

WALTHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Waltham, Massachusetts

JAMES J. CANNON LECTURE HALL

617 LEXINGTON STREET

DOCKET

JULY 13, 2021

9:30 A.M. REGULAR MEETING

1. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Minutes of the Meeting Held on June 16, 2021
 - b. Minutes of the Meeting Held on June 24, 2021

2. FISCAL MATTERS
 - a. Bills on Warrant

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. MSBA-Waltham High School Project
 - I. Vote on Proprietary Traffic Signal System

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

WALTHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Waltham, Massachusetts
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the Waltham School Committee convened at 7:03 p.m. Present were Mrs. AlJammal, Ms. Donnelly, Mr. Frassica, Mrs. Gately, Mr. Rando and Mr. Tarallo. Mayor McCarthy presided.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for Janet Marie Coen, a former Waltham Public Schools employee who recently passed away.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Ms. Donnelly, to move the addenda in its entirety.

PUBLIC INPUT

Rene Arena, 20 Browns Avenue, expressed her displeasure with the history department's current curriculum.

STUDENT COUNCIL STUDENT INPUT

The students were not in attendance this evening.

SCHOOL COUNCIL PTO/WSEPAC BELPAC INPUT

The organizations were not represented this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Ms. Donnelly, to approve the consent agenda.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 2, 2021

Minutes of the executive session held on June 2, 2021

Retirements:

Samih Barehmi, ELL teacher, Kennedy Middle School effective June 30, 2021.

Orit Biran, special education paraprofessional, High School, effective June 29, 2021.

Joan Kelly, school nurse Dual Language Elementary School, effective June 30, 2021.

Karen Maynes, 5.5 hour food service worker, Kennedy Middle School, effective September 11, 2021.

Kelly Robbins, special education paraprofessional, Stanley Elementary School, effective June 30, 2021.

Date Adjustment: Priscilla Picardi-Haswell, school adjustment counselor, Stanley Elementary, effective July 6, 2021 (previously recorded as June 30, 2021).

Resignations:

Sheryl Hernandez, special education paraprofessional, McDevitt Middle School, effective June 30, 2021.

George Frost, .6 Human Resources Administrator, District, effective June 30, 2021.

Maeve Reynolds, grade two special education teacher, Whittemore Elementary, effective June 30, 2021.

Anastasia Sosrodjojo, second grade teacher, MacArthur Elementary, effective June 18, 2021.

Emily Stanton, ELA teacher, McDevitt Middle School, effective June 30, 2021.

Karen Sturla Avogadri, .83 French/Italian teacher, Kennedy Middle School, effective June 30, 2021.

Alexandria Waldron, Spanish teacher, McDevitt Middle School, effective June 30, 2021.

Leaves of Absence

Martha Harney, science teacher, Northeast Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Morgan King, science teacher, McDevitt Middle School, effective August 30, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Anne Kirksted, grade five teacher, Whittemore Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Donation

Ibrahim Bechwati and Nada Nasr \$10,000 donation to the Special Education Department.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Mrs. Gately, to take item 8c out of order.

UNFINISHED

BUSINESS

a. Dual Language Elementary School

Principal Rochelle Nwosu and Administrator of ELL Sara Hamerla provided a review of dual language education. The school provides literacy and instruction in both English and Spanish, thereby promoting bilingualism, biliteracy and a multicultural appreciation for all students. The school has been working with an experienced dual language school consultant to review the best models for expansion into the middle school grades. Kennedy Middle School has been identified as a temporary placement for a K-8 school until a permanent location can be determined.

Instructional Leadership Teams from both Kennedy and Dual Language will be involved in the planning process and a five year plan for curriculum development and materials acquisition will be created. Dr. Hamerla and Ms. Nwosu responded to comments and questions from the Committee regarding the middle school program model, staffing and assessment. Principal Kevin Gildea explained the MESH subjects can be delivered in bilingual content. Regarding a permanent location, Dr. Reagan stated he is working on a plan for 617 Lexington Street, which would allow the K-8 school to expand seat-wise as well as grade-wise.

Mayor McCarthy declared the Dual Language Elementary School is excellent and praised the staff, students and families for their commitment. However, the Mayor stated she is troubled that only two classes are accepted into the school each year and is concerned that not all students have the opportunity for a dual language education. The Mayor does not agree with placing the middle school students at Kennedy and stated they should be at McDevitt Middle School. She also does not agree that the current high school building should be the permanent location. If the model is for a K-8 school, the Mayor believes the location should be McDevitt Middle School and the McDevitt should relocate to the current high school building. Mrs. AlJammal suggested the discussion to move the Dual Language School to McDevitt should begin this summer.

Dr. Reagan responded he does not see a short-term solution at McDevitt. The building does not have the necessary space and reminded the Committee the expansion to Kennedy is not for this year, but for the fall of 2022.

VOTED: On motion of Mrs. AlJammal, seconded by Ms. Donnelly, to temporarily place Dual Language grade six classes at Kennedy Middle School for 2022-23.

Roll call: Mr. Tarallo, yes; Mrs. Gately, yes; Mrs. AlJammal, yes; Ms. Donnelly, yes; Mr. Rando, yes; Mr. Frassica, yes.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Mrs. Gately, to take item 7a out of order.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
School Counseling Update

Dr. Reagan was pleased to introduce Ms. Katie Willard, Assistant Director of School Counseling. Dr. Reagan remarked Ms. Willard has been a tremendous addition to the school leadership team. Ms. Willard informed the Members the focus of the department is college and career readiness, social-emotional learning and school counseling.

The WHS guidance website is a hub for college preparation resources and career exploration opportunities. The FAFSA Assistance Grant offers supplemental support to families and students during the completion process. The high school has joined the Early College Program at no charge and is a member of the Metrowest College Planning Collaborative. Ms. Willard explained that during this past year the department has focused on psychological and mental health. An intern from the psychiatry department at William James College offered consultation time for staff to help with difficult clinical matters. In addition to multiple professional development opportunities for staff, the district has partnered with the Resilience Project to support families. School adjustment counselors support both general and special education students. Ms. Willard responded to comments and questions from the Committee regarding in-house support, staffing and caseloads and planning for the fall to support seniors. The Committee thanked and praised the counseling department for their work to support not only students, but families and staff as well, particularly this past year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. MSBA-Waltham High School Project

Mr. Frassica reported that progress is being made and blasting and hauling continues on the site. The project team provided design and construction updates at the June 7th meeting. At the meeting the School Building Committee voted to approve the 90% construction documents which were then submitted to the MSBA on June 8th. The project continues to be on schedule and on budget. The next SBC meeting is July 19th at 5:30 p.m.

c. Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Waltham Public Schools has been invited into the Urban Superintendent Roundtable. Dr. Reagan remarked this is something he has been requesting in order to join with other like and diverse cities in the network.

d. 2021-22 Waltham High School Handbook

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Frassica, seconded by Mr. Tarallo, to table item 8d.

NEW BUSINESS
EDCO Collaborative School Committee Representative

Dr. Reagan asked for a member of the School Committee to serve as a representative on the EDCO Board. Since there were no volunteers Mayor McCarthy declared the entire School Committee will serve.

FISCAL MATTERS

Bills on Warrant

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Mrs. Gately, to approve the bills on warrant.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Rando spoke about the Bullying Task Force that formed the anti-bullying plan in 2014 and updated it in 2019. Mr. Rando requested that Dr. Reagan check in with the principals regarding incidents and to find out if the policy is effective.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATEa. Miscellaneous Personnel

The Committee was informed of the following miscellaneous personnel items:

New Hires:

Katie Cormier-Desrosiers, school nurse, Stanley Elementary School, replacing M. FitzGerald (resignation); salary \$84,935 (B/10), effective August 30, 2021.

Robert Lyons, Associate Principal, Waltham High School, replacing B. Pena (promotion); salary \$117,516 (Step 8/Doc), effective July 1, 2021.

b. Informationi. COVID-19 Updates

Dr. Reagan reported the cases continue to be very low and pool testing is being conducted every week in the schools by the nurses and Director McCaffrey. OSCO Drug held several student vaccination clinics at the middle and high schools. Several hundred students signed up and received the vaccination.

ii. Enrollment Update

The May enrollments were forwarded to the Committee for their information. Dr. Reagan and the Principals will continue to carefully watch each school's enrollments for the fall.

Friday, June 18th is the last day of school and Dr. Reagan offered his sincere thank you to the students, staff and families for their hard work and cooperation during a very difficult year.

Mrs. Gately thanked and commended Dr. Liz Homan for her work in Waltham and wished her well as she moves on to be the Superintendent of the Arlington Public Schools.

NEW BUSINESS**Superintendent's FY21 Evaluation**

Mr. Frassica presented a summary of the School Committee's evaluation of Superintendent Reagan for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Committee determined that Dr. Reagan met his professional practice goal and the district improvement goal and made significant progress toward the student learning goal. The MA DESE performance ratings on the four standards are Unsatisfactory, Needs Improvement, Proficient and Exemplary. Overall Dr. Reagan was deemed Proficient in Instructional leadership; Management and Operations; Family and Community Engagement and Professional Culture. Some individual members rated the Superintendent exemplary in Family and Community Engagement and Professional Culture.

The following remarks were included in the evaluations. "Dr. Reagan has collaborated with the leadership team on student achievement and determined post-pandemic steps regarding the Changemaker Academy and English Learners." "Transition was seamless, maintaining momentum for the system during a difficult time." "Dr. Reagan has kept the district moving during his transition."

The Committee thanked and commended Dr. Reagan for his leadership and communication during a very difficult year. The Committee looks forward to continuing their work with him.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Mr. Frassica, to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Brian K. Reagan, Ed.D.
Clerk

WALTHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Waltham, Massachusetts
SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 24, 2021

A special meeting of the Waltham School Committee convened at 4:05 p.m. Present were Ms. Donnelly, Mr. Frassica, Mrs. Gately, and Mr. Tarallo. Mayor McCarthy, Mrs. AlJammal and Mr. Rando were not in attendance. Mr. Frassica presided. Mr. Tarallo led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Mrs. Gately, to take item 2a out of order.

VOTED: On motion of Ms. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Tarallo, to hear from an off-committee member.

Dr. Reagan pointed out that a number of edits have been made to the handbook for the School Committee's consideration.

Principal-elect Brenda Pena reviewed the proposed changes and responded to questions from the Committee regarding attendance, GPA, foreign language and conduct.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Mrs. Gately, to approve the updated 2021-22 Waltham High School Handbook. Roll call: Mr. Tarallo, yes; Mrs. Gately, yes; Ms. Donnelly, yes; Mr. Frassica, yes.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

**2021-22 Waltham High
School Handbook**

FISCAL MATTERS

**FY2022 School
Department Budget**

VOTED: On motion of Ms. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Tarallo, to approve the FY22 budget in the amount of \$94,080,441.00. Roll call: Ms. Donnelly, yes; Mrs. Gately, yes; Mr. Tarallo, yes; Mr. Frassica, yes.

NEW BUSINESS

**M.A.S.S Executive
Institute July 2021**

Dr. Reagan is seeking approval to attend the MA Association of School Superintendents 2021 Summer Executive Institute from July 13-15 in Falmouth.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Mrs. Gately, to approve the request from Dr. Reagan.

Mayor McCarthy joined the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

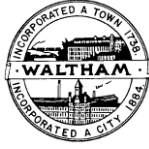
Dr. Reagan reviewed some of the details of the conference. The Mayor informed the Committee she put forth a request to the City Council to pave Jack's Way.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: On motion of Mayor McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Tarallo, to adjourn at 4:27 p.m.

Brian K. Reagan, Ed.D.
Clerk

Waltham Public Schools



SchoolBuilding Committee

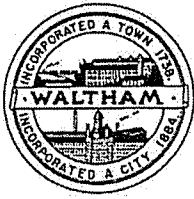
TO: Waltham School Committee

FROM: Brian K. Reagan, Chairman

DATE: June 30, 2021

RE: Waltham High School Project

The Waltham High School Project Team submitted the 90% construction documents to the MSBA on June 8, 2021. It is customary for the MSBA to make some requests or offer comments on the submission. One of the requests is for a vote of the School Committee on a proprietary traffic signal system at the entrance and exit of the new high school. The School Building Committee voted this item in February based on the recommendation of the Waltham Traffic Engineer. The project team respectfully requests the School Committee make and vote the same motion so that it may be included in the response to the MSBA. Please see the documents attached to this memo.



City of Waltham

Traffic Engineering

119 School Street
Waltham, Massachusetts 02451
781-314-3400
Fax: 781-314-3406

J. Michael Garvin, P.E.
Traffic Engineer

January 21, 2021

Waltham School Building Committee

To the School Building Committee:

The new high school will be constructing new traffic signals on Lexington Street. One signal will be at the high school entrance and one signal will be at the high school exit. In reality, these will operate as one consolidated traffic signal for both driveways.

In designing the detection system for these signals, GridSmart cameras will need to be specified. No competing detection camera will be acceptable to the City. I recommend that the School Building Committee vote to allow this proprietary equipment to be specified, to ensure that the City receives the acceptable equipment.

GridSmart cameras are video detection systems that monitor the presence of vehicles in each lane at an intersection. This allows for traffic signal actuation, as well as data collection.

Elsewhere across the City, we are using GridSmart exclusively. Our field technicians have the experience with this equipment, and it is not reasonable to introduce new systems that the technicians do not have experience with. Therefore, we are requiring that the specs indicate only GridSmart.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely yours,

J. Michael Garvin, P.E.
Waltham Traffic Engineer

JMG/lg

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WALTHAM SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Waltham, Massachusetts

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Waltham School Building Committee convened at 5:30p.m. Present were the following members: Brian Reagan, Amy Brown, Fabrizio Caruso, Colette Casey-Brenner, Michael Donovan, John Frassica, George Frost, Liz Homan, David King, Paul Maiorano, John Pinzone, Nadene Stein and Leanne Wilcinski. Mayor McCarthy, Paul Centofanti and John Millian were not in attendance. Also present were Lynn Stapleton, Jim Rogers and Matt Casey from Leftfield; Lorraine Finnegan, Matt Rice, Martine Dion and Lana Prokupets from SMMA; Jim Hervol, Rachel Whitermore and Will Feraco from Consigli Construction Company and Michael Lambert and Ken L'Ecuyer from Jacobs

Public Input

John Wang, 27 Glen Circle submitted comments in advance regarding his concern about construction noise.

Nick and Natalie Durham, 460 Lexington Street submitted questions regarding blasting.

Minutes from January 11, 2021 Meeting

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Pinzone, seconded by Ms. Casey-Brenner, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2021. All in favor.

Mayor McCarthy joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Design Update

• Vote on Proprietary Traffic Signal Software

Forwarded for the committee's consideration was a memo from Waltham Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin regarding the Gridsmart system, currently in use at approximately eight intersections in the City. Mr. Garvin recommended the committee vote to include the same traffic signal system when the new lights are installed on Lexington Street. Ms. Finnegan stated the specifications and pricing for Gridsmart are included in the 60% Construction Documents package and requested the committee vote to approve this proprietary signal software.

VOTED: On motion of Ms. Wilcinski, seconded by Mr. Caruso, **to approve the Gridsmart traffic signal software for the high school project.** Ms. Brown, yes; Mr. Caruso, yes; Ms. Casey-Brenner, yes; Mr. Donovan, yes; Mr. Frassica, yes; Mr. Frost, yes; Dr. Homan, yes; Mr. King, yes; Mr. Maiorano, yes; Mayor McCarthy, yes; Mr. Pinzone, yes; Dr. Reagan, yes; Dr. Stein, yes; Ms. Wilcinski, yes.

• Vote on 60% Construction Documents Report to MSBA

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Frost, seconded by Mr. Pinzone, to approve submission of the 60% Construction Documents to the MSBA. Ms. Brown, yes; Mr. Caruso, yes; Ms. Casey-Brenner, yes; Mr. Donovan, yes; Mr. Frassica, yes; Mr. Frost, yes; Dr. Homan, yes; Mr. King, yes; Mr. Maiorano, yes; Mayor McCarthy, yes; Mr. Pinzone, yes; Dr. Reagan, yes; Dr. Stein, yes; Ms. Wilcinski, yes.

• Potential Additional COVID-19 Building Design Measures and Costs for Discussion

SMMA provided detailed information regarding measures that could be included in the design to mitigate the risk of infectious disease in a school building. These recommendations provided by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) will continue to be updated. Engineer Lana Prokupets, Architect Matt Rice and Director of Sustainable Design Martine Dion reviewed ventilation, filtration, differential pressure and ultraviolet germicidal irradiation measures. It was pointed out that some of the recommendations are already included in the project and others can be done now. These programming and equipment changes take strict monitoring and the price tags for many of the recommendations are steep. It was emphasized these are recommendations only and not code requirements.

Mr. Rice reviewed ASHRAE's recommendations for the Nurses' Suite which include modifications to the ventilation and layout, including an isolation area separated by airlocks. Mr. Frassica inquired if the expectation is these recommendations will cost more in the future if they're not done now. Ms. Prokupets responded there is no talk of these recommendations becoming code and the project already has a high level of ventilation and filtration in the design. Mr. Frassica suggested the designers meet with Health Services Director Patty McCaffrey and Facilities Director John Pinzone to discuss the Nurses' Suite further. Mr. Donovan asked about meeting the minimum regulations for MSBA. Ms. Dion replied that some aspects will still meet the minimum requirements and will also affect the LEED certification. Ms. Finnegan added this is a high-performance building and meets the additional 2% reimbursement requirement. SMMA prepared an analysis of the recommendations and found there would be a 15% reduction in energy use savings and a 12% reduction in energy cost savings, resulting in an estimated annual \$75,340 increase in energy costs. In response to a question from Mr. Donovan regarding the MERV 13 system, Ms. Prokupets stated if the project changes to MERV 13, a larger unit will be necessary that will require increased service and maintenance and ultimately affect the architectural space.

Mr. Centofanti joined the meeting at 6:15p.m.

OPM Update

- Monthly Report
- Peer Reviews
- Next Steps

Mr. Casey provided an update on activities that took place in January with the project. Final clearing of the Retreat House and trees was conducted. Berms for sand control and water retention and fencing with sound barriers were installed. The team held a forum on blasting on January 7th and a test blast for analysis on January 19th. Production blasting began on January 25th and daily exporting of soil and rock will continue over the next several months. Cost reconciliation meetings were held at the end of January. All three estimates were within 1% of each other, with Consigli coming in at slightly below budget. An RFQ for trade contractors will be posted in time for Pre-GMP Bid Package #3 and the plan is to qualify all trades from February to early April. Structural and fire protection peer reviews will be back on February 19th.

Construction Update

Ms. Whitermore provided a five week look-ahead which includes drilling and blasting, soil and rock removal and toe stones placement. Two blasts per day will begin next week.

Adjournment

VOTED: On motion of Ms. Wilcinski, seconded by Mr. King, to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. All in favor.

Marian K. Parrella
Clerk