

TO: School Committee

FROM: Tim Piwowar, Superintendent

DATE: November 8, 2024

RE: Draft Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

At our September School Committee meeting, we spoke about [the process of developing the Portrait of a Westwood Graduate](#). I am happy to share that we had great interest from the community in being a part of this process and assembled a team of about fifty stakeholders - representing students, staff, families, and community members - to support us in this work.

That group met on October 9 and October 23 in two three-hour sessions, facilitated by MLP Integrated Design, who was contracted by Dore + Whittier as part of our district master planning study. During those sessions, members of the stakeholder group worked to identify those skills and competencies that were most essential for students in Westwood to have as they matriculated from the Westwood Public Schools. I thank all the members of our working group for their high levels of engagement and robust conversation in the process.

After the meeting on October 23, a smaller group came together with MLP to put together an initial draft of the Portrait of a Westwood Graduate, which is found below. Please note that this draft is only a draft of the content; a graphic representation of the Portrait of a Westwood Graduate will be developed once the content is finalized.

DRAFT Portrait of a Westwood Public Schools Graduate

A Vision for WPS Students, PK-22

Graduates of the Westwood Public Schools will:

Think Critically

WPS students possess the skills and strategies to be curious, lifelong learners. They apply critical reasoning skills to understand information, adapt to novel situations, and design their own paths.

Communicate and Collaborate

WPS students communicate effectively across cultures and generations. They leverage their skills and voices to be productive speakers, listeners, writers, creators, and collaborators.

Act with Integrity

WPS students are guided by a deep sense of self and compassion for others. They demonstrate authenticity, responsibility, and perseverance in their decision-making and actions.

Engage Locally and Globally

WPS students are connected to communities locally and globally. They find purpose and joy in engaging with others, in service of one another and our planet, and in strengthening communities and conditions for all.

Innovate

WPS students are innovative problem-solvers. They are creative, flexible thinkers who persevere in the face of challenges to be a force for positive change in the world.

—

This draft was circulated to members of the larger working group, who we asked to rate on a scale of 1-5 how well this draft reflected our conversations as a working group, and how well it demonstrated our goals for WPS students. On both questions, the overwhelming majority (90%; the other 10% was neutral) indicated alignment with our conversation and our goals for students. Members were also asked to provide additional feedback, which will be discussed at the group's next meeting in early December.

Our immediate next steps are to publicize this draft to members of the community, and invite them to provide their thoughts and feedback during two sessions that we will hold during the week of November 18-22. Both of these sessions will be held virtually via Zoom, and are scheduled for [dates to be inserted; one day, one evening].

This community feedback will also be brought back to the larger working group in December, who will finalize the Portrait of a Westwood Graduate at our final meeting.

I look forward to discussing this with you further at our meeting on November 14..