

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Westwood, Massachusetts

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 14, 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 Anthony Mullin. Superintendent Piowar, 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**

*FY26 Budget Calendar and Preview*

Superintendent Piowar outlined the budget timeline for FY26. Additionally, Supt. Piowar noted the specific budget drivers that are unique to the FY26 budget. Some of those drivers include: Personnel costs, transportation cost increases, out-of-district special education tuition, utilities, and erosion of purchasing power on supplies due to inflation.

*November 5 Professional Learning Day*

Assistant Superintendent Caitlin Ahern provided some detail about the Professional Development Day on November 5th. The theme of the day was "when everyone belongs, everyone learns." Asst. Supt. Ahern provided detailed information on workshops, schedule for the day, and some of the learning targets of the day.

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**Liaison Reports**

Maya Plotkin provided an update from the Solar Panel Project with Ameresco. Ms. Plotkin reiterated that tree funding is not a priority for the Committee. Ms. Plotkin and Ms. Parmelee will be at the planning board meeting on Tuesday to advocate this position of the Committee.

Superintendent Piowar and Tony Mullin both attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference last week. Tony Mullin enjoyed conversations about data and AI at the conference.

Dori Parmelee provided an update from the cell phone task force. Ms. Parmelee noted that the task force will be meeting next week. Ms. Parmelee also noted that the cell phone task force and School Engagement Committee are doing similar, but separate work.

**Discussion Items**

*Portrait of a Graduate*

Superintendent Piowar provided the Committee with the first draft of the Portrait of a Graduate. Supt. Piowar noted that feedback from the broader community is desired.

*Using Data for Instructional Impact*

Asst. Supt. Caitlin Ahern provided some detail around the MCAS data. In particular, Asst. Super. Ahern provided detail on grades 5 and 10 in math and ELA.

TMS Principal Mike Redmon and Director of STEM Katie Clarke provided some detail about the new math program at TMS, MidSchoolMath.

**Action Items**

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**MOTION** made by Maya Plotkin to approve the October 10 meeting minutes. 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 October 21 meeting minutes. 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 October 31 meeting minutes. 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 November 8 meeting minutes. 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)**

**New Business**

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There was no new business.

**Executive Session**

**MOTION** made by Tony Mullin to adjourn the meeting to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Committee. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

Roll-call vote:

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

**Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)**

**Adjournment**

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

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 8:13pm into executive session.