

Glenn Brand, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Christine Elliott
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Staff Development

Paul Ruggiero
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A school and community partnership that provides an inclusive, respectful, and collaborative learning environment where all stakeholders are engaged in the development of the whole child.

MSBA Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting
Oct 18, 2021 06:30 PM Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes:

1. Roll Call

Superintendent Brand called to order the Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting of the Wilmington School Committee at 6:38 pm.

In attendance:

- Dr. Glenn Brand, School Superintendent, Committee Chairman
- Jeffrey M. Hull, Town Manager
- Gregory B. Bendel, Board of Selectmen
- David A. Ragsdale, School Committee
- Paul Ruggiero, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Finance
- Bryan T. Perry, Finance Director/Town Accountant
- Marianne Gallezzo, Finance Committee
- Diane M. Allan, Permanent Building Committee
- Paul J. Melaragni, Permanent Building Committee
- Melissa D. Plowman, School Committee Alternate
- Kevin A. Caira, Board of Selectmen Alternate
- Kristen Walsh, School Principal Alternate

Not in attendance: George W. Hooper II, Public Buildings Superintendent
Charlotte King, School Principal
Mary Jane Byrnes, School Committee Alternate
John C. Holloway, Permanent Building Committee

2. Entertain Nominations of a Vice Chair

Motion: Ms. Allan moved to nominate Paul Ruggiero for Vice Chair; the motion was seconded by Ms. Gallezzo and Mr. Melaragni.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Review Town Responsibilities to Complete During Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Eligibility Period

Dr. Brand shared the press release "Wildwood School Invited into MA School Building Authority Program" (Note: All documents used tonight are on the district website, Wildwood Building Project Page)

There were 71 applications total, Wilmington was 1 out of 15 districts allowed into the program, which was a major accomplishment. MSBA agreed that our elementary buildings are in need of work.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

All educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities at Wilmington Public Schools are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, age and/or disability, and any other class or characteristic protected by law.

Dr. Brand shared MSBA Core Program Process Overview

- Complete initial compliance certification
- Formation of school building committee
- Educational profile and enrollment process
- Maintenance and capital planning
- Local authorization of funding

Dr. Brand shared the overview of deliverables.

Eligibility Period commenced July 1, 2021 and concludes March 28, 2022.

Jeff Hull stated we will suggest recommended town meeting dates of March 7th or 8th to the board. They will discuss authorizing funding for the feasibility study and be eligible for consideration of the next phase.

Ms. Gallezzo asked Dr. Brand if he will be sending out the materials, he answered yes.

Mr. Ruggiero spoke about projected enrollment for Kindergarten and Special Education Programs, additionally he mentioned that at this time the district is unsure if there will be a consolidation of schools in the future; all of this information went to the MSBA.

4. Development of a Communications Plan to Inform Residents about MSBA Project Funding & Building Options

Dr. Brand acknowledged that many community members follow, but are not up to speed with, our school facilities or our engagement in the process with MSBA. He would like to keep people informed but asks how and when? He would like opportunities for community involvement and stated “this is the beginning of a long journey.” He asked the committee for their thoughts.

Ms. Allan spoke about how community members have been focusing on the Senior Center and the Town Hall/School Administration building. Town people will want to know why we should be focusing on the schools now. Ms. Allan suggested use of social media, Wilmington Apple and poster boards around town to keep the community informed.

Mr. Melaragni suggested a newsletter goes home with the students. He also suggested a night at the Wildwood where community members can go and see the inside of the building.

Mr. Bendel suggested in addition to printed media, people can access the town website for information and updates. He also suggested the idea of hosting community forums, where people can attend and ask questions.

Dr. Brand noted that a video of the Wildwood was filmed as part of the application process with MSBA in lieu of an in person visit, due to it taking place during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Melaragni expressed interest in viewing this video.

Mr. Hull suggested the MSBA information can be included in the “Town Topics” flyer that goes out to residents with the tax bills. Additionally, information will be provided on the town

website. Mr. Hull believed focus should be placed on the authorization of funds vote at the town meeting. If funds are authorized, the town can then focus on options/configurations for the best approach.

David Ragsdale commented on the importance of engaging the elementary school parents due to this population understanding the need for new buildings.

Ms. Gallezzo mentioned the importance for all residents of the town to be aware of the MSBA project, not just school age families.

Ms. Allan asked if any of the deliverable items are weighted differently than the others. Dr. Brand stated that he does not believe there has been reference to weighted items. Mr. Ruggiero agrees.

Ms. Allan asked how the amount of money is going to be decided and where the money will come from. Mr. Hull responded that the process will be comparable to surrounding districts and that we are looking at approximately 1 million dollars that will likely come from "free cash," not from taxpayers.

5. **Schedule Next Meeting Date**

Dr. Brand believed a poll may be helpful to schedule a future meeting, but suggested Monday Nov. 15th as a possibility. Ken Lord, OIT Director, said there is a public hearing scheduled that night at 6pm. Mr. Hull suggested it could take place at 7pm after the public hearing.

Kevin Caira asked if it may be easier for the community to host in-person meetings. Melissa Plowman commented that Zoom meetings may actually be more accommodating for parents and members of the community. The Committee agreed that both options can be reviewed. Mr. Hull suggested we contact WCTV to be present to record if the meetings are in person.

6. **Public Comment**

None

7. **Adjourn**

Superintendent Brand called to adjourn the Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting at 7:35pm.

Motion: Dr. Brand moved for approval; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bendel.

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Contrada
(Temporary meeting recorder)