

Steven M. Glovsky

1. Are you prepared to implement the Loker partial closure or do you want to see the decision reopened?

The sudden adoption of the 2 1/2 school model is probably the most incompetent and poorly planned change in any aspect of Wayland life that I have witnessed. I have absolutely no faith or confidence that it will save any money, and yet it will fundamentally impact our elementary school population. I cannot imagine any plan more critical to advance study and analysis before implementation. Yet our School Committee and Superintendent have elected to implement and then plan. It should be stopped immediately.

2. What, if any, alternatives to the Loker partial closure should have been considered?

Adoption of a well considered school restructuring plan in light of tightening financial circumstances and declining enrollments should be a top priority of the School Committee. A commitment to this effort would very likely have produced ready Town support for an interim operating override at the level originally proposed. Jumping at such a radical change in school operation for such a small projected savings makes no sense and brings into question the fundamental judgment of those in support.

3. Are there any other school planning initiatives that you would like to see changed or begun?

Wayland needs a system-wide extra-curricular activity office. The spirit of a full educational experience is largely dependent on opportunities found outside the classroom. While our teachers and school staff must be relating with each other, there is no system allowing either parents or even students to do more than react haphazardly to new offerings. The absence of such a coordinating force may well be the source of significant wasted dollars the loss of which threatens continuation of the activities themselves.

4. Do you support the current class size guidelines? Do you believe class size matters?

Certainly class size matters at the elementary school level, and present class size levels there should at least be maintained. At the Middle and particularly High School levels, class size should not be a rigid standard. Students in many subjects would not be affected by larger class sizes, particularly where the opportunity of one-on-one support outside class is made available. A mixture of large and small course opportunities would offer our students preparation for their future learning experience beyond Wayland.

5. Do you support METCO, including special education resources spent on METCO?

Disadvantaged, urban children come in more forms than the historic guidelines that the METCO program assists. I would support a METCO like program open to all disadvantaged students, but after 40 years of METCO, we have hopefully moved past the urgency and perhaps appropriateness of such a particularly narrow program. As to spending special education resources on METCO, in the absence of 100% state or Federal reimbursement, I am opposed.

6. Are there curriculum changes you would like to see at the elementary level?

Our son received a remarkably broad educational experience at Loker.

7. Do you support the High School Building project?

Building a new High School has become a fantasy Wayland must move beyond. Not only is the state unlikely to support a new construction project, but under present and foreseeable financial

circumstances, even a 40% state contribution to the cost would not bring the project within the Town's reach. Particularly with the prospect of declining enrollment, we need to embrace a renovation plan which is also what is most likely to win state assistance.

8. Describe the circumstances in which you would support a budgetary override to fund the schools.

Operating overrides should be reserved for emergencies. An emergency is defined as "an unforeseen combination of circumstances". While the present circumstance of a need to consider school restructuring may now have taken on the character of an emergency, such is the result of poor or absent past planning and a reliance on overrides for routine funding purposes.

9. Would you change the district's current busing policy and if so how?

No comment at this time.

10. Do you think it's critical to maintain the current quality of our schools?

Yes!

11. If you can, then please name anyone of prominence in Wayland, either inside or outside town or school government, that you admire, and state why?

Peter Gossels our Town Moderator. There has to be an element of egotism involved in his continued service in that role, and I've certainly muttered a curse or two at him under my breath, but year-after-year and with a certain style and grace he manages our Town Meetings with both care and appreciation for the process.

12. What creative solutions have been explored to maintain the schools without increasing taxpayer funding every year? What would you add to those?

As far as I'm concerned, there haven't been any such creative solutions explored or implemented! Our School Committee pays lip service to energy conservation studies and commodity level purchasing while the lights burn and the janitors labor well past school hours. These resources need to actually be controlled, particularly as we see energy costs rising. The High School makes a point of requiring community service; perhaps charity should begin at home, and we could "Tom Sawyer like" place the burden for emptying wastebaskets on our students.

13. Are there any other issues that you would like to address?

We need a traffic cop at both the Middle and High School entrances in the morning and afternoon. At present, there is only a crossing guard at the Middle School and nothing at the High School. I'm not convinced that we need the proposed street light at the High School, but at least for those brief periods every school day we need a traffic cop there!

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