



Westwood School Committee

May 8, 2025



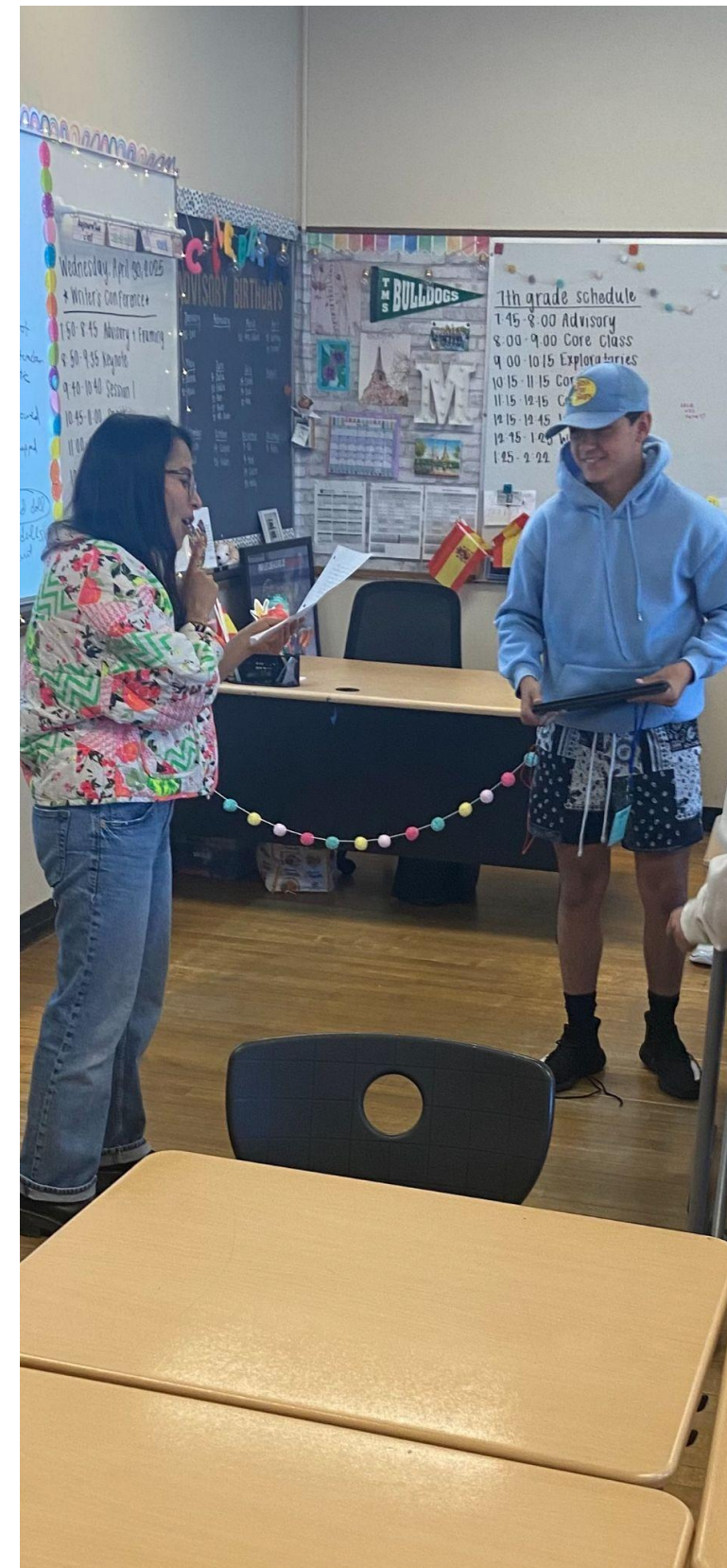
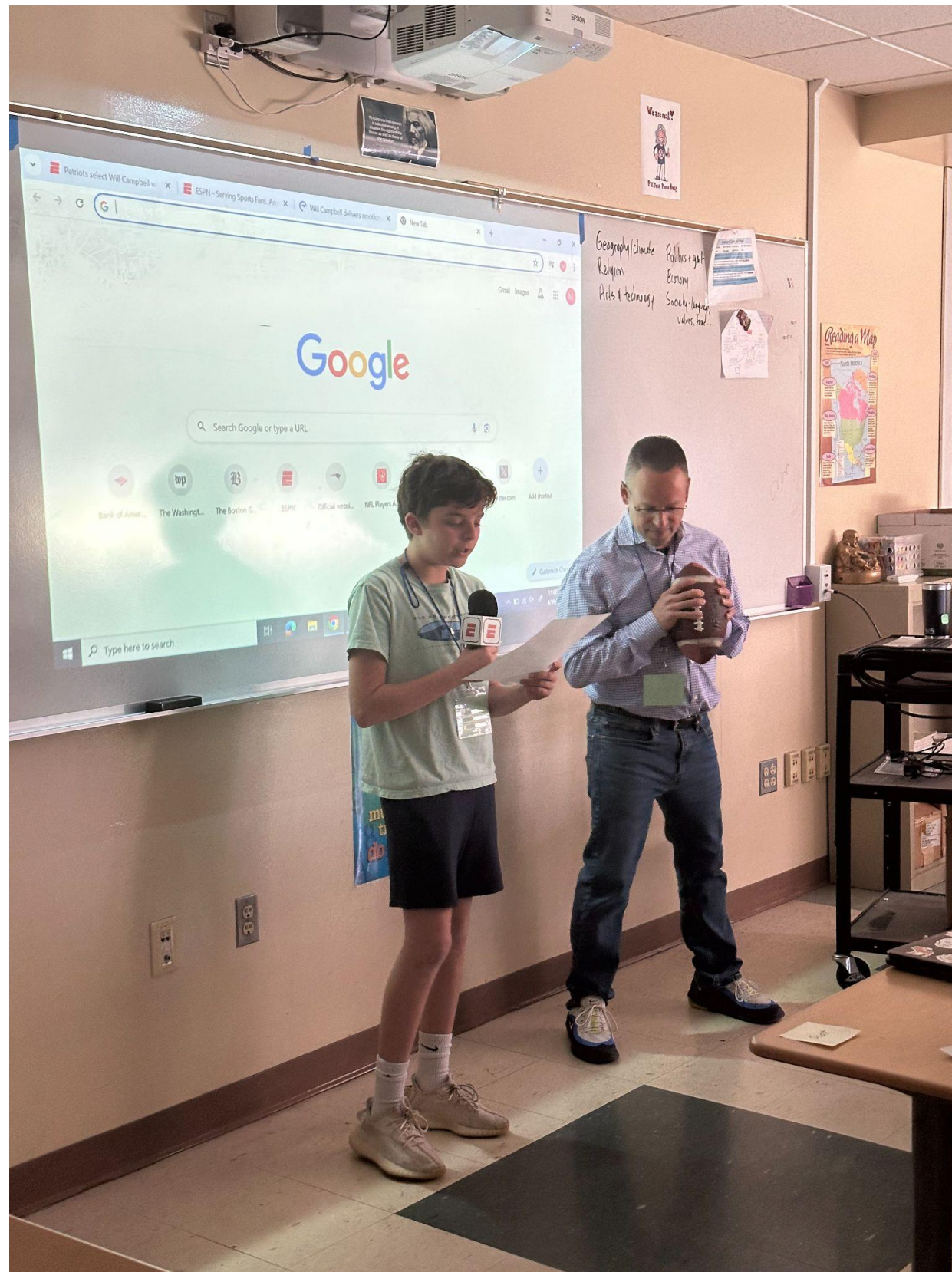
Superintendent's Report

May 8, 2025

Seen Around WPS...



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Strategic Planning Process

Curriculum Review

Update

Curriculum Review Phases

Audit + Analyze

- What's the current state of the program?
Standards, curriculum, materials, staffing, assessments, outcomes, etc...
- To what extent is our program rigorous, relevant, and serving all students?

Research + Development

- Research the questions/theories of action that were identified in A+A
- Create/procure the “things” needed to realize our goals - PD, curriculum materials, etc., and the plan for implementation

Implement + Assess

- Implement the plan - communication, PD, curriculum, etc.
- Examine implementation and outcomes, assess efficacy of changes, revise as needed

Foundational Outcomes	<p>Review should result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A shared PK-12+ departmental mission/vision for students that is aligned to district Portrait of a Graduate and used to ground instructional and programmatic decision-making ● A consistent, written curriculum, reflective of best-practice research, that all educators can access. The curriculum should be aligned with State standards. ● If achievement/opportunity gaps are uncovered in Audit + Analyze phase, Review should identify priorities and/or indicators of success that explicitly target those gaps.
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Review Outcomes

Curriculum Reviews in Progress

Audit + Analyze

- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts

Implement + Assess

- Digital Literacy and Computer Science and Library Media

Beginning Next School Year:

- Guidance
- Literacy/ELA

Progress to Date:

- ❑ Revised the Performing Arts Mission Statement
- ❑ Aligning curriculum to current standards, and working towards written curriculum for K-12

Plans for May-June:

- ❑ Crosswalk Departmental Mission to POG
- ❑ Classroom visits/shadow students as possible
- ❑ Create Steering Committee



Performing Arts

Progress to Date:

- ❑ Convened Steering Committee
- ❑ K-12 departmental “launch,” looking at vertical progression of skills in a gallery walk of student artwork

Plans for May-June:

- ❑ Crosswalk Departmental Mission to POG
- ❑ Classroom visits/shadow students as possible
- ❑ Determine data “look-fors” to guide summer/fall work



Visual Arts

Progress to Date:

- ❑ Implemented expanded DLCS special in grades 2 - 5
- ❑ New technology coaching model at Thurston and development of new DLCS learning targets
- ❑ Expand CS course sequence at high school
- ❑ Focus on AI literacy and professional learning
- ❑ Reinstatement of TMS Librarian
- ❑ Expanding elementary programming beyond library class - author visits, book clubs, etc.



DLCS + Library

Family and Community Engagement in Curriculum Review Process

- Steering Committee membership
- Student and Family feedback throughout the process
 - Audit + Analyze
 - Research + Development
 - Implement + Assess
- Parent/Community expert advisors
- School Committee updates on progress and findings
- And more!

Cell Phone Task Force Recommendations

Cell Phone Task Force

- The Cell Phone Task Force was established in May 2024 to examine the research base and to develop guiding principles to inform future policy decisions at the school and/or district level
- The Task Force began meeting in June 2024, and included 19 members from across the school and broader community

Cell Phone Task Force

- Work of the Task Force:
 - Common reading of *The Anxious Generation*
 - Review of new handbook policies at WHS and TMS
 - Examination of research base
 - Review of MA Attorney General's Toolkit
 - Review of proposed electronic device legislation
- The Task Force developed a series of recommendations:
 - Recommendations for policy
 - Recommendations for education
 - Recommendations for the community

Cell Phone Task Force Recommendations

Recommendations for Policy:

- Maintain and enforce the existing electronic device policies in school handbooks at elementary, middle, and high school.
- Gather additional data about the impact of the electronic device policies at all levels, and regularly review the data to inform any future revisions.
- Monitor the progress of state legislation on electronic device policies in schools, and be prepared to respond accordingly.
- Communication to, and among members of student activity groups and athletic teams should use approved school platforms for communication, and should not use social media to communicate messages to their members. Student leaders should be empowered to ensure communication practices are consistent with this recommendation.

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Cell Phone Task Force Recommendations

Recommendations for Education:

- Assess current educational opportunities for students that emphasize face-to-face interpersonal communication to support a balanced approach to the use of educational technology.
- Create a multidisciplinary approach to ensure that all students develop an understanding of appropriate use of technology for educational and personal use

Cell Phone Task Force Recommendations

Recommendations for the Community:

- In partnership with schools, municipal offices, and families, provide educational opportunities for families about monitoring cell phone and social media use for students and the importance of positive adult role-modeling
- Town-wide conversations should support the establishment of community norms regarding delaying the availability of smartphones and social media for adolescents, consistent with research that recommends waiting until age 16 for social media.



THE WESTWOOD SCHOOL
COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO A
PANEL DISCUSSION ON:

Mobile Phones and Social Media Use

PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN UPPER ELEMENTARY,
MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL ARE WELCOME

TUESDAY, MAY 27

7:30-8:45 PM

THURSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Panelists include:

Katy Colthart, Westwood Youth and Family Services

Chris Elcock, School Resource Officer

Dr. Todd Danforth, TMS School Psychologist

Dr. Tina Feeley, Pediatrician

Matt Kuklantz, Martha Jones Principal

Parking available at Westwood High School

Sign up and submit your questions [here!](#)

Cell Phone Task Force Members

Caitlin Ahern

Katy Colthart

Laura Cucchi

Todd Danforth

Amy Davenport

Dan Der Marderosian

Tina Feeley

Stephanie Feuer-Beck

Lateefah Franck

Chris Hilton

Kalei Kitayama

Jenna Monahan

Steve Ouellette

Dori Parmelee

Amanda Phillips

Tim Piwowar

Mike Redmon

Donna Tobin

Vincent Willis

Proposed Special Education Review

Proposed Special Education Review

- Proposed external review of special education in the district
 - Examination of both current status and future needs
- Two identified areas of focus:
 - Preschool programming
 - Substantially separate programming
- Review would include an examination of district data and interviews with staff and families