

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2022

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Charles Donahue at the Westwood Public Library – Community Meeting Room in Westwood, Massachusetts. Also present were: Tony Mullin, Amanda Phillips; Maya Khuri Plotkin; and Dorothy Parmelee. Superintendent Emily Parks and Director of Finance and Operations 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

Emily Parks

- Equity Audit update
 - Data collection has been completed.
 - Final report by mid-January, results to discussed at the February School Committee meeting.
- Inclusive Schools Week
 - Inclusive Schools Week is happening this week.
 - Superintendent Parks showcased some photos of examples of inclusivity in action in Westwood Public Schools this week.
- State level advocacy
 - Letter to Rep. McMurtry and Sen. Rush was sent out in mid-November.
 - To address 14% OSD increase.
 - Immediate “pothole” relief with respect to OSD.
 - Increase circuit breaker reimbursement rate to 85%.
 - Increase circuit breaker reimbursement to 90% for high-cost tuitions.
 - Adjust eligibility for circuit breaker to costs.

Public Comments

Eileen Siegel off Alder Rd. made comments in support of Westwood and Westwood teachers in the collective bargaining process.

School Committee Chair Update/Liaison Reports

Charlie Donahue – Chair update

- Chair Donahue provided an update about an opportunity for office hours on January 11th.
- Chair Donahue acknowledged the MCAS results in Westwood.
- Chair Donahue extended a formal thank you to Superintendent Parks for her work in the District over the last 28 years.

Other Liaison Reports

Maya Plotkin - School building project update

- Starting to look like a building!

Amanda Phillips - Policy Review Subcommittee

- Section E: Idling
 - Chair Donahue has kickstarted an education campaign in regards to the harmful effects of car idling.
- Section G: Tutoring for Pay

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

- Changes are coming to current policy to comply with MA ethics law.

Dori Parmelee and Lemma Jn-Baptiste – Extended Day Working Group

- Dori Parmelee and Director of Finance and Operations Lemma Jn-Baptiste provided detailed information about Extended Day.
 - Director of Finance and Operations Lemma Jn-Baptiste detailed the afterschool program
 - Data on enrollment, staffing, size, pay, rate, structure, satisfaction, and staff longevity was provided.
 - Details on Extended Day challenges were presented.
 - Details on Extended Day finances were presented.
 - Strategies for mitigating waitlist concerns were offered.
 - Some strategies included field trips, increasing fees, and more.

Emily Parks – Collective Bargaining

- Superintendent Parks provided an update on collective bargaining.
 - Superintendent Parks noted that the School Committee filed for mediation with the labor relations board.

Discussion Items

Emily Parks

- Development of FY'24 Budget
 - Superintendent Parks provided details on the FY'24 budget including:
 - Funding Sources (restricted vs. non-restricted)
 - Increased costs (including special education, unknown salary increases)
 - Tax Revenues
- Superintendent Parks asked the School Committee for recommendations on the FY'24 Budget and
 - Bus fees and athletic fees were discussed as possible revenue sources.

Action Items

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to accept the Nov. 9, 2022 meeting minutes. 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)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the Policy Review Subcommittee recommendations. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

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

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Amanda Phillips to approve the new town Finance Director appointment to the School Building Committee. Motion seconded by Maya Plotkin.

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

Roll-call vote:

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

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

New Business

There was no new business.

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)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Minutes accepted by the School Committee on 1/19/23