

**Glenn Brand, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Christine Elliott**  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum & Staff Development

**Paul Ruggiero**  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Administration & Finance



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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**

**February 2, 2022 06:30 PM**

**Via:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85898428801?pwd=TmVJMFM1WEozRTNBTHB0eDBsSVZRdz09>

**Meeting ID: 858 9842 8801**

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **1. Roll Call**

Superintendent Brand called to order the Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting at 6:33PM.

#### Committee members In attendance:

- Dr. Glenn Brand, School Superintendent, Committee Chairman
- Jeffrey M. Hull, Town Manager
- David A. Ragsdale, School Committee
- Paul Ruggiero, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Finance
- Marianne Gallezzo, Finance Committee
- Paul J. Melaragni, Permanent Building Committee
- Melissa D. Plowman, School Committee Alternate
- Kevin A. Caira, Board of Selectmen Alternate
- George W. Hooper II, Public Buildings Superintendent
- Diane M. Allan, Permanent Building Committee
- Mary Jane Byrnes, School Committee Alternate
- John C. Holloway, Permanent Building Committee
- Kristen Walsh, School Principal Alternate

#### Absent:

Gregory B. Bendel, Board of Selectmen  
Bryan T. Perry, Finance Director/Town Accountant

#### Community members In attendance:

Vivian Varbedian  
Susan Inman

#### **2. Approval of minutes** from January 11, 2022 meeting

**Motion:** Mr. Hooper moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Ms. Allan.

**Roll Call:**

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#### 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. Glenn Brand, yes
- Jeffrey M. Hull, yes
- David A. Ragsdale, yes
- Paul Ruggiero, yes
- Marianne Gallezzo, yes
- Paul J. Melaragni, yes
- Melissa D. Plowman, yes
- Kevin A. Caira, yes
- George W. Hooper II, yes
- Diane M. Allan, yes
- Mary Jane Byrnes, yes
- John C. Holloway, yes
- Kristen Walsh, yes

**3. Preview of Finance Committee Presentation** scheduled for February 15, 2022, including draft infographic.

Dr. Brand reviewed the draft presentation for committee feedback. He began with a reminder that at the 3/8/2022 Special Town meeting, there will be a vote for town member support for a feasibility study. In advance of that, on 2/15/2022, they will present to the Finance Committee regarding the merits of supporting the meeting article. Mr. Hull stated that the February meeting will provide an opportunity for the Finance Committee and the public to hear the benefits of the article. He added that the vote, which is needed before the MSBA deadline of 3/28/2022, will need to be a favorable one to move ahead to the next module to conduct the feasibility study.

Background slide- Dr. Brand stated that although all of the six (6) elementary schools have capital needs, the Wildwood School was prioritized since it is at the end of its useful life. Mr. Hull and Mr. Hooper inquired if the presentation should reference the less school transitions with the possibility of consolidation. Mr. Ruggiero stated that if the project moves ahead to the feasibility study, then the option of school consolidation will be included. Ms. Gallezzo stated that the presentation might become too “muddy” if consolidation is added.

Slide 4- Ms. Gallezzo added that the statement about all schools having capital needs should be reworded. Mr. Melaragni stated that the page 10 slide addresses the other school’s needs.

Slide 5- Mr. Hull empathized that the MSBA is the only avenue that funds school rehabilitation.

Slide 6- Dr. Brand reviewed the graphic from MSBA that demonstrates the required steps and time period.

Slide 7- Mr. Hooper stated that a check mark should be added to the graphic for the steps that have been completed.

Slide 8- it was recommended that the graphic should be made into a full-page size so it's easier to read and that the X should be moved and it should say "we are here."

Slide 9- Mr. Ragsdale recommended adding some wording ("at beginning") to the last bullet.

Slide 10- Dr. Brand reviewed this slide as the purpose of the funding being approved and added that the language was lifted from the MSBA documents. Mr. Hull recommended removing the Vote Yes image and replacing it with a "your support is needed" or "if you vote yes" type wording. Mr. Caira recommended specifying Module 2 and 3 in the last bullet.

Slide 11- Again it was recommended to remove the Vote Yes image and replacing it with a "your support is needed" or "if you vote yes." Ms. Gallezzo said the terms "district" should be changed to "town." Mr. Hull commented in the map of MSBA steps and how after Module 5 that there is another town vote requirement. Mr. Ragsdale recommended marking where public participation comes in. Ms. Allan recommended adding a bullet stating that community input is gathered throughout the project.

Slide 12- Mr. Hull recommended being more direct with the first bullet, such as "opportunity for funding assistance for a new school ends." The term district needs to be changed to town. Ms. Allan recommended adding an "if no vote" graphic.

Slide 4- Ms. Allan recommended rewording the bullets.

Mr. Hull stated that we still need to be mindful of the needs of other buildings in town that also need to be attended to. Mr. Caira stressed that the focus at this time needs to be on the Wildwood. Mr. Ragsdale recommended reversing the order of the bullets. Ms. Plowman recommended changing the terminology of "comfortable and appropriate" to something like "safe and a learning environment conducive to children's learning needs." It was added another option of "supporting teaching and learning."

The Committee then reviewed the draft infographic. Dr. Brand informed the committee that the purpose of this is to have a printed card that goes in the packets the town creates for the attending community members. Mr. Melaragni asked if the font color could be changed to make it easier to read. Mr. Caira recommended the infographic be shared before the 3/8 meeting. Dr. Brand stated that some of the marketing brochures as well as the booklet have been shared electronically and that hardcopies are being shared locally too. It was recommended that they be shared at the senior center.

The circular graphic on the top of the backside seemed like it would be confusing for the community and it was recommended that it is removed. Mr. Melaragni recommended adding information from the presentation regarding enrollment projections in lieu of the circular graphic.

Ms. Gallezzo recommended removing the concerns of “air quality and air flow” from the front of the infographic.

Mr. Ruggiero stated that it might be helpful to invite the Town Crier and/ or the Apple to the presentation to the Finance Committee on 2/15.

#### **4. Paws virtual event February 10, 2022**

Dr. Brand informed the committee about the support the PAWS group is providing at a virtual town hall event. The group will host this event with a panel discussion to inform the community about the Wildwood/ MSBA project and the importance of a favorable vote in March.

Ms. Gallezzo recommended more intense marketing of the 3/8/2022 special town meeting starting on 3/1 and leading up to the meeting; like a countdown to the vote. Ms. Allan recommended advertising the special project and vote in the Town Crier or the Apple newspapers so a broader part of the community with varying lifestyles is reached. Mr. Hull inquired if parents could write letters to the newspaper editors. Dr. Brand responded that this may be accomplished through social media platforms.

**5. Next meeting:** will be after the special meeting vote. Tentatively planned for 3/22/2022 at 6:30PM.

To advertise in the Town Crier, it would need to be posted by 3/2/2022. The board at Rotary Park can also display some details about the special meeting.

The updated presentation will be shared with the committee for final feedback.

#### **6. Public Comment**

Ms. Varbedian said her daughter will be attending the Wildwood and she is in support of the project. She said it is a good idea to use different advertising platforms but the messaging should be simplified even though the MSBA requires a project to look at all options to prove the best choice. She added that she felt the infographic was useful.

Ms. Byrnes agreed that the message should contain simplified information. She added that in the background slide a positive vote at the 3/8 meeting needs to be stressed to show urgency.

#### **7. Adjourn**

Superintendent Brand called to adjourn the Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting at 8:04PM.

**Motion:** Mr. Melaragni moved for approval; the motion was seconded by Ms. Allan.

**Roll Call:**

- Dr. Glenn Brand, yes
- Jeffrey M. Hull, yes
- David A. Ragsdale, yes
- Paul Ruggiero, yes
- Marianne Gallezzo, yes
- Paul J. Melaragni, yes
- Melissa D. Plowman, yes
- Kevin A. Caira, yes
- George W. Hooper II, yes
- Diane M. Allan, yes
- Mary Jane Byrnes, yes
- John C. Holloway, yes
- Kristen Walsh, yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Ingersoll, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent  
(Temporary meeting recorder)