

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2025
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS – Auditorium**

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, 4 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Evan Gendreau opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:33 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 - Not in attendance tonight.

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin reported last week was the middle school play *Shrek*. Mr. Aubin gave a shout out to all involved with the drama program. There is a tournament for girls' and boys' basketball coming up.

The Commissioner of Education came to visit the district and was very impressed with the programs. A video on the school website can be viewed. Mr. Aubin thanked all for everything.

Sunday there was a water leak at the Westport Elementary School. The seal broke on the water storage tank in the garage. A part needed to be ordered, causing there to be no school on Monday. Mr. Aubin thanked all involved with remedying the issue.

C. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Thrasher reported the Long-Term Building Committee met Thursday at town hall. The evaluation study is ongoing. They have looked at town hall, town annex, and council on aging. They will report their preliminary findings. Now until June there will be 4 different meetings, then their final presentation.

Mr. Pacheco attended a Cable Advisory Board Meeting on February 12. They discussed routine matters and there is 1 issue left with an uncompleted job due to fiber wiring not being tied in. Mr. Pacheco will get specifics and reach out to the committee.

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

Mr. Gendreau reported Mr. Brewer will set up a meeting in March for the Audit Committee.

D. Staff and Student Attendance Report - These will be available at the next meeting in March.

E. WCS Bill Warrant: 2/21/25 - Chair Gendreau reported bill warrant dated 2/21/2025 in the amount of \$436,848.41 was emailed to school committee members for review.

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

F. Discussion of Superintendent Search Committee - Chair Gendreau reviewed the Superintendent Search Committee purpose, duties and responsibilities, timeline, meetings and reporting.

A motion was made to approve the makeup of the subcommittee for the Superintendent Search Committee.

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

Chair Gendreau presented the name list of interested parties for the Superintendent Search Subcommittee.

Mr. Pacheco pointed out that Anthony Branco sent in his name for consideration on February 12, however it was not received due to a typo. Mr. Pacheco forwarded the email to Chair Gendreau.

Chair Gendreau proposed that School Committee representatives will be Mr. Thrasher and Mr. Pacheco. Chair Gendreau read the names and affiliations they will represent covering community, parent, bargaining units, staff and administration. There will be a total of 12 members.

Chair Gendreau asked if there was anything further?

Ms. Pacheco asked as the applications come in, does the committee have the opportunity to see them before or when the subcommittee gets them and before a decision is made?

Chair Gendreau mentioned the procedure will be for the head of Human Resources to receive applications, forward them to the chair, then be presented to the subcommittee. It was noted that the school committee is privy to meeting minutes.

Mr. Thrasher, as the subcommittee chair will allow school committee members to be in attendance only during the subcommittee executive sessions for deliberations.

Mr. Pacheco asked how the choices were made for the membership?

Chair Gendreau explained the process and mentioned he encountered a procedural concern rather than a qualifying concern.

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

A. Review and Act on Superintendent Search Committee Members

A motion was made to approve the membership of the Superintendent Search Committee as written.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by Cabral

Chair Gendreau opened for discussion.

Mr. Anthony Branco requested to speak. Mr. Branco shared he is a representative of the community being a teacher, principal, and parent. He advocates for safe schools, learned to collaborate with teachers as well as supporting them, has classroom management and maintains high standards. He asked the committee members to reconsider their decision and take his offer to serve as a member. Mr. Branco suggested to discuss this in executive session instead of tonight.

Chair Gendreau mentioned they need to ensure the timeline and requests approval from the committee tonight. In addition, this issue cannot be discussed in executive session only in open session.

A motion was made to replace Mr. Viveiros with Mr. Branco due to his experience and date he reached out with an email.

Motion by JPacheco, motion received no second, not passed

Chair Gendreau explained the committee can act or withdraw the previous motion made by Ms. Pacheco presently under discussion.

Chair Gendreau was asked if the number of members could be 13? Chair Gendreau explained the committee just approved 12 members, so this would need to be amended.

After further discussion, Ms. Pacheco does not want to withdraw the previous motion.

Mr. Branco was thanked for expressing his interest in serving on the subcommittee.

It was noted the public can play an active role when interviews are done by sharing concerns. Three finalists will be presented with an opportunity for public input.

Chair Gendreau asked if there was any further discussion? There was nothing further.

Previous motion by Ms. Pacheco was voted on.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by Cabral 4/1/0
JPacheco No

Chair Gendreau informed everyone they will hold an open session this Friday to approve posting of the superintendent job description.

G. Discussion of School Committee Process for Large Expenditures - Mr. Thrasher asked to table this item and action item B. until next meeting.

A motion was made to table.

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

H. Second Read Policy ADF – School District Wellness Policy - Chair Gendreau mentioned this policy was discussed at the last meeting. Are there any comments for discussion? There was none.

IV. Action Agenda (taken out of order) -

E. Review and Act on Policy ADF – School District Wellness Policy

A motion was made to approve ADF School District Wellness Policy.

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

I. Second Read Policy EFD – School Nutrition Program Charge Policy - Chair Gendreau mentioned this policy was discussed at the last meeting. Are there any comments or questions? There was none.

IV. Action Agenda (taken out of order) -

F. Review and Act on Policy EFD – School Nutrition Program Charge Policy

A motion was made to approve EFD School Nutrition Program Charge Policy.

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

J. Second Read Policy IMDB – Flag Policy - Chair Gendreau informed the members this policy was amended from the last discussion.

IV. Action Agenda (taken out of order) -

G. Review and Act on Policy IMDB – Flag Policy

A motion was made to approve IMDB Flag Policy as amended.

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

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on Superintendent Search Committee Members - Done above.

B. Review and Act on School Committee Process for Large Expenditures - tabled.

C. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 and SC Joint FinComm Meeting Minutes, Tuesday February 11, 2025 -

A motion was made to approve SC Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, February 4, 2025 and SC Joint FinComm Meeting Minutes, Tuesday February 11, 2025.

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

D. Review and Act on REVISED 25/26 School Year Calendar - The revised 25/26 School Year Calendar was presented.

A motion was made to approve the revised 25/26 School Year Calendar.

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

E. Review and Act on Policy ADF – School District Wellness Policy - Done above.

F. Review and Act on Policy EFD – School Nutrition Program Charge Policy - Done above.

G. Review and Act on Policy IMDB – Flag Policy - Done above.

H. Acknowledgement of \$5000 WEF Grant – WMHS Drama Club 'Into the Woods' - Chair Gendreau acknowledged appreciation to the Westport Education Foundation for their support.

A motion was made to approve the \$5000 WEF Grant for WMHS Drama Club 'Into the Woods'.

Motion by JPacheco, 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 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 7:13 p.m.

Meeting Documents

WCS Bill Warrant: 2/21/25

Second Read Policy ADF – School District Wellness Policy

Second Read Policy EFD – School Nutrition Program Charge Policy

Second Read Policy IMDB – Flag Policy

25/26 School Year Calendar

Interested Parties: Superintendent Search Committee

Superintendent Search Subcommittee Overview

Office of the Inspector General Massachusetts Public Procurement Procedures

\$5000 WEF Grant WMHS Drama Club 'Into the Woods'

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary