

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Westwood, Massachusetts

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 12, 2025**

**Executive Session**

**MOTION** made by Tony Mullin (5:32pm) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Committee. Motion seconded by JoAnna French.

Roll-call vote:

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

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

Dori Parmelee arrived at 5:35pm. Amanda Phillips arrived at 5:39pm.

Harley Pease recorded the minutes.

**Attendance and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Maya Plotkin. Also present were: Dori Parmelee, JoAnna French, Amanda Phillips, and Anthony Mullin. Superintendent Piwovar, Assistant Superintendent Ahern and Director of Finance and Operations Lemma Jn-baptiste were present on behalf of the district.

**Reorganization**

**MOTION** made by Tony Mullin to nominate Maya Plotkin as chair of the Westwood School Committee. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

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

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

**MOTION** made by Tony Mullin to nominate Dori Parmelee as vice-chair of the Westwood School Committee. Motion seconded by JoAnna French.

Roll-call vote:

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

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

**MOTION** made by Tony Mullin to nominate JoAnna French as clerk of the Westwood School Committee.  
Motion seconded by Dori Parmelee.

Roll-call vote:

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

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

**Recognition**

Maya Plotkin recognized Kevin Bai for his outstanding service to the Committee in the 2024-2025 school year.

Maya Plotkin also recognized Amanda Phillips for her service as Chair of the Committee in the 2024-2025 school year.

**Superintendent's Report**

*Seen Around WPS*

Superintendent Piwowar shared some recent events that happened around the WPS, including highlights from Pine Hill, Martha Jones, Sheehan, TMS, and WHS.

Superintendent Piwowar also highlighted the Milestone Celebration, where active employees were recognized for their years of service to the Westwood Public Schools.

Superintendent Piwowar also celebrated retirees, who hold a cumulative 300 years of service to the Westwood Public Schools.

*Strategic Plan Update: Focal Areas*

Superintendent Piwowar provided an update to the Committee on the Strategic Planning Process. The SPT (Strategic Planning Team) produced an outcome of the work. With a goal of implementing the Portrait of a Graduate, the SPT created focal areas of the strategic plan. They include:

Student Voice and Agency,  
Authentic, Relevant Learning Experiences  
Rigorous, High Quality Core Instruction  
Robust Learning Environments

Superintendent Piwowar highlighted the importance of the focal area creation process, and how enjoyable it was to see what stakeholders valued.

*Collective Bargaining Update*

Superintendent Piwowar provided an update to the Committee on collective bargaining. The WTA and AAA unions both ratified the negotiated collective bargaining agreement created with the Administration and Committee.

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### **Public Participation**

Greg Kelly, 79 High Rock Ln., spoke about the facilities study. Mr. Kelly is concerned with the lack of progress on implementing the facilities study. He asked the Committee to do more today so that change can occur faster.

Stacey Theofilou, 10 Longmeadow Dr., issued a compliment to the district and high school about the excellent execution of senior year and senior week for her graduating student. Ms. Theofilou also noted displeasure with the process for how the mandarin program was impacted during the budget process and to use a more thoughtful approach going forward.

Eileen Siegel, 257 Alder Rd., spoke in support of the administration, broadly. In particular, Ms. Siegel applauded the information in the facilities study, and appreciated the detail in the report. Ms. Siegel expressed her gratitude for the WPS team in the process for evaluating her child for services. Ms. Siegel applauded the administration for their adaptability when it comes to decision making.

### **Chair Update and Liaison Reports**

Former Chair Phillips announced that the Cell Phone Task Force panel was very informative and a great event, in general. Ms. Parmelee said there was positive feedback from individuals who attended the event. Ms. Parmelee also noted that WMC recorded the panel and it was up on their YouTube channel.

Tony Mullin thanked the partnership between the WSC and the WTA. He noted that the professionalism and collaboration was excellent. Ms. French echoed similar sentiments.

Student Representative Kevin Bai updated the Committee on the structure for next year's Legislative Council.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Class Size Update**

Superintendent Piowar announced that due to enrollment considerations, a reallocation of classes and class sizes is necessary to adjust to kindergarten enrollment. This is a budget neutral solution.

Ms. Plotkin asked the administration to reconsider the planning process for K enrollment, given the consistent nature of the fluctuating enrollment projections. Mr. Mullin echoed Chair Plotkin's hopes.

Ms. Plotkin reminded the Committee that overall, Westwood still has really great class sizes and planning.

#### **Facility Study Forum**

Superintendent Piowar announced that the forum was held in early June and around 40 people attended the forum. Product conversation was had.

Superintendent Piowar reminded the Committee about the challenges about the process to procure a new educational building, including, but not limited to, procurement laws, town government laws, procedural requirements, etc.

#### **Superintendent Evaluation**

Former Chair Phillips shared the results of Supt. Piowar's evaluation. Ms. Phillips highlighted the facilities study, the cell phone task force, and Portrait of a Graduate as accomplishments. Ms. Phillips noted that others noted Supt. Piowar's calm and thoughtful demeanor, accessibility, and collaborative leadership style, as well as community involvement. Supt. Piowar's use of data was also noted as a positive attribute.

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Ms. Phillips hoped that in year three we can dig into individual schools and departments to find and improve areas of need.

**Action Items**

**MOTION** made by Tony Mullin to approve the May 8 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Amanda Phillips.

Roll-call vote:

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

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

**MOTION** made by Dori Parmelee to ratify the MOU with the WTA. Motion seconded by JoAnna French.

Roll-call vote:

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

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

**MOTION** made by Amanda Phillips to ratify the MOU with the AAA. Motion seconded by JoAnna French.

Roll-call vote:

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

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

**MOTION** made by Amanda Phillips to approve the non-bargaining rates. Motion seconded by Tony Mullin.

Roll-call vote:

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

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Amanda Phillips: Yes

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

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

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

Roll-call vote:

Maya Plotkin: Yes

Dorothy Parmelee: Yes

JoAnna French: Yes

Anthony Mullin: Yes

Amanda Phillips: Yes

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.