

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Westwood, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES
November 16th, 2023

Attendance and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Tony Mullin. Also present were: Maya Khuri Plotkin, Dorothy Parmelee, Amanda Phillips; and JoAnna French. Superintendent Piwowar, Assistant Superintendent Allison Borchers, and Director of Student Services Susan Maselli were present on behalf of the district.

Westwood Media Center was recognized for providing a live-stream of the meeting.

Harley Pease recorded the minutes.

Superintendent's Report

Entry Plan Findings

Superintendent Piwowar provided the committee with the findings from his entry plan. Superintendent Piwowar highlighted strengths, opportunities, and of the WPS. Superintendent Piwowar noted that he met with members of the community, staff and district stakeholders, and students.

Members of the Committee asked Superintendent Piwowar a variety of questions about his entry plan.

Facilities Study

Superintendent Piwowar announced that the Select Board approved \$500,000 dollars of ARPA for consolidated procurement for the school department and municipal capital plans.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

School Committee Chair Update/Liaison Reports

Chair Mullin reminded the public that the special town meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024.

Chair Mullin announced the eight (8) National Merit Scholars Semi-Finalists at Westwood High School.

Pine Hill Project Update

Maya Plotkin announced that we are still on budget and on track for a January 5th substantial completion date. Maya Plotkin also announced that the MSBA will be allocating some reimbursement funding towards the Pine Hill project as a result of the pandemic, which increased costs.

Tours of the Pine Hill School be happening after substantial completion (after 1/5/24). Announcement coming soon!

Superintendent Piwowar announced that there will be a date for individuals to come and bid the current Hanlon school a farewell.

Dori Parmelee recognized the individuals that put together the Anne Frank exhibit, as well as the students who participated in the exhibit as docents.

Other Liaison Reports

Discussion Items

Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

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Superintendent Piowar provided data to the Committee about attendance data throughout the Westwood Public Schools. Superintendent Piowar announced that the district would be working to identify root causes for this data showcasing some increases in absenteeism.

Action Items

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the October 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**
Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Maya Plotkin to approve the Class of 1965 scholarship. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**
Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

MOTION made by Dori Parmelee to ratify the BCBA Collective Bargaining Agreement, including the BCBA Professional Growth and Evaluation Manual. Motion seconded by JoAnna French.

Roll-call vote:

Anthony Mullin: **Yes**
Amanda Phillips: **Yes**
Maya Plotkin: **Yes**
Dorothy Parmelee: **Yes**
JoAnna French: **Yes**

Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)

New Business

There was no new business.

Executive Session

MOTION made by Tony Mullin to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, which would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's litigation position. The Committee will NOT return to Open Session. Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

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	Yea	Nea	Abstain
Mr. Mullin	x		
Mrs. Phillips	x		
Mrs. Parmelee	x		
Mrs. Plotkin	x		
Mrs. French	x		

Result: 5-0-0

The committee adjourned into executive session at 7:28pm. The committee did not return to open session.