

WESTWOOD SCHOOL DEERFIELD RE-USE SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROOM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

4:00PM

Attendance and Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm by Chair Anthony Mullin. Also present were: Tim Piwowar (Superintendent), Lemma Jn-baptiste (Director of Finance & Ops), Tom Carey (Director of Facilities), Sarah Duggan (Community member) AND Katie Callahan (Community member)

Anthony Mullin recorded the minutes.

Discussion Items

- The committee reviewed findings from the master facilities study and discussed three potential educational uses for the Deerfield building:
 - o Swing space for a possible elementary project at Sheehan
 - o Backup site in case of major facility issues at another district building
 - o Preschool programming space
- The group discussed these three potential uses. The facility study showed the Sheehan site could accommodate a combined new school, and rehabilitating the Sheehan building as part of such a project is unlikely. Modular rental options for backup space are more effective than using Deerfield. The existing Deerfield building is not suitable for preschool without significant capital investment.
- Superintendent Piwowar discussed the community input from recent facilities forums that would inform the preferred option for the Statement of Interest (SOI) to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in April of 2026.
- Lemma Jn-baptiste noted that ongoing costs for maintaining Deerfield are substantial, estimated at \$77,000 per year for electricity, fuel, water, and maintenance.

- The committee concluded that there is no viable educational use for Deerfield and, given the significant costs, recommended that the building be turned over to the town effective July 1, 2026. The committee also recommended that, while it has no jurisdiction over long-term use, to the extent possible for long term decisions are made that the building should continue to be used by Recreation for programming, as well as by the town IT department and the Westwood Media Department.

Action items

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips that the Deerfield Re-use Committee recommends that The Westwood School District shall transfer the care, custody, and control of the Deerfield School, located at 72 Deerfield Avenue, to the Town of Westwood, such transfer to be effective as of July 1, 2026. Motion seconded by Tom Carey. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the February 26, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Tom Carey. Sarah Duggan Abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the September 25, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Katie Callahan. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to adjourn. Motion seconded by Tom Carey. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 4:47pm.