

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2020

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting, held remotely¹, was called to order at 8:39am by Chair Carol Lewis. Also present were: Maya Plotkin, Vice Chairperson; Charles Donahue, Clerk; Anthony Mullin; and Amanda Phillips. Superintendent Emily Parks; Director of Business and Finance Lemma Jn-baptiste; and Director of Student Services Abby Hanscom were present on behalf of the District. John Cianciarulo recorded the minutes.

Mrs. Lewis recognized the live stream of the meeting, which was provided for real-time, public access to the activities of the School Committee. Members of the public were able to view a live stream of the meeting via the Internet at www.westwood.k12.ma.us/live and via Westwood Media Center's platforms.

Discussion Items

Second Reading of Policy EBCFA – Face Masks

At last week's meeting, Ms. Parks provided an overview of the policy as it is going to be an important part of the plan for keeping the school community safe. Once the policy is approved, Ms. Parks will include it as part of the reopening communication to families.

Mrs. Lewis reminded the Committee that, per policy, they have the ability to waive the third reading. As time is of the essence, she informed members that she was willing to entertain a motion to do so.

Mrs. Plotkin made a motion to waive the third reading of the face mask policy. Mr. Mullin seconded.

Roll-call vote:

Mrs. Lewis	Yes
Mrs. Plotkin	Yes
Mr. Donahue	Yes
Mr. Mullin	Yes
Mrs. Phillips	Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Mrs. Phillips made a motion to adopt the face mask policy. Mrs. Plotkin seconded.

Roll-call vote:

Mrs. Lewis	Yes
Mrs. Plotkin	Yes
Mr. Donahue	Yes
Mr. Mullin	Yes
Mrs. Phillips	Yes

¹ Remote meeting held in accordance with Executive Order of Massachusetts Governor, March 12, 2020

Result: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Action Items

Vote to Ratify Westwood Teachers' Association's Memorandum of Agreement

The School Committee had an opportunity to discuss the Westwood Teachers' Association (WTA) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in executive session last week. Ms. Parks was pleased to report that the district navigated through some challenging terrain to think about safely reopening schools this fall. The WTA's MOA addresses concerns around health and safety, issues around professional development, and spells out some important parameters needed to address certain working conditions under the hybrid or remote model.

The WTA has already ratified the agreement. The last piece is for the School Committee to do so.

Mr. Mullin made a motion to ratify the Westwood Teachers' Association Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Donahue seconded.

Roll-call vote:

Mrs. Lewis	Yes
Mrs. Plotkin	Yes
Mr. Donahue	Yes
Mr. Mullin	Yes
Mrs. Phillips	Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Approval of Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

Ms. Parks reported that the school calendar reflects the School Committee's vote to begin school in the hybrid model. The revised calendar notes in-person days for different cohorts and the remote Wednesdays. In addition, it reflects the September 14 start date for students and articulates the phase-in start dates as discussed at last week's School Committee meeting, reflecting the WTA's MOA.

Two additional changes have been included, which are professional days for teachers. They have been scheduled for Wednesday, March 10 and Wednesday, May 12, which would have been remote days.

Early release Wednesdays, traditionally scheduled throughout the year, will not be taking place this school year.

Mrs. Plotkin made a motion to approve the revised 2020-2021 school calendar. Mr. Donahue seconded.

Roll-call vote:

Mrs. Lewis	Yes
Mrs. Plotkin	Yes
Mr. Donahue	Yes
Mr. Mullin	Yes

Mrs. Phillips	Yes
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Result: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

New Business

Mr. Donahue shared that he would like to explore the possibility of testing teachers and students for COVID-19 in an effort to keep teachers and students in school. Wellesley has been exploring this potential in partnership with their town Select Board and Health Department.

Mr. Mullin will work with Mr. Donahue to explore options and will report back to the School Committee.

Adjournment

Mrs. Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Plotkin seconded.

Roll call vote:

Mrs. Lewis	Yes
Mrs. Plotkin	Yes
Mr. Donahue	Yes
Mr. Mullin	Yes
Mrs. Phillips	Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

The meeting adjourned at 9:06am.

Documents/Exhibits Used at Meeting

- Memorandum of Agreement between the Westwood School Committee and the Westwood Teachers' Association for 2020-2021
- Policy EBCFA – Face Masks
- Revised 2020-2021 school calendar