



Westwood School Committee

February 13, 2025



Superintendent's Report

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WHS Athletic Alumni Donation

Seen Around WPS...



First graders learn about the properties of light, with the help of laser pointers and mirrors.



Holocaust survivor Jack Trompetter spoke with TMS 8th graders in an assembly, and then students came together in Advisory groups for reflection and discussion.

Seen Around WPS...

DOWNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**KINDERGARTEN CLASSES
VOTE FOR ROBOT NAME**



[Downey Robot Voting!](#)

Credit: WMC

Revisions to the FY26

Proposed Budget

Revisions to FY26 Budget

Three main areas of revision from the initial budget proposal in January:

- A fourth preschool classroom for the 2025-2026 school year
 - Located at Pine Hill; no change to existing time structure for preschool
 - FY26 budget allocated for SPED contracted services increased to support
- FY26 budget increase for Wellness is now 0.6 FTE (reduced from 1.0 in January)
 - Provides for a gradual phase-in of increased Wellness at WHS
- FY26 budget for Mandarin increased to 0.4 FTE (from 0.2 FTE in January)
 - Provides staffing to enable current students at all levels to continue study

Preschool

- Goal is to increase the number of available seats for students with disabilities
 - Physical space of current preschool location is a limiting factor
- Fifth kindergarten classroom at Pine Hill not projected to be needed for FY26
 - Census numbers for incoming K students lower than last year at this time
- Allows maintaining current schedule structure while serving more students
 - Most staffing support can be done in a budget-neutral manner
 - Requires some additional related services support
 - Increased budget allocation in contracted services line

Wellness

- Important part of our commitment to a well-rounded education for all students
 - For Class of 2027 and beyond, access to wellness in all four HS years
 - Addresses significant gap from recent curriculum review, particularly for addressing students' mental health
 - 0.6 FTE allows for a gradual phase-in of increased wellness
 - An additional 0.4 FTE needed in FY27 to complete phase-in
- For students in the Class of 2027 and beyond:
 - Junior year: Wellness/Financial Literacy are paired for one block
 - Senior year: Wellness/Civics are paired for one block

Mandarin

- FY26 budget maintains 0.4 FTE for Mandarin at WHS
 - Provides sufficient resources to support all students currently enrolled to continue studies in 2025-2026
- FY27 budget will need to maintain resources to allow students that have begun their study to be able to complete a four-year sequence

Revenue Assumptions

Self-Sustaining Programs

Objective:

To price tuition and fees so that both direct and indirect costs are absorbed by program budget, without reliance on Operating Budget which is still the case today.

- Extended Day
- Building Use
- Prodigy

Extended Day

To address fiscal objectives, tuition recommendation for next 3 years:

- FY'26: \$10/hour, \$660/month for 5-day program, 18% increase
- FY'27: \$10.30/hour, 3% increase
- FY'28: \$10.61/hour, 3% increase

Operating budget offset of 171K has not increased since FY'23. The proposed tuition allows us to increase the offset in FY'27.

Medfield, Needham, Dover-Sherborn, and Wayland currently charge between \$648 and \$688/month for 5-day program.

Building Use

To address fiscal objectives, proposed FY'26 - FY'28 fee schedule incorporates a custodial hourly rate charged on weekdays to organizations:

- For every hour of weekday Building Use, 15 minutes of impact on custodial duties is assumed.
- Anticipated increase for basketball youth groups is approximately 11%.
- Gym fee structures can be multi-layered (hourly rental rate, daily utility or overhead fee, custodial rate) but overall Westwood is on par with TEC districts.

Other organizations in Tier 2 through Tier 4 also experience increases to fees, and the typical impact is 4-6%. Offset of 88K has not increased since FY'23.

Prodigy

Prodigy Program fiscal objectives are to ensure the program's budget is balanced, ensure competitive rates for staffing, and absorb indirect costs to the district.

- Both tuition and instructor pay are proposed to increase by 8.5% in FY'26.
- Recommended 30 minute lesson tuition increase from \$35/lesson to \$38/lesson next year, and \$3/lesson increases in following two years.
- Instructor rate increase from \$52.53/hour to \$57/hour in FY'26.
- Future tuition increases go towards establishing a district Operating Budget offset, which is currently none.

Prodigy instructor pay is below other TEC communities, with Needham, Wayland, Canton, Natick, and Medfield all paying at or above \$60/hour.

Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

Portrait of a Westwood Graduate



Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

- Draft Portrait of a Graduate presented to School Committee in November
- Feedback sought through surveys and live listening sessions
- Working group reconvened in December to review feedback
- Smaller subgroup met in December/January to finalize content

Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

A Vision for WPS Students, PK-22

Graduates of the Westwood Public Schools will:

Think Critically and Creatively

Critical and innovative thinkers possess the skills, knowledge, and strategies to be curious, continuous learners. They understand information, develop content mastery, solve problems, adapt to novel situations, and design their own paths

- Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize multiple perspectives and viewpoints
- Reflect, ask questions, and use reasoning and evidence to problem-solve
- Seek knowledge and apply understanding to adapt to novel situations

Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

A Vision for WPS Students, PK-22

Communicate and Collaborate

Collaborative communicators connect effectively across identities, cultures, and generations. They leverage their skills and voices to be productive speakers, listeners, writers, creators, and contributors.

- Listen actively with purpose of understanding before making decisions
- Navigate interactions to work effectively with a variety of individuals and audiences
- Communicate and contribute respectfully through various modalities and platforms

Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

A Vision for WPS Students, PK-22

Act with Integrity

Individuals with integrity are guided by a deep sense of self and compassion for others. They demonstrate authenticity, responsibility, and empathy in their decision-making and actions.

- Demonstrate courage to make positive choices even in difficult situations
- Model integrity and honesty in their words, actions, and work
- Adapt to and employ technology ethically and responsibly

Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

A Vision for WPS Students, PK-22

Engage Locally and Globally

Engaged learners connect with local, national, and global communities to be a force for positive change. They find purpose and joy in service to one another and our world, and in improving conditions for all.

- Engage in service to others and contribute actively to make change in their community
- Explore different communities and perspectives
- Persevere in the face of challenges to be a force for positive change

Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

- Next phase is to develop a graphic representation
 - Initial ideas generated with working group in December
- Ability to amplify student voice in design process
 - Half-day design workshop for students led by Dore + Whittier

Strategic Planning

- Strategic planning process to begin this spring
 - Driven by desire for students to meet outcomes in Portrait of a Graduate
- Discussion of rollout at March School Committee meeting

Thank You!

Caitlin Ahern	Lori DeAngelis	Diana Legere	Ally Pavlic
Kevin Bai	Claire Dorman	Ammy Lowney	Mike Redmon
Erin Banty	Nate Feinfeld	Lisa Maguire	Talia Reiss
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Hillary Carpinella	Kate Holmes	Asanka Moehring	Tracey Truman
Sandria Chen	Maura Jereb	Tony Mullin	Nick Vidnovic
Katie Clarke	Lemma Jn-baptiste	Shawn Mullins	Yan Wang
Devin Clifford	Matt Kuklantz	Steve Ouellette	Chon'tel Washington
Katy Colthart	Kate LaCroix	Ember Parker	Angela Wilson
Amy Davenport	Theresa Ann Laham	Dori Parmelee	Ada Zhong

Portrait of a Westwood Graduate

