed the SBC’s deliberations.

Ms. Gray reported that at the May 9th public forum two building options were presented, and sustainability, parking and swing space were also discussed. Ms. Gray indicated she has received significant community input about swing space. Internal swing space was recently removed from consideration because it seemed there was not enough support for it.

At the last SBC meeting, Ms. Gray indicated the group primarily discussed the final building recommendation which included a new building or an addition/renovation option. She reported the SBC voted 11-1 to go forward with the new building option which was felt to meet the educational needs significantly better than the addition/renovation option. The SBC also accepted the sustainability package as presented, noting that the extra sustainability measures will bring the building close to a net zero-ready building, and will only add one percent to the project cost. These proposals will be presented to the School Committee and Board of Selectmen at a June 6th joint meeting. The project will have an approximately 70,000 square feet building, include 19 classrooms and learning neighborhoods that were proposed during the educational visioning process, with the 19th room that can be used as a STEAM room when not being used as a classroom, and a slightly larger-than-standard gym to provide for more community use.

The Selectmen have deferred discussion on a parking deck for the Cameron Street lot pending further review of overall parking needs for that area. The SBC has expressed its desire to include a majority of the parking onsite. However, there is an issue with the single residence zoning of the area which requires 75 percent open space when the site is used for educational purposes. The SBC is looking into applying for a special permit to obtain a waiver of this zoning bylaw. This will be further discussed at the June 6th joint meeting.
Ms. Gray again reviewed the swing space options for the Hunnewell School project. The SBC has discussed a wide range of options for an early Hunnewell project, including potentially re-contacting the Archdiocese regarding the use of St. Paul School, placing modular units on other school properties, and internal swing space.

The option to build Hunnewell after the MSBA project is completed is also being considered and will be addressed at the next SBC meeting. However, there are renewed concerns with the current building as a result of the structural issue that occurred earlier in the year and last week’s fire that damaged two classrooms. Many Hunnewell parents, as noted earlier in the meeting and in recent emails received by the Committee and the SBC, are willing to reconsider any feasible swing space option, including the internal swing space option, in order to get the project moving on a faster track. Recent feedback from the Hunnewell community has been that, although they prefer to keep all Hunnewell students together, many are willing to endure the short-term inconvenience of having their children in different schools in order to get a safe building sooner. Although parents from other schools have expressed support, some feel their school is already overpopulated and are not in support of this proposal.

Ms. Gray asked if the Committee would be willing to reconsider including internal swing space as an option. After a discussion, the Committee indicated that it is in favor of revisiting internal swing space as an option for the Hunnewell project.

Dr. Lussier suggested, and the Committee agreed, that it would be helpful to lay out all swing space options, side by side, to understand what choices are available and the potential challenges for each of them. This layout would be presented at various forums to inform all interested parties.

Mr. Kelley reminded the community that whether Hunnewell is built early or late does not have any impact on the Hardy/Upham project. The Hardy/Upham is on schedule with the MSBA timeline.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Amy Boh**, Hunnewell parent, is in favor of an early Hunnewell and reconsideration of all swing space options. She indicated that many of the Hunnewell families are also in favor of this. She is concerned with the divisiveness that internal swing space is causing within the school community. She hopes the Committee strongly communicates to all elementary families its commitment of providing a quality education to all WPS students, and that having students temporarily placed in other elementary schools will not impact the quality of education provided to all students.

**Jill Mahr**, Hunnewell parent, is happy to see all options are back in consideration for swing space. She indicated it would be great keeping together as much of Hunnewell community as possible, however, the Hunnewell community is flexible in that regard. She suggested it would be helpful to have parent forums to address how internal swing space will work including information on what the experience will be like for a Hunnewell student at another elementary school, how they will maintain connections with their Hunnewell students when they are embedded in their new schools, how transportation will work, etc.
**Joelle Reidy**, Prospect Street, does not feel internal swing space is a good option. She does believe that the school must be renovated, but is concerned with the overpopulation that will result if internal swing space is used. She is in favor with providing the community with laying out all the swing space options and pros/cons for each.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**
At approximately 9:45 p.m., Mr. Kelley entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session to comply with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 22 - Review minutes from the April 23, 2019 Executive Session and to allow Superintendent David Lussier and Assistant Superintendent Cindy Mahr to participate in the discussion and to not reconvene in Open Session after the conclusion of the Executive Session.

**MOVED:** Ms. Gray; **SECONDED:** Ms. Martin; **ROLL CALL:** Ms. Martin – Yes, Mr. Roberti – Yes, Ms. Gray – Yes, Ms. Chow – Yes, Mr. Kelley – Yes.

**VOTE:** Yes – 5, No – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Kelley
Chair

**Documents and Exhibits Used:**
Trip Approval Form: France/Spain
Food Services 2019 Presentation
Food Services Memo – Prop. Price Increase
Food Services Memo – Contract Renewal
SY18-19 District/Superintendent Goals - EOY Report