

**Westwood School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2015**

Present:

Josepha Jowdy- Acting Chairperson
John O'Brien, Clerk
Carol Lewis – Committee member
Charles Donahue, Committee member

John Antonucci, Superintendent
Emily Parks, Assistant Superintendent
Abby Hanscom, Director of Student Services
Heath Petracca, Director of Finance and Business
Meredith Brodsky, Student Liaison

Note: Meeting was taped by WestCAT

Meeting called to order 7:08 PM by Josepha Jowdy

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent's report (7:10-7:31)

Introduction of school committee student rep Meredith Brodsky

Sean Bevan introduced her as a senior at Westwood High, the current Class President and Varsity Athlete- all are looking forward to her input.

Dr. Antonucci welcomed three guests, students from BU. One of them will be doing her Administrative Internship under Abby Hanscom.

Intro of Tim Hoefler (Class of 2017)

Tim is receiving special recognition because he was honored by the National Association of Music and was accepted into the All-National Band in Nashville.

Heather Cote, Director of Performing Arts, spoke about what it took for Tim to make it to All-National, and announced he was named to First Trumpet- which means he is one of the top players in the nation.

Mr. Bevan presented Tim with an engraved Westwood pen set, which was followed by photo ops.

Upcoming dates for Space and Capital Needs Study presentations

- Friday October 16th, Martha Jones, Principal's Coffee, 9am
- Wednesday October 28th, Downey, Principal's Coffee, 9am

Dr. Antonucci says these meetings were planned as a response to what happened at the last school committee meeting (people felt they weren't being engaged). He "got on the road" to give more transparency to the school community.

He thanked members who have been coming to presentations and said he thinks they have been very valuable to get people caught up on the process. Mr. O'Brien concurred, and added they were also very well attended.

Ms. Jowdy mentioned that at the Hanlon meeting a resident mentioned additional development plans for that area that the school committee was not aware of. As a result, the School Committee will look into getting a public meeting on the books with the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board prior to the next Town meeting (11/9/15).

Mr. Donahue said that the issue of communication kept coming up, and noted even the local newspaper doesn't cover the issue. He asked Mr. Bevan if the WHS journalism program can help get the word out on this.

Q1 Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Petracca confirmed all is looking good, and the budget is under from where we were last year this time (most likely due to payroll schedules).

Ms. Lewis also recognized the Joanie Geltman presentation at the High School on 10/14/15. This author spoke about how parents can speak to kids about such issues as drugs, alcohol, and other risky behavior. Mr. Bevan said it was extremely well attended.

Additional Topics

- Ms. Lewis: MCAS scores just came out, and mentioned it will be on the on November agenda
 - Ms. Parks confirmed the scores are back: for ELA, Math and Science
 - Science MCAS- grades 5-8 scores are about the same as last year
 - PARCC grades 3-8 scores due Mid November
 - Mr. Donahue feels the teachers should be asked for their feedback on PARCC and MCAS, so we can be better informed as we head into the decision. Ms. Parks said most of the current teacher

feedback was about how hard PARCC was to administer, but there is still a lot to learn.

- Ms. Lewis: Reminder that the High School curriculum still needs further discussion and asked that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Public Participation 7:31-7:35

On the subject of the Capital Needs communication, a resident asked why the school doesn't use the technology at its disposal to send information out (such as email). Dr. Antonucci mentioned the meeting schedules and agendas are listed on the website for the public to see, but will take the system-wide email communication recommendation under advisement.

Discussion Items

Update from the Town (7:35-8:45) Mike Jaillet and Nora Loughnane

Ms. Loughnane clarified the one development proposal near the Hanlon neighborhood was for development in the Islington Center area. The proposal is yet to be an application, but is set to include 3 story mixed use development, (1 floor retail/office/ 2 floors residential, 16 units).

The Town does not expect large population growth in the school as a result.

Discussion moved to University Ave. residents and incoming students. Dr. Antonucci confirmed this can be easily tracked and it is currently well within what was projected.

A resident mentioned that the same developer of the Islington project also owns CVS and Café Diva, and warned that additional multi-use development could happen with these properties further down the road.

Girl Scout House Relocation

The town is in discussion with the Girl Scouts of Eastern MA and Westwood Adult Girl Scouts (WAGS) regarding the acquisition of its half acre Scout House parcel behind town hall. There is a proposal to move the existing Girl Scout House to land in the back of Hanlon School off Laura Lane. The town needs the school committee to agree that land would be turned over to the Board of Selectmen, confirmed by a town meeting vote.

Town has agreed that they will, at whatever cost, put a new facility on the new site (built from scratch, move the existing house, or would purchase a prefab

structure). There will also be a contingency fund in the town coffers for any unforeseen expenditures needed to complete the project.

Ms. Jowdy heard at the Hanlon meeting that there is no concern over having the building on the site. Ms. Lewis said that there weren't that many people at the Hanlon meeting, how can they be sure there are no other objections? Mr. Jaillet said that if the vote does not go forward nothing is lost, everything is reverted and the land stays with the school.

Dr. Antonucci said this will not affect the current capital plan proposal on the table for the elementary schools.

Mr. O'Brien expressed concerns over parking, and how it will impact the neighborhood. The town responded that the current House handles only one troop at a time, and usually only a couple times a month after school hours.

Adding a turnaround would help the traffic issues. Mr. Jaillet said it would be no problem to add it to the plan. Mr. O'Brien also expressed concerns over lighting. Mr. Jaillet said it is not part of the current plan but can see about adding it in.

Ms. Jowdy asked if the school or youth sports could ever use the house when the Girls Scouts were not there. Ms. Loughnane said that would have to be negotiated with the Girl Scouts.

Deerfield Ave. extension and Town Hall parking

Since the last School Committee meeting, the Town has made a lot of progress on developing the final plans and bid documents for the construction of the Deerfield Ave. extension and parking lot expansion. The school committee will need to vote that this land is no longer needed by the School department and can be turned over to the Board of Selectmen.

Conservation and Zoning board have approved. The Project Planning board has approved sub-division plan. The site development plan has not yet been approved and will be reviewed at meeting next Tuesday night.

Discussion that followed centered on:

1. The roadway is just as necessary with or without the new police station. The current roadway is dangerous; there a lot of cars and kids and too many people cutting through the Town Hall parking lot.
2. There was concern at Planning and Board of Selectman meeting about the speed of traffic and that it might encourage additional traffic. There was agreement to fund a traffic study. Traffic report came back recommending a cul-de-sac, which did not seem practical. Everyone would have to go up and back through Deerfield Ave. and emergency vehicles could not get down that roadway if there is parking on both sides

of the street. Planning board voted to accept the mitigation plan brought forth by residents – adding speed limit signs, speed bumps, no parking signs, curbing, speed limit sign in the parking lot, and additional landscaping.

Proposed purchase of land at 248 Nahatan St.

First Parish church is putting a parish hall on the existing church structure, and is selling off some land to raise additional funds. They have 5+ acres, adjacent to the high school, which could potentially accommodate any kind of athletic field.

The issue will be taken to the next Town Meeting, to see if they can appropriate some funds to help pay for it. Mr Jaillet wants the school to know about it, and potentially get their support on the town meeting floor.

Ms. Jowdy and Ms. Lewis are concerned about the capital planning proposal, and wonder where all the money will be coming from. Dr. Antonucci clarified that the Committee is in favor of the purchase but it is just the tip of iceberg of all the money they and the town will be outlaying. They want the opportunity to get clarification before they decide anything.

Mr. Donahue recognizes we need the space for youth sports and went on record as strongly in favor of the purchase.

Mr. Jaillet outlined a scenario where the School Committee buys it with money available now, and can always sell it. Mr. O'Brien reiterated that getting permission to buy and sell something like a parcel of land will be a huge struggle with the Town.

The Committee agreed that they want to add this to the public discussion they want to have with the Town Selectmen and Planning Board ahead of the next town meeting.

First reading of: Revision of Policy JKAA: *Physical Restraint of Students Policy (8:45-8:52)- Abby Hanscom*

This is the first public reading of the new policy:

- The revised policy will comply with new state regulations in place January 1 2016
- New regulation 603 CMR 46.00
- Replaces current regulation
- Need to update WPS policy in order to comply
- Main points
 - Focus on prevention of restraint

- Restraint as a last resort
- Safe use of restraint when needed
- Updated definitions of key terms
- Increased staff training
- Increased reporting
- Guides compliance with new regulation for development of procedures

Next steps

- Plans for training of staff are in place and has already started
 - Ms. Hanscom confirmed training is fully documented
- Community dialogue and outreach to parents. Ms. Hanscom said they are doing additional public outreach but are also doing some very individualized engagement
- Adjustments to reporting procedures
- Monitoring and follow up

Action

- Read it, and if needed request follow up discussion at a future meeting
- Request for a vote in December meeting

Discussion- Ms. Jowdy asked how often do we have to use restraints? Ms. Hanscom replied infrequently.

Dr. Antonucci will post the new policy to the school website.

Update on town partnership with William James College and the “Interface Referral Service” - Abby Hanscom (8:52-8:57)

Described as a resource and referral service for mental health services, and is available to everyone in the town.

- Intake by phone
- Matching services (location, openings, insurance, etc.)
- Providing matches within 2 weeks
- Follow up connection within 2 weeks

Additional information and status

- Contract is in process
- It is shared purchase (cost split between the school and town)
- Danielle Sutton is lead for the town
- Student Services is lead on school side
- Two year contract
- Currently building a database

- November 2015 start
- More information at: <http://Interface.williamjames.edu>

Action Items plan vote (8:40-8:45)

Vote to accept Town's recommendation of discussion items:

Deerfield Ave. Access road:

MOTION:

In accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 15A, the School Committee hereby votes that a 23,325 square foot portion of the Deerfield School property bounded by Deerfield Avenue and properties known as St. John's Church and the Westwood American Legion, and including an existing parking area along the north side of the front yard of Deerfield School, as shown on the plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan, Deerfield Avenue Extension, 590 High Street, Westwood, Massachusetts", which plan is dated August 5, 2015 and revised through October 1, 2015, is no longer needed and should be transferred to the care, custody, control and management of the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of incorporating said parcel into a new Right-of-Way providing access between Deerfield Avenue and Westwood Glen Road, within which new roadway, sidewalk, and parking areas will be constructed.

Motion to approve made by Mr. Donahue. Seconded by Ms. Lewis.

Official vote: Unanimous approval

Girl Scout House: – Dr. Antonucci read the amended motion:

UPDATED MOTION (blue section is new wording, square footage confirmed):

In accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 15A, the School Committee hereby votes that a 23,038 square foot portion of the Hanlon School lot, bounded on two sides by Laura Lane and on a third side by the edge of the Hanlon School parking lot, as shown on the [Approval Not Required](#) (ANR) Plan entitled "Paul Hanlon School, #790 Gay Street, Westwood, Massachusetts", prepared by Hoyt Land Surveying, 1287 Washington Street, Weymouth, MA 02189, which is dated [October 13, 2015](#), is no longer needed and should be transferred to the care, custody, control and management of the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of offering as an equal exchange for land behind Town Hall shown on Assessor's Plat 14 as Lot 70. The School Committee's approval is contingent upon the Town's successful negotiation of an agreement with the Girl Scouts of Eastern MA. If an agreement is not reached, the land will remain in the care, control and management of the Westwood Public Schools.

Motion to approve made by Mr. Donahue. Seconded by Ms. Lewis.

Official vote: Unanimous approval.

Approval of Costa Rica trip (8:58-9:00)

Discussion: Mr. Donahue asked if financial assistance is available if kids need help paying for the trip. Mr. Bevan said nothing formalized. Dr. Antonucci recognized that if a student identifies themselves as needing financial assistance, the school can reach out to the community to see if a local business may want to help sponsor a student.

Mr. Donahue made a statement that he is assuming that the security of those going on the trip has been well thought through.

Motion to approve by Mr. Donahue. Seconded by Ms. Lewis.

Official vote: Unanimous approval.

Approval of amended minutes (9:00-9:04)

Minutes June 23 2015

Mr. Donahue approved the language in the amended minutes.

Motion to approve minutes as amended on page 5 by Mr. O'Brien. Seconded by Ms. Lewis.

Official vote: Unanimous approval.

Minutes September 16 2015

Motion to approve by Mr. Donahue. Seconded by Ms. Lewis.

Official vote: Unanimous approval.

Public participation (9:04-9:06)

Resident asked how the Interface service is funded? Ms. Hanscom replied it is \$6000 per year that is split between the town and school. 2015 will be pro-rated since the program won't start until November. She further clarified there is no membership expense and no cost to people who call, and no cost per call.

Adjournment (9:06)

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Donahue. Seconded by Ms. Lewis. Unanimously approved.