

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2025

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Maya Plotkin. Also present were: Dori Parmelee, Amanda Phillips, and Anthony Mullin. Superintendent Piwowar and Assistant Superintendent Ahern were present on behalf of the district. JoAnna French arrived at 6:15pm.

Harley Pease recorded the minutes.

Executive Session

MOTION made by Tony Mullin to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Committee and to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law.

Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Amanda Phillips: **Yes**
Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Absent**
Anthony Mullin: **Yes**

Result: 4-0-1 (Approved)

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Piwowar presented to the Committee the revised Strategic Plan. The revised plan is still in draft form, but was revised by members of Administrative Council at the end of year retreat. Committee members asked several questions about the plan, including, but not limited to: does the wellness aspect of the plan shine through? Who is the audience of the plan? What are the metrics of success? Are the priorities reflective of the 20 person team who constructed the plan from the ground up?

Special Education Review

Superintendent Piwowar provided an update to the Committee on the Special Education Review. Supt. Piwowar recently received a proposal for the SPED review. He shared that he will share it with the Committee and that it should be completed by the time the budget is made in the late fall/early winter.

Guidance Review

Assistant Superintendent Ahern provided an update to the Committee on the guidance review. The two proposals for the review are one group who will do a top down external review, and the other group will work with our administration to have more of a partnership in the review. Asst. Supt. Ahern noted that this is the first review of the guidance department that she is aware of.

Chair Update and Liaison Reports

Chair Plotkin said that planning for facilities discussion should be pondered over the summer so that when the school year starts, the Committee will have a clear plan on how to engage the community. Members of the Committee noted that they wanted feedback about prioritization from the community. Mr. Mullin indicated that involving FinCom might be a good idea. Ms. Plotkin identified September and October as good months to start tours around the district for information sessions and feedback procurement.

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Discussion Items

Meeting Calendar

Ms. Plotkin introduced the proposed meeting calendar for the Committee in the 25-26 school year. Some small tweaks were discussed around some personal conflicts.

Liaison Assignments

Chair Plotkin asked the Committee if any changes were desired for the liaison assignments. Ms. Parmelee will be shifted to TMS. Ms. Phillips will be shifted to Pine Hill. Mr. Mullin will be shifted to MJ and WHS. Ms. Plotkin asked to eliminate the assignment to the curriculum review.

Communication Protocols

The Committee discussed the protocols for communicating with members of the public when an issue is raised to anyone on the Committee. Per standard Committee practice, anything brought to each individual member should be brought to the attention of the Chair.

Action Items

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the June 12 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**
Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

New Business

Ms. Plotkin presented a gift to Harley Pease, recording secretary to the School Committee, as it was his last meeting working for the Committee and district.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Dori Parmelee to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**
Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.