

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2024

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Amanda Phillips. Also present was Maya Plotkin, Dori Parmelee, JoAnna French, and Antony Mullin Superintendent Piwowar, Assistant Superintendent Ahern and Director of Finance and Operations Lemma Jn-baptiste were present on behalf of the district.

Harley Pease recorded the minutes.

Superintendent's Report

Portrait of a Graduate

Superintendent Piwowar announced that the Portrait of a Graduate work is underway.

Capital Planning Budget Request

Lemma Jn-baptiste announced that a request to the Town was submitted for capital planning. A device refresh plan, over the next five years, has been submitted. Additionally, our vehicle fleet plan was submitted.

Quarterly Financial Update

Lemma Jn-baptiste announced that we are at the same place as we were last night, at this point in time. Some lines are facing pressures, including maintenance and subscription services. Turnover numbers are pretty typical at this point in time.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

School Committee Chair Updates/Liaison Reports

Chair Update

Chair Phillips announced that the school committee roundtable was last night and had some good discussion.

Maya Plotkin noted that it was nice that some folks came just to listen.

School Committee Chair Updates/Liaison Reports

Dori Parmelee announced that the Cell Phone Task Force will meet again this month.

Tony Mullin announced that the Deerfield Re-Use Committee had a meeting and another meeting will be coming in late November or early December.

JoAnna French announced that the Downey PTO has really enjoyed the re-paving of the lot.

Discussion Items

2024 MCAS Analysis

Superintendent Piwowar and Assistant Superintendent provided some analysis about the 2024 MCAS. Highlights included:

- continuation of overall high performance
- strong student growth percentiles
- performance in comparison to like/nearby districts remains highly competitive
- an opportunity to examine subgroup performance, and identify strategic priorities for systemic improvement to close achievement gaps

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Assistant Superintendent Ahern announced that the next steps include triangulating with other data points, and working with department and building leaders to conduct standard and item analysis of MCAS assessments.

Solar Canopy Project

Paul Raducha, Ameresco, presented to the Committee the Canopy Relocation Assessment, as well as the process for approval and timeline/next steps.

Action Items

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to proceed with the solar canopy project. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

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

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the Sept. 18 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Tony Mullin.

Roll-call vote:

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

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar. Motion seconded by Tony Mullin.

Roll-call vote:

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

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the model UN field trips. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

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

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

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:

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

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.