

**MINUTES FROM WHS SCHOOL COUNCIL - APPROVED  
DECEMBER 18, 2023**

A meeting of the Wayland High School School Council was conducted remotely on December 18, 2023, due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation.

Allyson Mizoguchi called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Roll call was taken:

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
John Ali	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Merline Bhukanwala		X
Abigail Buffum	X	
Carolyn Crary	X	
Samantha Lee	X	
Maryam Libdi	X	
Allyson Mizoguchi	X	
Joe Oneschuk	X	
Zachary Rainville		X
Rena Shadday		X
Jill Swenson	X	
Zach Tussing		X

1. Public comment

There were no public comments.

2. Administrative matters

- Approval of minutes: November 11, 2023
- Motion to approve: Joe Oneschuk
- Second: Malcolm Ashley

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
John Ali	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Abigail Buffum	X	

Carolyn Crary	X
Samantha Lee	X
Maryam Libdi	X
Allyson Mizoguchi	X
Joe Oneschuk	X
Jill Swenson	X

3. Continued discussion and possible approval of 2023-24 WHS School Improvement Plan

- There was discussion of the School Improvement Plan and its three parts: Academic Achievement, Belonging & Equity, and Social Emotional Learning
- Abigail asked for reflections on the new course selection progress this year
  - Responses from teachers on School Council about challenges related to the timing of course changes; the increase in conversations about culture of learning and grades; the challenge of high absence rate exacerbating struggle
  - Responses from students on School Council about students (esp seniors) deciding to take a lot of AP classes just to “see what they can handle”; students having trouble changing their schedule once the school year has begun
  - Acknowledgement that this first year of our new process has challenges that will abate as time moves on
  - Allyson stated that part of the change for this year was also making more consistent how and what teachers communicate with families about their options
  - Moving forward, we are still looking at adjusting the timeline for course changes and perhaps tightening up this window
  - Our new process has raised questions about the academic support that is available and what is the appropriate level of support for a teacher to provide a student
  - Carolyn raised suggestion from last year’s School Council about having students share their experiences with other students. Some interest in this possibility.
  - Carolyn also noted the challenge of making teacher recommendations relatively early in the school year (March)
- Discussion of Belonging and Equity portion of SIP
  - Malcolm wondered where students can voice their concerns and experiences. How do you build belonging? Is the advisory program effective? What are the mechanisms to make sure that it’s working?
  - Jack noted his positive experience with School Counseling department, as well as other staff like nurse, teachers. Noted the importance of an environment where students feel comfortable with all the teachers at the school
  - Malcolm noted that an important facet of belonging is school safety

- Jill noted an uptick in attendance issues among students
- Malcolm suggested having Jason Verhoosky join the Council during discussions about belonging and community issues
- Pivot to discussion of Social Emotional Learning section of SIP
  - More discussion about the current Advisory program. Students noted positive experience but know that some peers have struggled with connections due to looser format
  - Allyson said the time might be right to look at the structures we already have (Advisory) and see they are serving our needs. Described origin of Advisory program and changes to its format/content over the years.
  - Perhaps a survey on Advisory, share feedback from last time we gathered feedback? Future topic for School Council.
- Approval of SIP, with understanding that the Council will continue to discuss concrete steps and refine it.

Motion to approve: Jill Swenson

Second: Malcolm Astley

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
John Ali	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Abigail Buffum	X	
Carolyn Crary	X	
Samantha Lee	X	
Maryam Libdi	X	
Allyson Mizoguchi	X	
Joe Oneschuk	X	
Jill Swenson	X	

4. Adjournment

Motion to approve: Carolyn Crary

Second: Joe Oneschuk

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
John Ali	X	
Malcolm Astley	X	
Abigail Buffum	X	

Carolyn Crary	X
Samantha Lee	X
Maryam Libdi	X
Allyson Mizoguchi	X
Joe Oneschuk	X
Jill Swenson	X

Respectfully submitted,

Allyson Mizoguchi  
Jill Swenson