

**Wellesley Public Schools  
School Committee Meeting  
June 20, 2023 @ 6:30 PM  
Remote Online Meeting**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**In Attendance**

Those present included Chair Leda Eizenberg, Vice Chair Linda Chow, Secretary Craig Mack, members Christina Horner and Catherine Mirick; Superintendent David Lussier, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Sandy Trach, Director of Student Services Kat Bernklow, Coordinator of Community Engagement Sharon Gray.

Ms. Eizenberg announced that the meeting is being held remotely and recorded by local media and broadcast live by Wellesley Media.

**Public Comments**

*John Maccini - 5 Highland Road*

Mr. Maccini's voices his concern on the noise from the pickleball courts that abut his property.

*Christopher Garris - 11 A Oak Street*

Supports Mr. Maccini's concerns of the noise levels from the pickleball courts.

*Ann McCauley - 9 Abbott Street*

In favor of pickleball in town however, the location of the Sprague courts does concern her as far as the noise level for the residents. She also adds that she has discovered more people at this location are not town residents and difficulty booking courts in town.

**Reports**

**School Committee**

Ms. Eizenberg marked the end of school last week and she personally celebrated the 5th grade up and moving ceremony at Upham School last week.

Ms. Chow provides a quick update on the Hunnewell Track and Field Project. The WPC meeting last Thursday was not successful with voting for the amendment for the specific conditions. The School Committee will continue to work with the WPC to support the request for the order of conditions.

**Superintendent**

Announcement of a capital project of the Central Office painting and rug renovation project. Please call ahead if you have any business with these offices during this time; each department has relocated to various locations.

**Students**

No students at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Eizenberg thanks everyone of the students for their hard work and commitment to our community. We will see you in the fall.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **Field Trip Approval - Holocaust Remembrance - February 2024**

Michael Reidy, WHS Social Studies Department Head discusses how the trip came about with two rising seniors bringing this trip to the department for consideration. The touring partner company, ACIS is assisting with the planning. Approximately 20 students made up from 11th and 12th graders will be attending this trip.

### **Approval of Minutes - May 9, 2023, May 16, 2023, May 23, 2023, June 6, 2023, June 13, 2023**

### **Motion to Accept Consent Agenda - Eizenberg**

Moved - Mack

Seconded - Mirick

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

### **Action/Discussion**

With great excitement Dr. Ito, Ms. Trach and Dr. Allen announced the newest hires for our leadership team.

### **Kevin Hoffman, Assistant Principal of Wellesley Middle School**

Mr. Hoffman comes to us from Qualters Middle School in Mansfield, MA. Kevin has been an Assistant Principal for six years, after being a school counselor in both Norwood and Westborough. He holds a BA in Psychology from UMass, Amherst, and M.Ed in School Counseling from Suffolk University and M.Ed in Educational Leadership from Endicott College. With fourteen years experience, we are excited to welcome Kevin to Wellesley Middle School.

### **Merites Abelard, Director of Multilingual Learner Education**

Merites Abelard joins WPS as the new Director of Multilingual Learner Education (formerly titled Director of English Language Learning) from Attleboro Public Schools, MA where he served as an ESL teacher. Previously, Dr. Abelard served as a K-12 ESL teacher, adjunct professor and English curriculum coordinator. He has also authored publications and conducted professional development. Abelard holds a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages from Ecole Normale Supérieure in Haiti, a Masters of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language from Northern Arizona University (Fulbright Scholar) and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Johnson and Wales University.

### **Lisa Fox, PK-5 Science and Technology/Engineering Department Head**

Lisa Fox joins WPS as the new PK-5 Science and Technology/Engineering Department Head from Key West, FL where she has served as a K-8 STEM coach. Previously, Dr. Fox served as an elementary teacher, technology coach and assistant professor. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from University of Maryland, a Master of Arts in Instructional Technology from University of Maryland and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from University of Massachusetts in Lowell.

### **Stephanie Holland, Director of the Wellesley METCO Program**

Stephanie Holland joins WPS as the new Director of the Wellesley METCO Program with over 20 years of educational experience. Previously, she served as an elementary teacher in the

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, MA. Ms. Holland is committed to anti-bias teaching and has written curricula through a DEI lens. She is also a district SEED leader and has served on numerous DEI committees. Ms. Holland holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Rochester and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Simmons College.

### **Dori Pulizzi, PK-5 Social Studies Department Head**

Dori Pulizzi joins WPS as the new PK-5 Social Studies Department Head from the Arlington Public Schools, MA where she served as the Districtwide Elementary Social Studies Coach and K-5 Mentor Coordinator. Ms. Pulizzi has previously served as an associate principal and elementary teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Political Science from College of the Holy Cross, a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Boston College and a Masters in Elementary Education from Lesley University.

### **Proposed Sprague Fields Historical Marker**

On January 5, 2022, Wellesley Public Schools received an email from Mr. Bob Mulcahy regarding his family ownership history of the Sprague Field recreation area. The email included a request that a plaque be installed and dedicated in commemoration of his family's history and former ownership of the field.

The Historical Commission reviewed the request at its regular meeting on November 14, 2022. After discussion, though a formal vote was not deemed necessary, the Commission reached a consensus on recommending installation of a commemorative plaque. The Commission found the Mulcahy story of significant historical value to the Town and noted that the field was one of the few spaces that is utilized on a daily basis, and thus would provide many folks with the ability to reflect on what existed in the past and how it has changed over time. The Commission also recommended the proposed language of the plaque be expanded to include more of the Mulcahy story.

### **2022-23 Nursing Activities Report & SWAC Report**

Dr. Kat Bernklow and Ashley Hulme present to the committee the school year's activities, please [see here](#) for more information.

### **Annual Food Service Report**

Ms. Mahr, Wen Cobb, Director of Accounting and Business Services and Mr. Matt Delaney, Director of Food Services presents the comprehensive annual food service report, please [see here](#) for more information.

### **Discussion/ Vote: Recreation Commission's Proposal for Pickleball**

Matt Chin, Recreation Department Director and Ansley Martin from the Recreation Commission presented a follow up discussion based on the concerns of the locations of the pickle ball courts at Sprague Field and Perrin Park. The commission has reduced hours to 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM and days to Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of play to lessen the noise impact for the residents and required players to use "softer" inside pickle balls which can be supplied by the Recreation Department. There was also discussion about the importance of enforcement, ideally by establishing a role such as a "park ranger."

### **Discussion/Vote: Superintendent Evaluation and Merit Pay Increase**

Ms. Eizenberg explained the evaluation process and provided an overview of the final summative evaluation. Each member of the committee met personally with Dr. Lussier and completed an individual evaluation, after then, the chair completed a composite based on the

feedback, perspectives and suggestions received. A couple members of the committee also met with members from Dr. Lussier's administrative team including, principals, directors and assistant superintendents. Members of that team commented on the complexity of the position and the several different levels and challenges that it comes with. Dr. Lussier's work, depth of care and concern for students continues to be one of his strengths and priorities to the district. With the ongoing contract negotiations with the Wellesley Educators Association (WEA), this has been a very challenging year. The negotiation team commented that his leadership and thought partnership throughout the process was exemplary. Other members commented on how well led the many other projects taken on by the district including, the construction of two new elementary schools, Hunnewell and Hardy, DE&I priorities, the strategic plan and outstanding award recognized fiscal management. Some constructive comments included that the work in relationships still needs to be developed and strengthened with professional practice goals.

Dr. Lussier stated his appreciation for the thoughtful feedback of the Committee. He continued by stating how we are in the "learning business" and added that individually and collectively the focus moving forward is building better and stronger relationships with the colleagues we are dependent on.

Ms. Eizenberg entertained a motion to approve the Superintendent's cumulative evaluation for the 2022-23 year as presented.

**Motion to Accept - Eizenberg**

Moved - Horner

Seconded - Mack

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

Ms. Eizenberg stated that each year, after completion of a performance review, the Superintendent shall be considered for a merit pay increase up to 2%. Ms. Eizenberg recommends approving a .75% merit increase.

**Motion to Accept - Eizenberg**

Moved - Mack

Seconded - Horner

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

**Vote: The Reorganization of the School Committee**

Craig Mack, Chair

Catherine Mirick, Vice Chair

Christina Horner, Secretary

Linda Chow, Member

Leda Eizenberg, Member

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN - Mack**

Moved - Horner

SECOND - Mack

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion 5-0

Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Mack, Secretary

**Documents and Exhibits Used:**

Field Trip Approval Form - Holocaust Remembrance - April 2024

Mulcahy Plaque Memo and Draft

Nursing and SWAC Report

Food Services Report

**Voted to Approve  
August 4, 2023**