

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Westwood, Massachusetts

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 17, 2024**

**Attendance and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm 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**

*Inclusive Schools Week*

Superintendent Piowar highlighted the Conversations with Caregivers event during Inclusive Schools Week at Sheehan elementary school. It included a Diversity Dinner and an Inclusive Panel that evening.

*Google Student Focus Groups*

Director of Technology, Learning, and Innovation Steve Ouellette provided an update from the Committee about an unique opportunity. Google approached the WPS about conducting a focus group with students on a new google product. Feedback from students seemed to be very positive.

*Westwood Girls Cross County - Division II State Championship Recognition*

Superintendent Piowar and Chair Amanda Phillips congratulated the student athletes with certificates, highlighting their accomplishments in cross country.

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**Liaison Reports**

Chair Phillips announced that the next school committee office hours will be on January 10, 2025 in the WHS PD Room at 10:00am. Tony Mullin and JoAnna French will be in attendance along with district leadership.

Maya Plotkin announced that Ameresco will donate money to the Conservation Gift Fund so that trees can be purchased and that the Planning Board approved the modification to the project. Construction will hopefully begin this upcoming summer.

Dori Parmelee is the liaison from WEAC and said that lights can be collected at both libraries and town hall, and should not be recycled.

School Committee Rep. Bai announced that announcement times may be shifted in order to have breakfast lined up with announcements.

**Discussion Items**

*FY26 Budget Update*

Superintendent Piowar provided an update to the Committee on the FY26 budget. Discussion included potential fee adjustments in order to sustain programs in the district. Extended day, building use, and prodigy program were discussed. PreK tuition, transportation, and athletic fees were also discussed.

*Policy IKFA: Graduation Requirements*

Superintendent Piowar provided the Committee with an update on MCAS with question two impacts on the Westwood Public Schools. The Committee asked questions regarding the competency determination requirements. Supt. Piowar said that guidance from DESE is still evolving.

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**Action Items**

**MOTION** made by Maya Plotkin to approve the November 14 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**

Maya Plotkin asked when the guidance review would be occurring. Asst. Superintendent Caitlin Ahern said that it will start in the new year. There are two other reviews as well going on concurrently, visual arts and performing arts.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by Tony Mullin 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 adjourned at 9:03pm.