



# WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future*

EMILY J. PARKS  
Superintendent of Schools

April 27, 2023

Dear WPS Community:

We recently became aware that a Twitter account entitled “Westwood High Boosters” has repeatedly endorsed viewpoints through its “likes” regarding transgender people that are not aligned with the policies and core values of the Westwood Public Schools (WPS) and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). In addition, the stated mission of the Boosters is to support and promote Westwood athletics and clubs. Upon review of the “likes” on the Boosters’ Twitter account, we noted that most of them were not relevant to this mission (e.g. speculation on the origin of autism, pejorative memes about transgender people).

To be clear, Westwood Public Schools unequivocally supports all students, including transgender students, and their right to access all programs within our District in accordance with applicable policies and the law. Further, the use of social media by organizations affiliated with WPS (i.e. organizations that use our name and our logo) should be relevant, respectful and aligned with WPS and MIAA policies.

When we contacted the Boosters Board of Directors, they informed us that the views on the account represent the individual who runs the account and not those of the Boosters organization. However, the Board did not take sufficient steps to address our concerns. Accordingly, the District communicated to the Board that, effective immediately, WPS will no longer be affiliated with the Westwood High Boosters and will not accept its financial support. Going forward, any donations (financial or otherwise) to the Westwood High Boosters will not be received by the Westwood Public Schools. Our Athletic Director has resigned as the WPS liaison to the Boosters and has also informed the Board that his designation as a Director of the Boosters was never authorized. We have removed the Boosters’ webpage from our website and disabled its WPS-associated email account. Finally, we directed the Board to cease and desist from using any WPS logos, images or likeness in any manner.

Westwood High School sports and clubs will continue to be funded through the WPS operating budget and through amounts received by their respective student activity accounts and we do not anticipate a material change to their financial positions. In the event the Boosters take steps to adequately and thoroughly address our concerns, WPS will welcome a renewed relationship with the Boosters.

WPS deeply values its relationship with its affiliated organizations and the support they provide our students, faculty and staff. We call upon all such organizations to ensure their policies are aligned with their mission, WPS policies and any other applicable regulations.

Sincerely,

/s/ Emily J. Parks

Emily J. Parks  
Superintendent

/s/ Amy Davenport

Amy Davenport  
WHS Principal

/s/ Matthew Gillis

Matthew Gillis  
WPS Athletic Director