

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, September 17, 2024
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS Auditorium**

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle High School, Jennifer Chaves Out of School Time Director, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, 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 6:12 pm. with a quorum of the members present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Evan Gendreau announced Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f) – This meeting is being recorded.

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

III. Informational Agenda

A. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin reported they have received embargoed performance results on MCAS testing. The scores will be released to press and public next week. The committee will be updated.

Ms. Charette is meeting to start a Math Matters initiative.

There was a report in the Boston Globe that Southcoast Educational Collaborative was using seclusion rooms for Special Education students. Although Westport is part of the collaborative, this is not an issue.

Superintendent Aubin reported a great start to the school year.

B. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Thrasher reported the Finance Committee met last week to discuss a timetable for the budget process and scheduling joint meetings with the School Committee and Selectboard.

Mr. Pacheco reported the Cable Advisory Board met last week and discussed the creation of a high definition channel for cable subscribers. No further meetings have been scheduled at this time.

Ms. Cabral and Ms. Pacheco had nothing new to report.

Chair Gendreau reported from the Long-Term Building Committee. Selectboard approved the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) scan. This comes out of town meeting appropriations.

Mr. Thrasher reported a Request for Proposal (RFP) went out for reuse. This is a project management study to fund any kind of renovation. This RFP is for all town properties.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 9/20/2024 and 9/6/2024 - Chair Gendreau reported bill warrants dated 9/20/2024 in the amount of \$147,168.83 and 9/6/2024 in the amount of \$282,667.35 were emailed to school committee members for review.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Pacheco questioned a charge from New England Turf and Soil on September 6. The town baseball league mentioned one of fields was not worked on during the season, but was done over the summer after the season for benefit of an outside organization. Mr. Pacheco voiced concern that our own students did not benefit from the use of this field.

Mr. Aubin mentioned there was a series of miscommunications that Ms. Ouellette can clarify.

Ms. Pacheco suggested as a future agenda item to look at how much money is spent on fields as well as the funding balance for athletics opposed to other subjects for example drama or events for all students.

D. OST Program Budget – Ms. Chaves reviewed the Out of School Time Revolving Budget for FY24 and FY25. Reimbursement rate and subsidies were explained.

Ms. Chaves reported they received a grant over the summer and will be submitting the same grant again. There was an Increase on the daily rate and breakfast rate and this did not affect enrollment.

Ms. Chaves asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Pacheco asked about the status of staffing? Ms. Chaves mentioned they are still interviewing and staffing will be updated soon.

E. Update on Solar Credits from Eversource - Chair Evan Gendreau reported there has been a problem concerning solar credits not being applied to the energy bill. This still remains a problem and the town Treasurer has been in contact with them. There is no set timeline. It was noted this is an Eversource issue and is their responsibility for correction.

F. Proposal of Unified Sports Club at WMHS – Ms. Charette explained the Unified Activities Club is a program bringing students with and without disabilities together to participate in sports or activities. Ms. Charette mentioned they are part of the Massasoit League. Fall sport is bocce, Winter sport is basketball, Spring sport is a bowling jamboree. During the season there are 4 games. Two we host and two we send students. Support and resources from the school community include an advisor, access to appropriate sports facilities and equipment, promotion, and Pep Band to play at home games.

Ms. Charette asked if there were any questions from the committee?

Members expressed their appreciation for the program.

IV. Action Agenda *(taken out of order)*

B. Review and Act on Unified Sports Club at WMHS -

A motion was made to approve the Unified Activities Club at WMHS.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by Cabral, all were in favor 5/0/0

III. Informational Agenda - continued

G. FY26 Budget Timeline - Ms. Rapoza presented the budget timeline for the school department. They will be having budget work sessions to look at needs of the departments, students, district, etc. in order to prepare the budget.

Ms. Pacheco asked if the budget percentage between town/school is known for other towns? Ms. Rapoza can ask other towns and share this information.

Ms. Rapoza will be revising the timeline list.

Chair Gendreau mentioned they would like to have building leaders attend the upcoming budget work sessions.

Ms. Pacheco requested hybrid meetings.

Mr. Thrasher added the town has expressed this will be a difficult budget year. Adding programs to ultimately saving funds in the long run will be crucial.

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, September 3, 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

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

B. Review and Act on Unified Sports Club at WMHS - Done above.

V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices - There were none.

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

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

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

Roll call vote:

Cabral Yes Gendreau Yes JPacheco Yes MPacheco Yes Thrasher Yes

The School Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Meeting Documents

WCS Bill Warrants: 9/20/2024 and 9/6/2024

Westport Community Schools Out of School Time Revolving FY24, FY25

Club Proposal: Unified Activities at Westport Middle High School

FY26 Municipal Budget Preparation letter dated 9.9.24

FY26 Municipal Budget Calendar dated 9.9.24

Westport Community Schools FY26 Budget Development Timeline

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary