

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2023

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:47pm by Chair Tony Mullin. Also present were: Maya Khuri Plotkin, Amanda Phillips, Dorothy Parmelee; and JoAnna French. Superintendent Parks and Assistant Superintendent Allison Borchers were present on behalf of the District.

Westwood Media Center was recognized for providing a live-stream of the meeting.

Harley Pease recorded the minutes.

Executive Session

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to enter into executive session. The motion read as follows: the School Committee will be going into Executive Session to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements. The Committee will return to open session afterwards. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**
Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

The Committee went into Executive Session at 4:49pm and returned at 5:01pm.

Superintendent's Report

Recognition of High School Track Teams

Superintendent Parks presented certificates to the High School Track Teams on breaking numerous school records. Superintendent Parks congratulated them on their great successes from their past season(s).

Pine Hill Consolidation update

Superintendent Parks provided an update on the Pine Hill School consolidation plan. Superintendent Parks noted that the District is working on logistical planning regarding the days in which the District is looking to move materials from the Hanlon School and Deerfield School.

Sheehan Capital Needs update

Director of Finance and Operations Lemma Jn-baptiste provided an update on the Sheehan School capital needs.

Extended Day update

Superintendent Parks provided an update on the Extended Day program. Superintendent Parks noted that increased tuitions for families are being used to maintain staffing. Superintendent Parks noted that there has not been any feedback from families about the cost of Extended Day. Superintendent Parks noted that there has been feedback from families about the waitlist and the registration process. Superintendent Parks noted that Extended Day is not a part of the operating budget.

Public Participation

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Kate Latham of Dela Park Rd. spoke about the Extended Day program. Ms. Latham asked to create a task force to hopefully make Extended Day more equitable for families, from a waitlist and registration point of view.

Julianne Bride of Whitney Ave. spoke about reconsidering the use of the press box in hopes to allow music to be played of the PA system in order to provide Westwood athletes a larger home-field advantage.

Dan Jurgens of Fisher St. spoke about Extended Day and the importance of Extended Day to the community of Westwood.

Katie Collins of Arcadia Rd. spoke about Extended Day and the need for a more equitable process surrounding registration. Ms. Collins asked for the Committee to create a process that would eliminate manual procedures for the registration process to make the registration fairer. Ms. Collins asked for a parent advisory committee to be formed for Extended Day. Ms. Collins asked K-2 aged children to be prioritized in the selection process.

Junru Xue of Fensview Dr.. spoke about Extended and asked for more transparency about Extended Day registration and asked for the program to prioritize younger children.

Matt Landry of Buckmaster Rd. spoke about Extended Day and frustrations about the enrollment process and asked for a dialogue with parents to formulate solutions.

School Committee Chair Update/Liaison Reports

Chair Mullin said he would like the Committee to consider having a liaison to the Planning Board. Chair Mullin announced that there will be a Capital Subcommittee.

School building project update

Maya Plotkin provided an update on the school building project. Ms. Plotkin said the project is still on track for a February opening. Terracotta tiles are starting to go up on the exterior of the building.

Policy Review Subcommittee

Amanda Phillips provided an update on the Policy Review Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chair Phillips reminded the Committee that the reviewed policies have been viewable to the public at least a month in advance and policies have been on two school committee agendas for review.

Dori Parmelee gave a shoutout to PTO's that are making time for students and providing a sense of community.

Dori Parmelee announced that the Commission on Disability are looking for members.

Discussion Items

Wellness Curriculum Review Report

Tim Chant, Wellness Department Head, highlighted some important findings in the District's Wellness Review Report. Mr. Chant reviewed some findings, opportunities, and conclusions from the Wellness Curriculum Review.

2022-2023 District Goals Report

Superintendent Parks highlighted the District's priorities for the 2022-2023 school year. Superintendent Parks highlighted some District-wide actions and initiatives that the District has done in the past year in order to accomplish these priorities.

2022-2023 Superintendent's Evaluation

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Chair Mullin announced that he will be submitting the evaluation for the record but did not go through the evaluation.

Maya Plotkin, Amanda Phillips, Dori Parmelee, JoAnna French, and Tony Mullin all provided kind words and thanks to Superintendent Parks for her 28 years of service to the Westwood Public Schools.

Action Items

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve policy section K. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**
Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to establish the Pine Hill elementary district. Upon the opening of the Pine Hill School, students in the current Deerfield district, students current Hanlon district, and students who reside on University Ave. will be assigned to the Pine Hill district.

Further, beginning in 2023-2024 elementary students who reside on University Ave and are newly enrolling in the Westwood Public Schools will be assigned either to Deerfield/Pine Hill or Hanlon/Pine Hill in anticipation of the spring consolidation and opening of Pine Hill. Any student who resides on University Ave and currently attends the Downey may also, if the family chooses, be reassigned in Fall, 2023 to Deerfield/Pine Hill in anticipation of the spring consolidation and opening of Pine Hill.

Students who reside on University Ave. and currently attend the Downey School, and who do not request Fall, 2023 reassignment to the Deerfield/Pine Hill, will continue to be enrolled at and transported to Downey for 2023-2024. Beginning in 2024-2025, those students will be reassigned to the Pine Hill district or will be granted an intra-district transfer so that they may remain at Downey, with the understanding that under the intra-district transfer policy families are responsible for transporting their students to and from school.

Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**
Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to transfer the salary and non-salary budgets at Deerfield (Cost Center 411) to Hanlon (Cost Center 413) and rename the cost center, changing the name from Hanlon to Pine Hill in future budget documents.

Further, transfer any pertinent salary or non-salary budget lines in other Cost Centers that correspond to the Deerfield School to the budget lines that correspond to the Hanlon School in order to establish one Pine Hill budget.

Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

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Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips establish a School Capital Subcommittee. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the March 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the May 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Dori Parmelee to approve the WHS Track Field Trips. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes

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Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the 2023-2024 School Committee meeting dates. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to accept an anonymous donation to the TMS Performing Arts Department. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to ratify the tentative agreement with the Westwood Cafeteria Employees. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to ratify the ABA Tutor Collective Bargaining Agreement. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes
JoAnna French: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

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New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**
Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.