

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES
October 13th, 2022

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Charles Donahue at the Little Theater at Westwood High School, Westwood Massachusetts. Also present were: Amanda Phillips; Maya Khuri Plotkin; Tony Mullin; and Dorothy Parmelee. Superintendent Emily Parks and Director of Business and Finance Lemma Jn-baptiste were present on behalf of the district.

Westwood Media Center, which provided a live-stream of the meeting and also recorded it for later viewing on their platforms, was recognized.

Harley Pease recorded the minutes.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Parks conveyed well wishes and a speedy recovery to Jean McGuire in her recovery on behalf of the Westwood Public Schools.

Oct. 1 Enrollment

Superintendent Parks remarked that there was more movement in and out of the district during the summer than usual. Additionally, class sizes are in good shape.

TEC Request to Increase Capital Fund Limit

Superintendent Parks noted that this request does not require a vote.

DESE Equity in SPED Indicators

Director of Student Services Abigail Hanscom stated that Westwood is not disproportionate in several of these key indicators. It is an ongoing effort by everyone in WPS to keep these indicators going.

School Improvement Plans

Superintendent Parks noted that there is a great deal of alignment with SIP's and District goals.

Planning for 2023-2024 School Calendar

Superintendent Parks suggested that the School Committee look at the 2023-2024 school year calendar given the current school calendar "rule of thumb" around Labor Day. The "rule of thumb" guidance would cause the school year to end later than usual.

2022 MCAS reports

Assistant Superintendent Allison Borchers provided a brief summary and preview of MCAS results.

FY'24 Budget Planning/Q1 Financial Report

Superintendent Parks detailed some important elements of the FY'24 Budget and Q1 Financial Report.

- Thus far, priorities for FY'24 include
 - academic recovery and progress
 - social emotional skills
 - providing emotional and behavioral supports
 - in-house special education programs
- Annual budget drivers:

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- Meet contractual salary obligations and other fixed expenses
- Maintain reasonable class sizes
- Address special education needs
- Make progress on program goals
- Unique FY'23 and FY'24 Budget Drivers
 - Personnel Costs
 - Unsettled contract with the WTA, the District's largest bargaining unit
 - Labor market disruption
 - Inflation and supply chain pressures
 - Increased costs and volatility in special education
- Capital Needs:
 - Several needs exceed the capacity of our \$1.1M capital allotment:
 - Districtwide Network Upgrade
 - WHS Auditorium
 - School vehicles for the facilities team
 - Maya Plotkin and Tony Mullin noted that the School Committee should think long-term about capital needs

Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

School Committee Chair Update and Liaison Reports

Chair's Update

Chair Charlie Donahue emphasized participation the upcoming Town Flu Clinic.

School Building project update

Maya Plotkin provided an update on the school building project.

- Blasting has begun
- Steel going up in the next few months, hopefully

Policy Review Subcommittee

- No update

Other Liaison Reports

- No reports.

Discussion Items

2023-2024 Start Times Initial Discussion

- Survey data has been reviewed from parents, staff, and students
- Traffic Study was commissioned and the suggested scenarios are all feasible given current traffic patterns
- Information about transportation
 - buses for our Boston-resident students
 - info from our special education van company
 - info from our bus coordinator
- Input/Feedback from community
 - Community forum reported back childcare and youth sports concerns
 - B was most supported because of lack of disruption
 - Staff Forum
 - B was most supported at staff forums
- Start Times Subcommittee Discussion
 - B was the most supported option

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- Public comment forum will be sent out

Anti-Bullying Policy

- Will be voted on next meeting.

Acceptable Use Policy Second Reading

- Will be voted on next meeting

Action Items

Superintendent's 2022-2023 Goals

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the 2022-2023 Superintendent's Goals. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Charles Donahue: Yes
Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

Approval of use of mitigation funds for Hanlon-Deerfield project

MOTION made by Tony Mullin for the Westwood School Committee to allocate \$2,036,513 currently in the District's University Station mitigation account to the Hanlon School construction project. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

Roll-call vote:

Charles Donahue: Yes
Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

Approval of September 8, 2022 meeting minutes

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the September 8th school committee meeting minutes. Motion seconded made by Dorothy Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Charles Donahue: Yes
Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

Approval of Model UN Trips

MOTION by Maya Plotkin to approve upcoming Model UN trips. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Charles Donahue: Yes

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Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

New Business

Amanda Phillips provided an update about Safe Gun Storage Event coming up on November 16th at 7pm in the Community Room Wentworth Hall.

Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn by Tony Mullin. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Charles Donahue: Yes
Anthony Mullin: Yes
Amanda Phillips: Yes
Maya Plotkin: Yes
Dorothy Parmelee: Yes

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.