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
No one present wished to speak.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
Dr. Lussier reported that Sprague School had an emergency early dismissal on May 31st due to a Freon leak in a section of the school. Given it would have taken several hours to mitigate the leak, the decision for an early dismissal was made. Dr. Lussier acknowledged Ms. Mahr and Transportation Coordinator Deane McGoldrick for their work in quickly managing transportation for students; METCO Director Doreen Ward for her coordination of the Boston students; the Sprague staff for ensuring all students were picked up and safely home; and the Facilities Management Department for its quick work in containing the leak. Repairs will be completed over the summer.

Dr. Lussier informed the Committee that the final Director of Diversity finalist community meeting is being held this evening, and he hopes to make an appointment by the end of the school year. He indicated that although this is appointment is made by the Superintendent, there has been significant input from staff, parents, students, and other members of the community.

Friday is the 150th graduation for Wellesley High School, graduating 385 students. Although long range forecast seems positive, weather-related decisions, if needed, will be made as late as possible.

CONSENT AGENDA
- Minutes Approval: May 7 and 21, 2019 Open Session Minutes and May 21, 2019 Executive Session Minutes.

Upon questioning, the Committee members had no objection to approving the May 21, 2019 Executive Session minutes in public session. Ms. Chow distributed a copy of the minutes to each member. After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Roberti, the Committee VOTED to approve the May 7, Open Session minutes as presented. The vote was 4 in favor; 1 abstention.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Roberti, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the May 21, 2019 Open Session and Executive Session minutes as presented.
VOTE: FOOD SERVICE PRICE INCREASE
After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray, and seconded by Ms. Martin, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to approve an increase of 15 cents per meal to the Middle School Lunch price, bringing it to $3.65 per meal, effective July 1, 2019.

VOTE: FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL
After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Mr. Roberti and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to renew the Wellesley Public Schools contract with Whitsons Culinary Group for the 2019-2020 school year, the fifth and final year of the five-year contract.

SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTMENT TO ACCEPT COLLABORATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Dr. Lussier explained that Wellesley Public Schools has been a member of ACCEPT for the past few years, which allows the District to place students in the Collaborative’s programs at a reduced cost. There are 14 member districts, with a board of directors that is comprised of the superintendent from each member district. State law requires a vote of the member school committees to designate the superintendent as their representative on the board.

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Chow and seconded by Mr. Roberti, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to appoint Superintendent of Schools David Lussier as the Wellesley School Committee’s representative to the ACCEPT Collaborative Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 fiscal year in accordance with Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012.

OPEN MEETING LAW (OML) COMPLAINT
Mr. Kelley addressed the OML complaint filed by Ron Alexander which alleges two violations relative to the April 23, 2019 meeting. Mr. Kelley has met with Town Counsel and discussed the complaint. They are both confident that there were no violations of the law. After a brief conversation, upon a motion made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee *unanimously VOTED* to delegate the School Committee’s response to the May 23, 2019 OML complaint to Town Counsel and to authorize the Chair to work with Town Counsel in that regard.

WORLD OF WELLESLEY RECOGNITIONS
The Committee was joined by World of Wellesley President Michelle Chalmers, who joined Drs. Lussier and Dabrowski in recognizing fifth grade students for their essays reflecting on diversity and the need for understanding differences. Dr. Lussier explained that World of Wellesley is a community organization that was established in 1991 to promote diversity and multiculturalism. Through an ongoing partnership between the World of Wellesley and the Wellesley Public Schools, all fifth grade students completed a writing assignment reflecting on diversity and the need for understanding differences for the community, which align with two of the District’s Core Values: "Respect for Human Differences" and "Cooperative and Caring Relationships". A panel of judges from the WOW organization reviewed the essays, and two representative essays were selected from each elementary school to receive special recognition. This year’s selected essays were written by: Cotter Healey and Natalia Media (Bates); Anshika Chadda and Sloane O’Reilly (Fiske); Alexander Cheng and Jeffrey Peng (Hardy);
Alexander Hirschey and Ella Austin (Hunnewell); Louisa Goldberg and Maisie Fitzpatrick (Schofield); Noor Kashif and Sydney Haddad (Sprague); and Nina Wied and Maxwell Morrow (Upham).

WMLP/WPS IT Partnership Update
The Committee was joined by Technology Director Kathy Dooley, IT Manager Joe Hutton, and WMLP Director Dick Joyce, Assistant Director Debra Healey, Superintendent Don Newall, and Assistant Superintendent Peter Bracken to provide an update on the ongoing collaborative work between WPS and the WMLP. Ms. Dooley reviewed the goals of this collaborative work, the capital plan for fiber WAN for schools, work completed to date, as well as the work included in the five-year plan.

Ms. Dooley indicated this collaboration has resulted in upgrades in the fiber network, which provides capability to meet the increased needs in schools. Alternatively, WPS has provided data reports on performance to the WMLP which informs the work they do on improving service to their constituents.

Committee members expressed their appreciation to the WMLP for its support of the Wellesley Public Schools.

Dr. Lussier congratulated Mr. Joyce on his upcoming retirement and recognized his steadfast support and collaboration with the Schools and Town-wide.

Wellesley Education Foundation (WEF) Annual Update
The Committee was joined by current WEF co-Presidents Victoria Ostler and Maria Chase, and incoming co-Presidents Maura Sullivan and Elizabeth Svedlund who provided an update on WEF’s work in the Wellesley Public Schools during school year 2018-19, and upcoming plans for the next school year.

Ms. Ostler reviewed the community engagements and fundraising events that were held this year, as well as grant funding which totaled over $224,000, that was awarded to WPS staff through 29 grants. These grants supported professional development, equipment and high priority areas for the District. She reviewed areas of support for the grant funding including work on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, STEM, 21st Century Learning, and literacy.

Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Svedlund reviewed next year’s events including the 30th Annual Spelling Bee in November; a new Grant Showcase event in March/April 2020, the 25 Year Chair Ceremony for teachers in March, and the Rockin’ the Firehouse fundraiser in May.

Questions were raised concerning the WEF grant application process and membership recruitment. The Committee thanked WEF for its continued generous efforts in supporting the District and its students.

HHU Update
Ms. Chow removed herself from the table.
Hardy/Upham Project
Ms. Gray reported she and Dr. Lussier met with the MSBA Designer Selection Panel to select an architect for this project. Ms. Gray, Dr. Lussier and Mr. Gagosian represented the District on the panel. Six proposals were received and reviewed and three firms were selected to be interviewed by the panel on June 18th and go through the final selection process. Once an architect is selected, the SBC, with the assistance of the Facilities Management Department, will negotiate the contract with the firm.

Ms. Chow returned to the table.

Hunnewell
Ms. Gray reported the SBC is holding a joint meeting with the School Committee and Board of Selectmen on Thursday, June 6th. The agenda includes a review of the feasibility study process, educational programming and sustainability approach for the building, discussion concerning the building option recommendation by the SBC for a new building for the Hunnewell School, including building and site design, preliminary costs, and timeline; and a vote of support for the selected option by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee. Swing space will not be discussed at this joint meeting. The SBC will address this topic after the joint session and determine potential next steps. The next SBC meeting is scheduled for June 13th.

Dr. Lussier indicated members of the SBC, School Committee and WPS Administration met with the Hunnewell PTO on May 30th to discuss swing space. This was a good session and it was hoped to hold similar sessions with parents at each of the other six elementary schools, however, the end of the school year is near and there is not enough time to schedule these meetings now, so it is planned to address this issue in the fall. An evening meeting at Hunnewell, similar to the morning session, is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th. Ms. Gray noted that the SBC and School Committee have received many emails from the Hunnewell community expressing overwhelming support for an early Hunnewell and the internal swing space option if necessary. There have also been emails received from other school communities expressing concern with the internal swing space option.

There was a question about the status of the plan to lay out for the community the various swing space options and the pros and cons of each option. Ms. Gray indicated the project team is currently working on this. She also reminded the Committee that any swing space option will not be instituted until two years from this fall.

Sprague Field Lacrosse Practice Wall
The Committee was joined by Michael D’Ortenzio, Jr., representing the Playing Fields Task Force, DPW Director Dave Cohen and Town Engineer Dave Hickey, to discuss the lacrosse wall ball project and proposed installation location.

Mr. D’Ortenzio Jr. provided background information on the genesis and benefits of this project, and its funding sources, noting it will not just be used for lacrosse, but also for soccer and field hockey, with funding coming from the balance in the Field Fund. He reviewed the current proposed location for the wall. This is the second location selected; the first location selected was behind the field house, which was changed due
to concerns from the Facilities Management Department. Mr. Hickey then reviewed the dimensions of the wall and the practice wall turf field, and location of the fencing around the wall.

There was discussion regarding the ZBA’s Site Plan Approval decision ten years ago when the Sprague Field Master Plan was developed and the limitations applied at that time including that no improvements may be made without obtaining the ZBA’s further approval. Mr. D’Ortenzio, Jr. acknowledged that ZBA approval will be needed for this work, however, they want to ensure the Committee is supportive of this project.

Questions were raised concerning community outreach for this project and to ensure that all interested parties are notified and well informed about these plans.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Todd Himstead,** Hilltop Road resident and previous member of Sprague Field Task Force, is opposed to this project due to the previous ZBA decision that no improvements be made on the fields without first obtaining the ZBA’s further approval. In addition, he noted the proposed location will result in loss of green space and sledding hill used by many in the community.

**Christina Desmond,** WYL Girls Program Director, spoke in favor of the project, noting there are a total of 850 lacrosse players in town and there is a need for this type of practice wall, which can also be used by a number of other sports.

**Collette AuFranc,** resident, indicated the current proposed location is a popular dog walking area, great sledding hill, and is well used by the community as green space. She asked that the group revert to the original proposal behind the FMD building.

**John Maccini,** resident, agreed with Ms. AuFranc and also expressed concern with the noise level of the ball hitting the wall, the danger of a neighbor being hit by a rogue ball and the potential for graffiti on the wall.

**David Himmelberger,** resident, feels this is a good project with a bad location, noting there is no buffer for the neighbors living in the Linden Street and Oak Street condominiums. He asked that the Committee consider alternative sites with less impact to the neighborhood and community use.

**Bliss Vernon,** WHS student and lacrosse player, is in favor of the project and expressed concern that players do not have an appropriate area within the town to practice their skills. The only official practice wall they are permitted to use is at Weston High School. She noted that over half of the team practices are held at Sprague and feels this is an appropriate place to install a practice wall. She also noted that a number of other sports would also utilize the wall for skills practice.

**Ashley Quates,** Hunnewell parent, hopes that waiting until the fall to speak to the other six elementary school communities will not delay the decision to move forward with early Hunnewell. She is also hopeful that the entire community can come together and support the Hunnewell community.
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. Kelley entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wellesley Teachers Association and with respect to negotiations with all non-union employees except Superintendent David Lussier, to allow (1) Superintendent David Lussier, (2) Assistant Superintendent Cindy Mahr, (3) Assistant Superintendent Joan Dabrowski, (4) Director of Human Resources Gayle McCracken, and (5) Executive Director Meghan Jop to participate in the discussion; and not to reconvene in Open Session after the conclusion of the Executive Session.

MOVED: Ms. Martin; SECONDED: Ms. Gray; ROLL CALL: Ms. Martin – Yes, Mr. Roberti – Yes, Ms. Gray – Yes, Ms. Chow – Yes, Mr. Kelley – Yes.
VOTE: Yes – 5, No – 0.

Immediately upon entering executive session, Mr. Kelley informed the Committee that he had failed to state that having collective bargaining discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining, as required by the Open Meeting Law. Accordingly, the Committee did not proceed with the items on the agenda for executive session, and instead only discussed when another meeting could be scheduled for the purpose.

ADJOURNMENT
At approximately 9:45, Mr. Kelley then entertained a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Ms. Martin; SECONDED: Ms. Gray; ROLL CALL: Ms. Martin – Yes, Mr. Roberti – Yes, Ms. Gray – Yes, Ms. Chow – Yes, Mr. Kelley – Yes.
VOTE: Yes – 5, No – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Kelley
Chair

Documents and Exhibits Used:
World of Wellesley Student Essays
Wellesley Education Foundation Annual Update Presentation
5/23/19 Open Meeting Law Complaint by Ronald Alexander
Sprague Field Schematics & Presentation