



Weymouth

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Weymouth School Committee

[ZOOM Meeting](#)

October 22, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

(approved 11/19/20)

Members In Attendance: Lisa Belmarsh, Chair; Tracey Nardone, Vice-Chair; John Sullivan, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Carrie Palazzo, Mayor Robert Hedlund

Also Present: Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Wargo, Assistant Superintendent.

The Meeting Came to Order At 7:00pm.

Chair Belmarsh led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included:

- Warrant 17-2021 in the amount of \$838,108.20 Dated October 13, 2020
- Regular Minutes 10/8/20,
- Budget Subcommittee Minutes 10/14/20

Motion by Mrs. Nardone to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll Call vote. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment

The Chair opened public comment reminding that comments be kept to 3 minutes and topics of the agenda.

Lisa Dembowski,

All students grades 3-12 should be back to in person learning.

Beth Kane, Abigail Adams Circle

Asked if busses will be full price. Assistant Superintendent Smith shared it will be a prorated cost .

Josephine Burke, Broad Street

This is the fourth time she has spoken at school committee. She is asking to give the kids the opportunity to get back to schools. They are not learning anything.

Arthur Burke, Broad Street

Proud of his daughter for coming on and speaking at School Committee. Agrees that kids need to get back. He is very concerned about his child's education. They need to get back to school.

Patti Mycroft, Edward Cody Lane

Thanked the committee for all of the hard decisions they have had to make. She feels remote is safer for everyone until the pandemic is over. Other towns are suspending in person learning. There are many outbreaks associated with sports.

Lisa Devine,

Boston is closed, we should be as well. Hybrid is hard and stressful. Classes are getting more work done with remote. Schools should be fully remote until January, then reevaluate.

Alyssa Tausevich, Federal Furnace Road

She is a teacher in another district, her husband is in Weymouth. We need to be looking into the data and continue to do so while making decisions.

Amy Kablian, 7 Kipling Road

Everyone has different opinions. She has 7th grader, he has a right to education. Her opinion is parents should keep kids remote if they want to but she should have the option to send her son to school.

Shawn Dewitt, Knollwood Circle

Voiced his concerns about the numbers on the spreadsheet and how they do not line up and why some data is removed. There is no cure for corona virus. He is concerned about kids and teachers' mental state, workload and how they feel.

Dina Adduci,

Mom of a preschool student and 3rd grade student. She decided not to send her PK student back, praised the teacher and para; kids are not getting what they need. Her 3rd grader hates school now. She wants to know more about how things will be when they go back.

Michelle Marson,

HS/7th grade students. She likes the hybrid model. A pediatrician told her that kids need to be back to school in person.

Scott Wegzyn,
Supports hybrid model.

Laura Dana,
Concerned about all of the emails about positive covid cases.

Ruth Pacino, Kipling Road
Thanked everyone for all of their hard work. She supports a hybrid model. Kids are falling behind. Parents need to make a choice about what is right for their own children. Take a look at the big picture.

Leah Grimes, Vickey Road
Spoke about her continued support for hybrid for all grades. Her own children went back last week and it is amazing.

Tristan Egan, Pleasantville Ave.
Supports the hybrid model. Has heard the comments about comparing Weymouth to Boston, their buildings are older, so there is not a direct comparison with Weymouth. Our teachers just don't want to go back. He commends the 10th grade student for speaking out.

Cynthia (iPhone), Burkhall Street
Supports hybrid. We cannot have 6/7 year olds on computers for 6 hours a day.

Kate Thornton, Pierce Road - did not respond when called on

Diedre Savage,
Thanked the committee for all their work on returning to school. She is supporting hybrid. Need to bring back CTE students.

Alicia Lyons, Capp Road
Her 1st grader is happy to be back, is engaged and doing well. Her 4th grader is at home and is sad, wanting to be back. We have neighboring districts that are hybrid K-12. It definitely can work. Our teachers are doing an amazing job.

Nicole Gates, Robinswood Road
Guidance/adjustment counselors need to check in on students more. She does not understand why school sports are happening when kids are not in school.

Kelly Stukenborg, Broad Street Place
Suggested that public comment should be moved to after new business as some of their questions would be answered during the presentation.

Carrie Lowe,

Supports hybrid learning. The lack of social and emotional learning is concerning. COVID is not spreading in schools. Parents have kids on other sports teams, (not school sports) that are spreading the virus. We need to fight for kids to be in schools.

Jenifer Story, Old Stone Way

When we go hybrid, when do we turn back based on the metrics? Boston has gone fully remote.

Kelly Cassia, Raymond Street

She agrees with the hybrid model. Kids need to be in school. Parents can choose remote if they want. We need to realize that kids want to be in school and it is better for their mental health.

Elizabeth Dodds, Summer Street

Has a K student who has been doing hybrid 3 days and is loving it. Her 4th grader is anxiously waiting to go back.

Report of the Superintendent

The Superintendent reported on the following:

Weymouth Public Schools received a generous donation from FoxRock Properties in Quincy of PPE for our schools students and staff. We are thankful for this donation of N95 masks, wipes, tissues, paper towels, sanitizer and disposable masks.

STEM week is in full force at the Nash School. Mrs. Dionne the STEM specialist, is focusing her activities this week using Artistic Architecture. Students are using their engineering skills to design paper buildings.

K-2 Students are participating in a school-wide Penny boat challenge where they are designing and building boats out of aluminum foil to see how many pennies they can get in the boat before it sinks.

Nash Parent Council has provided us our first virtual assembly called FrankenSTEM which the students will be watching as a school activity on Friday.

New Business

Introduction of WHS Black Student Union: Students Kyla Depina Wheeler, Pierrinsky Pierre-Louis, and James Malary, Advisor

Students Kyla Depina Wheeler and Pierrinsky Pierre-Louis presented a powerpoint presentation about the Weymouth High School Black Student Union. They reviewed in detail the following: Why Create a Black Student Union, Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Logo and what they have planned. Advisors James Malary and Yvonne Howard were also present. All questions were answered about the group. (Presentation is attached to these minutes.)

School Improvement Plan: Johnson Early Childhood Center - Maura Perez

Principal Maura Perez presented a powerpoint presentation to review the school improvement plan for Johnson Early Childhood Center. Mrs. Perez reviewed the following: About Johnson Early Childhood Center, the School Improvement Plan, Accomplishments, Objectives and initiatives. All questions asked by the Committee were answered. (Presentation is attached to these minutes.)

School Improvement Plan: Abigail Adams Middle School & Weymouth High School

Principal Matthew Meehan, Principal Alan Strauss, Associate Principal Karen Monahan and Associated Principal Rebecca Paulhus presented a powerpoint presentation to review the school improvement plans for Abigail Adams Middle School, and Weymouth High Schools grades 8-12. The following was discussed; a summary of student performance and accomplishments, three performance challenges for remote learning (1. SEL, 2. Instructional Practices and 3. Technology) Key Initiatives and Technology were reviewed. All questions asked by the Committee were answered. (Presentation is attached to these minutes.)

Report of the Budget Sub-Committee 10/14/20 (Action Requested)

Dr. Sullivan reported that the Committee met on October 14th. They reviewed FY21 Budget update, Covid 19 costs, Costs of sick time taken to date, FY22 Capital Plan.

MOTION: by Mrs. Nardone to accept the report of the Budget Subcommittee,
Seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

Report of the Policy Sub-Committee 10/21/20 (Action Requested)

The committee (Tracey Nardone, Carrie Palazzo, Kathy Curran, Assistant Superintendent Wargo) met on 10/21/20 and discussed policy JJJA regarding extra curricular eligibility for Weymouth students attending private schools. The policy conflicts with MIAA rule 52, consultation with the school attorney, superintendent and staff was had. The policy move to first reading on 10/22/20 at School Committee The committee also reviewed policy JBAA - Student Sexual Harassment. Changes in alignment with the new Title XI changes were discussed. The committee will meet again on this policy before bringing to first reading. The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm

MOTION: by Dr. Sullivan to accept the report of the Policy Subcommittee,
Seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

Policy JJJA - Extracurricular Activities - First Reading

Mrs. Nardone reviewed policy JJJA. She reviewed the changes discussed at the policy meeting and this item is being brought forward for first reading. Assistant Superintendent Wargo

discussed the changes to the policy. Policy will be on the November 19th agenda for 2nd reading and public comment. The policy can be reviewed on the school website under the school committee documents site.

Review Superintendent Search Process

Dr. Curtis-Whipple spoke about her 25 years in the district and that she loves Weymouth Public Schools. This was the hardest decision she had to make. She shared she will still be in the community. Dr. Curtis-Whipple thanked everyone, it has been such a pleasure serving as Superintendent. She shared she is still here for some time and is committed to the job. There is a great team in place. Thanked everyone for calls/texts and support she has received from the town.

Chair Belmarsh shared that Dr. Curtis-Whipple will be the Superintendent through February 26, 2021, there will be a lot of time to say goodbye.

Chair Belmarsh stated that we needed to start the conversation about the process for a search for a new superintendent. The district is a good position timewise. She has invited Glenn Koocher, president of MASC to speak at a special meeting on October 29th at 6:00. It will be a one item agenda to discuss the search process.

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw thanked Dr. Curtis-Whipple, and stated she has moved the district in leaps and bounds for all students.

Mrs. Curran stated that she has received calls from past members of search committees to participate in this one.

Mrs. Nardone thanked Dr. Curtis-Whipple. It is not easy sitting at the desk where the buck stops. It has been quite a year with the pandemic and she has been nothing but grace under pressure.

Mrs. Nardone asked if the search would be virtual? Chair responded for the time being yes.

MASC Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1: MCAS and High Stakes Testing

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 1: MCAS and High Stakes Testing

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2: COVID-19 State Funding

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 2: COVID-19 State Funding

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 3: School Committee Anti-racism Resolution

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 3: Rejecting the Arming of Educators

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 4: Lowering the Voting Age for Municipal Elections

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 4: Lowering the Voting Age for Municipal Elections

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - no; Mrs. Nardone - no; Mayor Hedlund - no; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 5: Supporting Increased Federal Support and Stimulus Funding for Public K-12 Education

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 5: Supporting Increased Federal Support and Stimulus Funding for Public K-12 Education

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 6: Retention of Medicaid Revenue

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 6: Retention of Medicaid Revenue

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 7: Attempts By US DOE To Direct Funding To Private Schools

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 7: Attempts By US DOE To Direct Funding To Private Schools

SECOND: Mrs. Nardone

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - abstain, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 8: Membership of a School Committee Member on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 8: Membership of a School Committee Member on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - no; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 9: Providing Equity For Sexual Orientation - LGBTQ+ Students, Teachers and Staff

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 9: Providing Equity For Sexual Orientation - LGBTQ+ Students, Teachers and Staff

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 10: Relative to the Monitoring of Attendance of Students During the Pandemic

MOTION: by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw to support Resolution 10: Relative to the Monitoring of Attendance of Students During the Pandemic

SECOND: Dr. Sullivan

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS 8:45 pm

Adams Renovation and Transportation Building Update (Town Measure 20 072 - Amend Measure 19 017)

Working on a timeline and funding source. We will have an update at the November School Committee meeting.

Chapman School Building Update

The Chair shared that things are going well with the building, they are a bit ahead of schedule at this point. The project was awarded for material, recycling and building demolition. Mayor Hedlund spoke about the timeline for bids and the range of the budget.

Return to School Plan and discuss potential return to school and district readiness dates

Dr. Curtis-Whipple reviewed the return to school plan. She shared that she and other members of the Administrative team were at schools on October 13th as students arrived. She shared how happy the students were coming back to the buildings. Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that the Advisory team met today at 4:00 to review metrics and they are also watching other districts to see what they are doing and how their metrics are. Elaine Lane, Nurse leader and Assistant Superintendent Smith reviewed the metrics. Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that on October 29th the district would be launching the district dashboard on the website.

Maryann Foley, HR Director reviewed staffing for the buildings and discussed the struggles finding substitutes. Assistant Superintendent Smith and Transportation Manager Robin Howard discussed transportation and how it is going. Assistant Superintendent Warog reviewed professional development and calendar changes. All questions, comments and

concerns from the Committee were addressed.

OVERVIEW OF DATES

Hybrid Phases				
Students	Hybrid Phase 1	Hybrid Phase 2	Hybrid Phase 3	Hybrid Phase 4
Grades 12 Career and Technical Education: Tues-Fri	Sept 22, 2020			
High Needs Substantially Separate Programs: Tues-Fri	Sept 22, 2020			
Johnson Early Childcare Center: Mon-Fri		Oct 13, 2020		
Primary Schools (K,1,2) 2 days - Tues,Wed / Thurs,Fri		Oct 13, 2020		
ELL Levels 1 & 2 (Grades K,1,2): 4 days,Tues-Fri		Oct 13, 2020		
Primary Schools (3,4,5) 2 days - Tues,Wed / Thurs,Fri			Target Date: 11/4/20	
ELL Levels 1 & 2 (Grades 3,4,5): 4 days, Tues-Fri			Target Date: 11/4/20	
Abigail Adams MS (6-7) Each Cohort One Day / Week			Target Date: 11/4/20	
Abigail Adams MS (6-7) 2 Days - Tues, Wed / Thurs, Fri				Target Date: 11/17/20
ELL Levels 1 & 2 (Gr 6, 7) 4 days - Tues - Fri				Target Date: 11/17/20
Weymouth High School (8-12) Each Cohort One Day / Week				Target Date: 11/17/20
ELL Levels 1 & 2 (Grades 8-12) 2 days - Tues,Wed / Thurs, Fri				Target Date: 11/17/20
Weymouth Evening High School				TBD

The Chair stated she would accept a motion to approve the recommended return to school dates as outlined by the Superintendent noting that the dates are subject to change based on health, safety and staffing metrics.

- Primary Schools grades 3, 4, 5; , 2 days by cohort 11/4/20
- ELL Levels 1 & 2 (grades 3, 4, 5); 4 days 11/4/20
- Abigail Adams grades 6-7; 1 day by cohort, 11/4/20
- Abigail Adams grades 6-7; 2 days by cohort 11/17/20
- ELL Levels 1 & 2 (grades 6 & 7); 4 days 11/17/20
- Weymouth High Schools (grades 8-12); 1 day by cohort 11/17/20
- ELL Levels 1 & 2 (grades 8-12) 2 days 11/17/20

MOTION: by Mrs. Curran, SECOND: Dr. Sullivan to approve the return to schools dates as outlined by the Superintendent noting that the dates are subject to change based on health, safety and staffing metrics.

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

SY 2020-2021 Calendar Changes

Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared the need for changes to our current calendar. The following changes were proposed.

- Remove all 1/2 days on Monday's. The students will have synchronous learning in the morning and asynchronous in the afternoon. Staff will have PD in the afternoon.
- Remove full PD day on 11/10/20
- Move the Tuesday, December 8th full day to Monday December 7th

MOTION: by Mrs. Nardone, SECOND: Dr. Sullivan to adopt the changes to the 2020-2021 School Calendar

Roll Call vote. Mrs. Curran - yes; Mrs. Nardone - yes; Mayor Hedlund - yes; Dr. Sullivan - yes, Mrs. Palazzo - yes, Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw - yes; Chair Belmarsh - yes. Motion passes.

Announcements:

Weymouth Market-November 4, 2020-NEW time-3:30pm-WHS Gold Cafeteria in a drive thru manner

SEPAC - November 10, 2020 - 6:30 p.m. - via zoom will have a special election for board members.

Next School Committee Meeting:

Regular Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2020 - 7:00pm

The Meeting adjourned at 11:59pm on the motion of Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sullivan. Roll call vote - passed unanimously.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

- Black Student Union Presentation
- JECC Presentation
- WHS/Middle School Presentation
- Return to School Update
- 2020-2021 Calendar

Respectfully Submitted,



John Sullivan
Secretary