

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Tuesday, May 14, 2024  
TIME: 6:45 p.m.**

**PLACE: Westport Middle-High School - Second Floor Conference Room**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Gloria Cabral, Evan Gendreau, Jason Pacheco, Melissa Pacheco, Christopher Thrasher

**Also Present:** Thomas Aubin Superintendent, John Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Administrative Secretary, Richard Monast Teacher, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, 0 Community Participants

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Chair Evan Gendreau opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 7:16 pm. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Comments and Statements from the Public** - There were none.

**III. Informational Agenda**

**A. Student Representatives:**

Ryan Keane reported the half way point for term 4 was last Friday, May 10, progress reports will be posted May 15, May 16 is an early dismissal day, no school Monday May 27 in observance of Memorial Day, MCAS testing for middle school ended today with make-ups taking place through May 24, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Semi-Formal is May 17 at Whites of Westport, Westport Middle High School Band Concert is May 20, May 22 there will be a Transition Forum for grades 4 and 5 students can tour the building, meet faculty and learn about what to expect, Westport Middle High School Art Show will be May 23, Field Day will be May 24, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will go on a Washington D.C. trip June 4-7, grade 8 Promotion Ceremony is on June 12 at 6 pm., athletic scores were reported for boys and girls junior varsity softball teams and boys middle school baseball, May 28 will be Athletics Award Night.

John (Jack) Keane reported June 14 will be the last day of school for grades 1-11, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be May 15, AP exams will wrap up this week, Junior Senior Prom is May 18 at Fall River Country Club, Math MCAS for grade 10 will be May 21 and 22, Cam Moniz was crowned Mr. Westport this past Saturday, Scholarship and Award Night will be May 30, athletic scores were reported for boys and girls junior varsity softball teams, lacrosse team, and boys and girls varsity tennis teams, congratulations to Korynne Holden for receiving an honorable mention in the Boston Herald Girls basketball All-Scholastics and league All-Stars, Congratulations to our ESports team that made it to the MSAA State Tournament and competed in semi-finals in Foxboro.

**B. Superintendent Report** – Superintendent Aubin began by thanking town residents who showed up at town meeting and voted to sustain the Select Board’s budget number for the schools. Mr. Aubin and Ms. Rapoza are working on a 5-year plan for the schools. They were notified by the town not to expect any more than a 3.5% increase in the yearly budget.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions? There were none.

**C. Westport Community Schools Bill Warrant 5-3-24 & 5-17-24** - Chair Gendreau reported bill warrants dated 5/3/2024 in the amount of \$127,876.87 and bill warrant dated 5/17/24 in the amount of \$368,979.95 was emailed to school committee members for review. Members also have a hardcopy of the bill warrant. Chair Gendreau informed the members if there are any questions refer them to the Business Office.

**D. Student and Staff Attendance Report** - Chair Gendreau asked members if there were any questions on the reports? Mr. Thrasher gave thanks for providing an historical report and had a question on the numbers for Macomber last February.

**V. Action Agenda**

C. Review and Act on WMHS International Trip to Dominican Republic February 2026 and South Korea April 2026 - (taken out of order) Mr. Monast presented the trip itinerary for 2026. They changed the design to make the trips available for student in grades 8-12 with one trip culturally focused and the other trip ecologically focused. They intend to launch a meeting this month to make it financially feasible.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions?

Ms. Pacheco asked if the grade range of 8-12 is both trips? Mr. Monast said yes. Ms. Pacheco asked how will they be managed differently? Mr. Monast mentioned a difference in the number of chaperones and the older students will have age appropriate skills. Ms. Pacheco suggested to look at these trips long term with financial planning starting in the elementary grades. Mr. Monast shared the company allows up to 3 years for planning.

Discussion took place on having pictures from the trips posted on the website. Mr. Monast will communicate with Ms. Rapoza.

Mr. Pacheco asked if there is a minimum number of students? Mr. Monast said minimum is 6 and they try to have 12.

Mr. Aubin asked what happens if there is a travel advisory change? Mr. Monast explained that EF Tours has a robust piece of mind policy in the event the State Department has any change. If something becomes unsafe, they have the ability to pivot with a new proposal or refunds. All travelers are protected by insurance for medical.

Discussion took place on the process for trip approvals. It was noted the request comes before the School Committee for approval first, then goes to the Superintendent.

Ms. Pacheco gave a recommendation to have a nurse go on any future trips.

A motion was made to approve the WMHS International Trip to Dominican Republic February 2026 and South Korea April 2026.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by Cabral 4/0/1  
JPacheco Abstained

A. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes Thursday April 18, 2024 & SC Budget Work Session 5.2.24

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes Thursday April 18, 2024 & SC Budget Work Session 5.2.24.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by Cabral 5/0/0

B. FY25 School Budget - \$22,651,207 - The FY25 school budget was approved at town meeting based off an amendment using the recommended Selectboard number. Parents and voters were thanked for their support.

Ms. Rapoza presented the proposed cuts after meeting with Department Heads and principals. There still remains a difference of \$446,000.

Ms. Pacheco would like to see any alternatives to cut rather than losing the summer school programs.

Mr. Aubin can provide numbers to the committee for summer school attendance. Students will be participating in the Out of School Program for part of the summer days.

Mr. Thrasher reported he will be meeting with Mr. Hartnett tomorrow.

Mr. Pacheco is concerned about the athletic fields if the school department vacates the old high school. Mr. Pacheco would like to review other budget items to see if cuts can be made elsewhere.

Members agreed to having a virtual Budget Subcommittee Meeting Tuesday May 21 4:00 pm. via Zoom. Members should give Ms. Rapoza any items they would like to discuss.

A motion was made to approve the total budget amount of \$22,651,207.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by Cabral 5/0/0

**VI. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices-** Chair Gendreau noted Memorial Day ceremonies will be on May 25th 9 am. and on May 27 will be the parade at 9:30 am.

**VII. Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty-eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting -** There were none.

**VIII. Adjourn -** A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Cabral, seconded by JPacheco 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes Jason Pacheco Yes Melissa Pacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

The Regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

## **MEETING DOCUMENTS**

WCS Bill Warrants: 5.3.2024 and 5.17.2024

Historical Student Attendance Report

Student Attendance Reports by School

Staff Attendance Reports by School

WMHS International Trip to Dominican Republic February 2026 and South Korea April 2026 Field Studies and Field Trip Authorization

FY24/FY25 Budget Spreadsheet

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*