



**Wayland**  
Computer Privacy Initiative  
1 Sylvan Way, Wayland, MA 01778

**To: Members of the Wayland Board of Selectmen**  
**From: Mark Hays**  
Cell: 508.661 9733  
Email: MarkAllenHays@Gmail.com  
**RE: Significant security problems continue at WPS = financial risk for Wayland**  
Date: 1 February, 2017

**Dear members of the Wayland Board of Selectmen:**

Despite years of warnings, multiple breaches of the Wayland Treasurer’s Office, and the McGladrey / RSM report and recommendations, Wayland Public Schools still suffers from the same basic security problems.

- We recently found that basic security patches have not been installed on WPS computers – the same problem that occurred in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- Hackers automatically identify unpatched and vulnerable computers via the Web, with ‘bots’ that scan thousands of computers every minute. They know exactly what the unpatched vulnerabilities are and launch attacks to seize control.
- We recommended an automated patch management solution for WPS years ago. McGladrey / RSM made the same recommendation in 2015 for the Town and WPS. Believe it or not, however, WPS has not implemented the solution recommended by McGladrey / RSM, which is now used by the Town. WPS is using the same old tools, in the same old way.
- We recommended upgrades in 2013 and 2014. The Town was hacked in 2015.
- If WPS does not upgrade, it will also be hacked. The WPS network stores a much larger volume of data for thousands of current and former students and families, so the risk and potential liability are significant.
- The cost of a breach would exceed \$1.5 million according to industry studies. Wayland taxpayers would foot the bill.
- Members of the BoS and Wayland School Committee have been repeatedly warned about this risk, and informed about the solutions. You know what should be done to fix the problem. Attorneys often name responsible parties who knew about a problem, but took no effective action.

- In the event of a breach and suit, all of our letters would be produced during 'discovery', along with the McGladrey / RSM report.

So, given all that you know, will you take action? Although the Wayland Public Schools network has historically been managed by the School Committee and Superintendent, the Town of Wayland is financially responsible for these recurring problems. Wayland taxpayers will pay if a breach occurs. So this buck stops at your desk.

We look forward to your response. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mark Hays

CC: Wayland School Committee, Jorge Pazos, FinCom