

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Westwood, Massachusetts

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 14th, 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 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**

*Inclusive Schools Week*

Superintendent Piwowar provided the committee with some highlights from Inclusive Schools Week across the district.

*Facilities Study RFO (Request for Qualifications) Update*

Superintendent Piwowar discussed the process for a RFO for the district, as well as target dates for delivery. Superintendent Piwowar is hoping to have a master plan developed by October 2024. Superintendent Piwowar is optimistic about WPS's ability to hit the delivery dates.

*Star Reports for Parents*

Assistant Superintendent Allison Borchers talked through the Star reports that were sent to families. Asst. Supt. Borchers provided some context to as why the district using Star reports, as well as some advantages to using Star reports. Asst. Supt. Borchers included some background on how long the district has used Star reports (since 2017, pilot program).

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**School Committee Chair Update/Liaison Reports**

Chair Mullin announced the next date for school committee office hours: Friday, January 12, 2024 on the campus of Westwood High School (location to be announced.)

Chair Mullin encouraged members of the community to attend special town meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the WHS auditorium.

Maya Plotkin announced that the project is still on track for competition within current timeframes in early January. Tours of the new building will be happening and announced shortly and will be open to members of the public.

*Pine Hill Project Update*

Maya Plotkin announced that total reimbursement costs will reach nearly 22 million dollars, and increase of \$3.75 million. This money will go towards reduction of debt that is felt by taxpayers.

*Other Liaison Reports - Planning Board Update*

JoAnna French announced that on Dec. 5, the Planning Board approved an application for mixed-use multi-family residential housing at 22 Everett St. Ms. French announced that around 28 or 29 students are estimated to join the community as a result of this project.

**Discussion Items**

*Fiscal Year'25 Budget*

Superintendent Piwowar updated the Committee on the FY'25 budget. Supt. Piwowar announced that the schools continue to meet with municipal officials in order to develop the FY'25 budget. Supt.

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Piwowar mentioned that he and Lemma Jn-baptiste have met with cost-center leaders when developing priorities for the FY'25 budget.

High School Substitutes

Westwood High School Principal Amy Davenport provided context and recent history about the role of high school substitute teachers, as well as current background information around WHS substitutes and student privileges. Principal Davenport provided information from peer and similar districts about the current state and role of substitute teachers.

**Action Items**

**MOTION** made by Dori Parmelee to approve the November 16, 2023 meeting minutes. 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 JoAnna French to approve the Westwood Integrated Preschool Donation. 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 Maya Plotkin to approve the FY'25 Preschool Tuition Rates. 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)**

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** made by Dori Parmelee to adjourn. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

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

**Result: 5-0-0 (Approved)**

The meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.