

**Westport School Committee  
Regular Meeting  
DATE: Tuesday, October 1, 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, Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, 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 6:03 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 -**

C. Student Representatives – *(taken out of order)*

Ryan Keane reported - Wednesday October 2 will be halfway point for term 1, progress reports will be posted on the community portal by Monday October 7, Thursday October 3 is an early release day, ALICE Parent Information Night is at 5 p.m. on October 3, middle school dances have begun with a shout out to everyone that helped, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance will be Friday October 18 with permission slips sent home next week, Monday October 14 there is no school due to Columbus Day, we are in the middle of sports season with soccer and field hockey both having wins.

Jack Keane reported - PSAT testing is Tuesday October 29 for Sophomores and Juniors, Seniors and Juniors had the opportunity to visit with several colleges this year with many more school planning to visit Westport, Financial Aid Information Night was held on September 25 for Senior families, Student Council elections were held last week and they are already planning their first event, Haunted Hallway will be October 25 at the high school, Students That Exemplify Extraordinary Leadership (STEEL) volunteered their services at Southcoast Harvest Festival, Westport High School Drama Club held auditions for their performance of Into the Woods, scores were announced for all Westport Wildcats Athletic Teams, checkout the school website and social media pages for weekly schedules.

A. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin reported October 3 is an early release day for the purpose of going over MCAS data. Next meeting, they will report on student performance.

Mr. Aubin attended a meeting with Dr. Goodman from the Economic Development and Community Partnership and Dr. Almeida from the Teacher Preparation Program. Both are from UMASS Dartmouth. January is the target start of early college for biotech and advanced manufacturing. There will also be a doctorate program available as well. Mr. Aubin thanked Ms. Pacheco for setting this meeting up.

Westport Elementary phone issues were just tested for static and seem to be ok now.

B. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Thrasher, Mr. Pacheco, Ms. Pacheco and Ms. Cabral had nothing new to report.

Chair Gendreau reported the Audit Committee and Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) will meet soon.

C. Student Representatives – Done above.

D. Staff and Student Attendance Reports - Chair Gendreau mentioned that all members received copies of these reports and asked if there were any questions? There were none. Chair Gendreau mentioned this information is monitored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

E. WCS Bill Warrant: 10/04/2024 - Chair Gendreau reported bill warrant dated 10/04/2024 in the amount of \$207,144.71 was emailed to school committee members for review.

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

F. FY26 CIPC – Ms. Rapoza explained the process for the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) requests with submissions due by October 17. Over the last 2 weeks meetings were held with departments to identify needs. There will also be meetings with town officials in the next few weeks.

Ms. Rapoza went over the list of items for the Middle High School, Macomber School, and Westport Elementary School.

Chair Gendreau asked what would be the priority items from the list?

Superintendent Aubin responded that air conditioning at Westport Elementary is a high priority.

Discussion was held on the listed items. There were varying opinions on how to present the list of requests. Some ideas were to narrow down the list to 1 or 2 items to have a better chance for funding, use the entire list but break it down, have a paragraph on why items are needed, build in a long-term cost of not doing these things, and financially split up the request over 2 years.

Superintendent Aubin shared they can put a narrative and rationale together and send it to the members.

Ms. Rapoza can send out the list for members to prioritize and send back to her.

Mr. Thrasher added there may be leftover funds from the town to improve playground equipment. Ms. Rapoza will be doing some research on this and will send out information to everyone.

Chair Gendreau informed everyone to send any items of concern to Ms. Rapoza.

G. United Way Teachers' Closet - Chair Gendreau thanked the donors United Way, Bank Five and Friends Hospitality. He attended the drop off and delivery where Macomber students had thank you sheets. As funds allow, they will refill supplies.

H. Opioid Settlement Funds - Chair Gendreau reported as of September 1, 2024 the town has received \$300,000 in settlement funds. Between now and fiscal year 28 they will be receiving around 1 million dollars in funding. This was just presented at the Selectboard meeting. There will be a committee that will monitor how funds will be spent.

Ms. Pacheco would like to take a pro-active approach and reach out to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health indicating the school would like to develop some projects and ask to have a school member on the committee to work collaboratively with the town.

Mr. Thrasher mentioned there is clear intention to have the school department represented.

#### **IV. Action Agenda**

A. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, September 17, 2024 and SC Work Session Minutes – Tuesday, September 17, 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 17, 2024 and SC Work Session Minutes for Tuesday, September 17, 2024

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

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

Roll call vote:

|        |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |
|--------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|
| Cabral | Yes | Gendreau | Yes | JPacheco | Yes | MPacheco | Yes | Thrasher | Yes |
|--------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|

The School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

**Meeting Documents**

Staff and Student Attendance Reports

WCS Bill Warrant: 10/04/2024

FY26 CIPC list

Westport Five Year Capital Plan dated 1.12.24

Capital Improvement Planning memo from Jim Hartnett dated 9.4.24

Capital Improvement Request Form Fiscal Year 2026

*Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary*