



Westwood School Committee

June 4, 2026



Superintendent's Report

June 4, 2026

Seen Around WPS...



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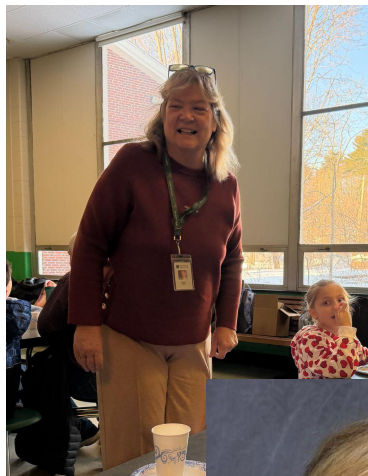


Farewell from our Admin Team

Amy Davenport, WHS Principal



Donna Tobin
SEL Director & Interim Sheehan Principal



Tom Millett, WHS Assistant Principal



Congratulations to our Retirees!

Kristen Evans*, Principal, Sheehan - 18 years

David Frederickson*, Guidance Counselor, WHS - 15 years

Paul Grenham, Grade 2 Teacher, Sheehan - 27 years

Ellen Hanley Nadeau, Nurse, Downey - 17 years

Donna Harris, Extended Day Site Coordinator, Downey - 26 years

Shannon Holbrook, Literacy Paraprofessional, Sheehan - 15 years

Sandra Mack*, Administrative Assistant, Food Service - 11 years

Congratulations to our Retirees!

Kate Merten, Instructional Technology Coach - 2 years

Emily Miller, Science Teacher, WHS - 15 years

Beth Stebbins, Grade 5 Teacher, Sheehan - 14 years

Bianca Terrenzi, Accounts Payable - 51 years

Donna Tobin, SEL Director/Interim Sheehan Principal - 14 years

Sidney Worthen, Literacy Specialist - 25 years

Thank you for your collective 250 years of service in educating the children of Westwood!

Announcement of WHS Principal

Welcome to John Murray!



Coalition to Combat Hate Speech Update

District Website & Mass Communication System

Website Key Enhancements

- Fully redesigned website with improved aesthetics and streamlined navigation

- Dedicated top-level family tab

OUR DISTRICT

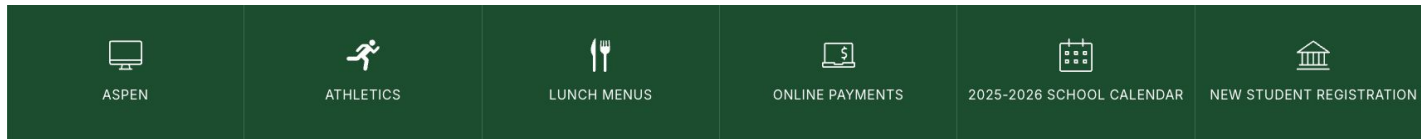
TEACHING & LEARNING

FAMILIES

DEPARTMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

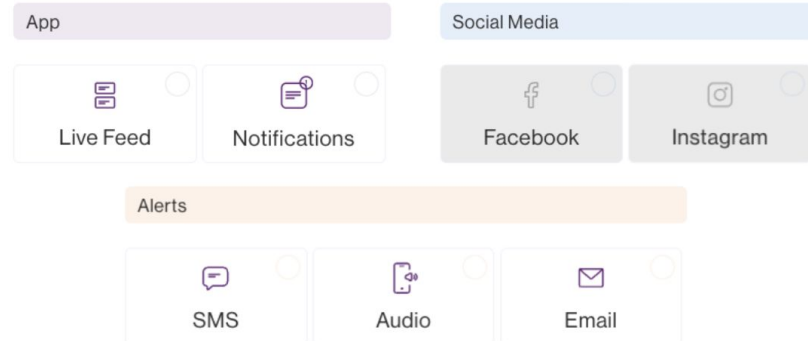
- Persistent quick link navigation buttons



- News and Live Feed elements, integrated with social media
- Dedicated Westwood branded mobile app
 - Users can customize app for their specific needs (i.e. set home school, calendar, etc...)
 - Customizable push notifications and alerts

Companion Mass Communication System

- District transition from School Messenger to the Apptegy mass communication system
- Caregivers and staff will continue to receive SMS, Voice, and Email communications
- Options for users to receive push notifications to mobile app
- A unified mass communication system, integrated with Westwood's Social media outlets



Implementation Timeline

- May - June: Full transition to mass communication system
- July - Mid-August: Finalize design and complete content migration
- Mid-August:
 - Promote mobile app and share helpful resources
 - Launch new website at westwood.k12.ma.us

Curriculum Review Updates

Curriculum Review

The Westwood Public Schools Curriculum Review Process ensures that all content areas and district programs are high-quality, rigorous, aligned with state standards and utilizing research-based best practices, and most importantly, *yielding excellent outcomes for all students.*

The Curriculum Review cycle consists of three phases:
Audit + Analyze, Research + Development, and Implement + Assess.

WPS Curriculum Review Cycle 25-26

Launching:	● K-5 Literacy ● 9-12 Guidance
Review In Progress:	● Visual Arts ● Performing Arts
In Implementation:	● Wellness ● World Language ● Library Media/Digital Literacy and Computer Science
Up Next:	● Science and Engineering

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Guidance Review

Program Audit

Partnered with MASCA to conduct a program audit. This audit is being used to inform the priorities and next steps in the review process.

Steering Committee Progress

Convened to review reports, prioritize recommendations, and begin implementation. The committee met twice this Spring and will resume work in the Fall.

Steering Committee Members

*Caitlin Ahern, Joanna Bengal,
Katy Colthart, Nate Costello,
Amy Davenport, Katy Dearborn,
Alison Donahue, Suzanne
Donovan, Max Erilus, Caroline
Higgins, Mallory McKearin,
Ember Parker, Maya Plotkin,
Cherryl Wu*

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Up Next:	● Science and Engineering

Performing Arts Review

Program Audit

Conducted surveys, examined alignment of standards to written curriculum, and identified alignment across POG, departmental vision, and classroom experience

Steering Committee Progress

Finalizing priority areas for the next phase of the review - elementary curriculum progression, increasing student voice and engagement in MS/HS, and departmental communication/messaging

Steering Committee Members

*Caitlin Ahern, Gina
Cosimini, Heather Cote,
JoAnna French, Deb
Gallagher, Caitlin Goldman,
Jimmy Looney, Katelyn
Pickering, Jen Walsh*

WPS Curriculum Review Cycle 25-26

Launching:	● K-5 Literacy ● 9-12 Guidance
Review In Progress:	● Performing Arts ● Visual Arts
In Implementation:	● <u>Wellness</u> ● World Language ● Library Media/Digital Literacy and Computer Science
Up Next:	● Science and Engineering

WPS Curriculum Review Cycle 25-26

Launching:	● K-5 Literacy ● 9-12 Guidance
Review In Progress:	● Performing Arts ● Visual Arts
In Implementation:	● Wellness ● World Language ● Library Media/Digital Literacy and Computer Science
Future:	● Science and Engineering

Chair's Update

Special Education Update

Special Education Update

- In January, the Westwood Special Education Review Report was publicly presented, and contained eight sections of commendations, findings, and recommendations
- This update is designed to highlight areas where we have made progress towards these recommendations during the 2025-2026 school year and/or in preparation for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year
- Update organized into the eight sections, recognizing that in some cases, action steps have impact across multiple areas

Special Education Update

Area 1: Organizational Structure and Leadership

- Examination of administrative needs of each elementary school resulted in an increase of 0.5 FTE for elementary student services department head in the FY2027 budget.
- Structure for next year:
 - One (1) full time position serving Pine Hill
 - One (1) full time position serving Downey, Martha Jones, Sheehan
 - One (1) full time position for Preschool and Out-of-District

Special Education Update

- The approved FY27 budget includes a new 0.6 FTE psychologist position at Pine Hill
 - Serves the dual purpose of better meeting caseload ratios, while also ensuring that the role of adjustment counselor at Pine Hill is consistent with other elementary schools
- Meetings currently being held with related service providers to examine caseload/workload to ensure a more equitable distribution of assignments
- Training with the district's legal counsel is scheduled for the administrative team in late June

Special Education Update

Area 2: Special Education Rates

- District IAs received professional development regarding executive functioning and how to support students with executive functioning skill deficits in the classroom environment
- A recurring theme in next year's professional development will be the connection between executive functioning and Universal Design for Learning
 - Builds on this year's work on UDL, and will make more explicit how to help build executive functioning skills for students

Special Education Update

Area 3: Continuum of IEP Services and Specialized Programs

- In collaboration with special education staff, there is an initial internal draft of program descriptions with exit and entry criteria that promote greater vertical alignment across programs
 - Draft will then go through internal review, with the goal of being operationalized next year

Special Education Update

Area 4: Westwood Applied Behavioral Analysis (WABA) Programs

- Contracting with CASE Collaborative to conduct an external, specialized review of the WABA program, districtwide
- Review will take place in January 2027, with records review initiated in December
 - Includes onsite visits of the programs, record reviews, and focus groups with stakeholders
- Final report, with recommendations, scheduled to be issued by April 2027

Special Education Update

Area 5: Instructional Assistants and ABA Tutors

- New collective bargaining agreement settled with IAs and ABA Tutors
- Ensures both groups have more competitive wage scales, and includes incentives that encourage retention and discourage mid-year resignations
- Also creates additional opportunities for professional development as part of the district's overall approach to professional growth

Special Education Update

Area 6: Resource Allocation

- Comprehensive caseload and workload analysis is currently being conducted by district administration
 - Done in consultation with special education teachers, related service providers, psychologists, and BCBAs
 - Final internal report completed by June 30
- Math specialists, literacy specialists, and literacy paraprofessionals have been reallocated across elementary schools for 2026-2027 to be more responsive to levels of student need
 - Provides greater support for Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions based upon need

Special Education Update

Area 7: Preschool Program

- Changes in the approved FY27 budget to expand preschool capacity, and to provide age-appropriate inclusion for WABA students:
 - Opening a fourth integrated preschool classroom at Downey
 - Relocating the preschool WABA program to Downey (from Pine Hill)

Special Education Update

Area 8: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

- Administrative team is actively engaged in a comprehensive review of the MTSS Framework, Tiered Intervention strategies, and UDL principles
 - Establishing shared definitions and understandings, mapping tiered strategies, and identifying next steps, roles, and responsibilities
 - Work with administrative team will continue through next year
- Creation of an enhanced District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) is underway to establish a consistent district wide approach to interventions and accommodations
 - Targeted full implementation for the end of the 2026-2027 school year

Special Education Update

- At the elementary level, all principals and math and literacy specialists implemented data team meetings after the winter benchmark window
 - Used to examine grade-level trends in data and inform interventions and instruction
 - Process will continue to be reviewed and revised to establish consistency and alignment across schools in how we examine and interpret student data

IA/ABA Tutor Union Tentative Agreement

IA/ABA Tutor Tentative Agreement

- Tentative agreement reached through collective bargaining process in late May
 - IA and ABA Tutor unions merged into one collective unit
 - Tentative agreement ratified by the Union on June 3
- Financial terms of the agreement are designed to correct our wage scale to be more competitive in the current environment, and to encourage the retention of existing staff to ensure continuity for student supports
 - Wage scales restructured, and holiday pay rolled into base hourly wage to make topline wages even more competitive
 - As year-round employees, ABA Tutor pay is now annualized to ensure a steady paycheck throughout the course of the entire year

IA/ABA Tutor Tentative Agreement

- To encourage retention of employees, longevity pay will now be accessible for all employees
 - Previous contract only provided longevity for employees hired before 2018
- To discourage employees from exiting mid-year, longevity will be paid to any member of the union - starting in Year 1 - who works the entire school year from start to finish, payable during the last pay period
 - Longevity increases annually
- The work year for IAs is now expanded to 183 days
 - Provides additional opportunities for meaningful professional development



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