

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, October 15, 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, Lisa Kaminski Director of Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Shelly Morris Athletic Director, 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

A. Student Representatives –

Ryan Keane reported the following for the Middle School - Dance for grades 7 and 8 will be Friday October 18 from 6-8 pm., WMHS PTO will host a cookie fundraiser from October 15 - November 13, October 9 Unified Sports Bocce Sports Team played their first match, Student Council elections are being held.

Ryan Keane reported the following for the High School - October 25 Haunted Hallway will take place from 6-8 pm., PSAT testing is on October 29, Westport High School's Homecoming is November 15 at Whites of Westport 6-10 pm., Students That Exemplify Extraordinary Leadership (STEEL) is hosting a food drive from October 8 - November 8, sports teams are having an excellent season, all sports teams scores were announced, volleyball team raised \$1,800 in their Dig Pink Match with proceeds going to the Dig Pink Foundation, check school website and social media pages for weekly sports team's schedules.

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin apologized to stakeholders that received numerous phone calls at odd hours. They are checking on the student information system, firewall and wi-fi to identify the problem.

Westport Elementary School is still experiencing a phone problem. There may be a need to do infrastructure changes. Mr. Tomah will be reporting on this matter.

C. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Thrasher had nothing to officially report with his liaison duties. Mr. Thrasher attended a Special Education Parent Advisor Council (SEPAC) meeting on Thursday. He commended the parents involved in this group and it is great to see their level of involvement. Discussion was held on what makes playgrounds accessible. Mr. Thrasher shared Doug Flutie Foundation will provide a communication board to place on playgrounds. There is a Google form grant application available to apply and Mr. Thrasher encourages the School Department to reach out and do the process.

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

Chair Gendreau reported the Audit Committee will be meeting on October 28. Building proposals are due at the end of month for the Long-Term Building Committee.

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.

E. WCS Bill Warrant: 10/18/2024 - Chair Gendreau reported bill warrant dated 10/18/2024 in the amount of \$277,355.40 was emailed to school committee members for review.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Thrasher asked if there has been a resolution with Eversource? Chair Gendreau explained there was a data issue with the meter. The town treasurer is reviewing previous usage and working with them at this time.

F. MCAS Presentation – Lisa Kaminski gave an update on results for Spring 2024 MCAS. Highlights were given on Points of Pride, Opportunities for Improvement, and What’s Happening Now. Results were given for Science, English Language Arts, and Math.

Chair Gendreau asked how the writing piece works across the different classes? Ms. Kaminski explained students write responses by gathering evidence and how it proves the claim with an ending transition. There are similarities across content areas because teachers share the tools with a common language and graphic organizers across the subjects.

Chair Gendreau asked if the data from tutoring had positive results? Ms. Kaminski mentioned students are doing well in first grade.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any other questions from the committee?

Mr. Thrasher asked when is the next round for Dibels assessments? Ms. Kaminski reported next round will be in January 2025.

Chair Gendreau asked what are the mechanisms to capture students need for extra help/support. Ms. Kaminski shared they take a look at home work, class work, tests, quizzes, attendance, and data comparison to students of the same age.

Ms. Pacheco mentioned this information was well put together and requested for it to be placed on the school website? Ms. Kaminski will do this.

G. WCS Student Policy Handbook - There were 2 changes. The rubric was aligned to ones being used for uniformity and summer school was aligned with the budget to support students.

Discussion was held on retention, insuring equality and having documentation.

IV. Action Agenda

D. Approval of WCS Student Policy Handbook - *(taken out of order)*

Mr. Pacheco mentioned on page 26 the School Choice section needs to be updated. Ms. Rapoza will update this information.

A motion was made to approve the WCS Student Policy Handbook.

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

III. Informational Agenda continued

H. WMHS Athletic Handbook – Shelly Morris went over the minor updates adding items such as swimming and diving co-op, removing Bishop Connolly, matching what is in the handbook, discipline and current Massachusetts Scholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) rules.

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

IV. Action Agenda

- E. Approval of WMHS Athletic Handbook - (taken out of order)

A motion was made to approve the WMHS Athletic Handbook.

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

III. Informational Agenda continued

I. Club Advisor Handbook- Shelly Morris went over changes. Club offerings were added. Created documentation for fundraising, such as a calendar and tracking system. Updated management policy with advisors having more oversight and ways purchases are utilized. Turnaround time of 48 hours for fundraisers and a maximum of 3 fundraisers.

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

IV. Action Agenda

- F. Approval of Club Advisor Handbook - (taken out of order)

A motion was made to approve the Club Advisor Handbook.

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

IV. Action Agenda

- A. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, October 1, 2024 -

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, October 1, 2024.

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

- B. Approval of Field Trips: Dudek Bowling Alley, 11/24 and 3/24 – Warren RI & Old Stone Orchard, 10/24 – Little Compton, RI -

A motion was made to approve Field Trips for Dudek Bowling Alley, 11/24/24 and 3/24/25 in Warren, RI & Old Stone Orchard, 10/24/24 in Little Compton, RI.

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

C. Approval of FY26 CIPC - Ms. Rapoza reviewed the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) list covering safety and health priorities, planning proposal and district improvements. Ms. Rapoza shared this is due on Thursday.

Chair Gendreau asked for any input from the committee.

Ms. Pacheco agrees with the order on the list and suggested to lump the first 4 items together as one.

Mr. Thrasher would like the committee to consider the way these items are presented. He suggested to have top 3 asks and make a distinction between all the items on the sheet.

Recommended changes will be made.

A motion was made to approve the CIPC requests as discussed, with first 4 items grouped into one as priority 1, 2nd being air conditioning and 3rd being the playground.

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

- D. Approval of WCS Student Policy Handbook - Done above.

E. Approval of WMHS Athletic Handbook - Done above.

F. Approval of Club Advisor Handbook - Done above.

V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices -

Chair Gendreau invited the Chair of SEPAC to the next School Committee meeting. In addition, the Opioid Settlement Committee will need an elected body.

A change was made to have a Hybrid Budget Work Session following a regular School Committee meeting at 6 pm. on October 22, 2024 and cancel the November 5, 2024 School Committee Meeting.

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 7:33 p.m.

Meeting Documents

Staff and Student Attendance Reports

WCS Bill Warrant: 10/18/2024

MCAS Spring 2024 Update - An Overview

WCS Student Policy Handbook 2024-2025

WMHS Athletic Handbook 2024-2025

WMHS Club Advisor Handbook 2024-2025

Field Trip Dudek Bowling Alley, 11/24/24 and 3/24/25 Warren, RI

Field Trip Old Stone Orchard, 10/24/24 Little Compton, RI

FY26 CIPC list

Westport Five Year Capital Plan dated 1.12.24

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary

