

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2025
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS – 2nd Floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Kevin Aguiar Westport Elementary School Principal, Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Westport Middle High School Principal, Jennifer Chaves Out of School Time Program Director, Stacey Duquette Macomber Principal, Lisa Kaminski Director of Curriculum, Instructional and Professional Development, Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Kristin McDaniel Human Resources Director, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Tony Tomah Technology Director, 1 Community Participant

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Evan Gendreau opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:48 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: 3rd term closes April 7 with report cards available on the community portal April 11, ELA MCAS testing for grades 7 and 8 will be April 8 and 9 grades 5 and 6 will be April 10 and 11, Spring Dance for grades 5,6, and 7 will be April 11, meeting for the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip is on April 9, Middle School Student Council is holding a donation raffle for Forever Paws Animal Shelter deadline April 4, Spring sports began this week.

Jack Keane reported the following: 5th Annual Senior Dinner was held last Friday, Senior graduation lawn signs are on sale deadline is April 29, Senior class trip to Six Flags is May 9, Westport Advocats and R.I.S.E. are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Jaden Araujo Bowling Fundraiser April 13, Spring sports scores were announced for varsity lacrosse, varsity boy's baseball, varsity girl's softball, varsity boy's and girl's tennis.

D. Recognition of Departing Committee Members - *(taken out of order)* Chair Gendreau thanked Gloria Cabral and Melissa Pacheco for their dedicated service as School Committee Members. Students and staff benefitted greatly from their commitment. Both were given a gift and Chair Gendreau read a citation from the state senate, presenting them with the original citation.

B. Superintendent Report – Ms. Kaminski read a report on their visit to the State House in Boston on high dosage tutoring. Ms. Kaminski reported on the steps they made for Literacy Success in Westport with a timeline of the work beginning in Fall of 2022 to present.

Superintendent Aubin read a memo from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents sharing concerns over uncertainty with federal education funds.

C. WCS Bill Warrant: 4/4/2025 - Chair Gendreau reported bill warrant dated 4/4/25 in the amount of \$289,601.56 was emailed to school committee members for review.

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

D. Recognition of Departing Committee Members - Done above.

E. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Thrasher reported the Long-Term Building Committee will meet on Thursday April 10 and will discuss ideas of the feasibility study and use of the old high school building. They are interested in community feedback.

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

Mr. Pacheco has been a participant in the Superintendent Search Committee.

Chair Gendreau reported the Audit Committee will be meeting during the first week of May.

F. Superintendent Search Subcommittee Update - Mr. Thrasher reported the subcommittee met several times with interviews scheduled next week for 5 candidates. The subcommittee approved a survey that will be posted to the community via a Google form on the school and town website. Participants will rank the top 5 areas of importance and can make additional comments.

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

G. Discussion of Appointments to Superintendent Search Subcommittee - Chair Gendreau informed everyone they had some resignations from the subcommittee and recommend to fill these openings now because they have only gone through candidate screenings at this time. Chair Gendreau is making a proposal to appoint Ann Hathaway, Richard Monast, Christopher Dunn, and Nancy Tavares.

A motion was made to add Ann Hathaway, Richard Monast, Christopher Dunn, and Nancy Tavares to the Superintendent Search Subcommittee.

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

H. OST Pay Rates/Benefits and Job Descriptions – Ms. Chaves presented the Out of School Time Program job descriptions recommended by the Department of Early Education and Care EEC and asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Thrasher inquired about how positions are funded? Ms. Chaves confirmed funds for this entire program come out of a revolving account and never from the school budget.

Ms. Chaves explained the OST rates and merit increases effective July 1, 2025. They will now introduce performance evaluations and assign pay increases based on merit and not use the step increment process. When the evaluation tool is completed, Ms. Chaves will send it out to everyone.

Discussion was held concerning cost fluctuations, enrollment capacity, instruction time, program sustainability, salary and staff tuition.

IV. Action Agenda

C. Review and Act on Updated OST Pay Rates/Benefits and Job Descriptions - *(taken out of order)*

A motion was made to approve the pay rate, benefits and job descriptions for the OST Program.
Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Cabral

Ms. Chaves explained the OST Benefits for vacation, holidays, and sick time.

Ms. Pacheco requested to modify her previous motion to approve the sick time benefit for a 1-year time period. There was no second.

Ms. Pacheco requested to withdraw her previous motion and make two new ones.

A motion was made to approve the OST pay rate, merit schedule and job descriptions.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by JPacheco

4/0/1
Gendreau Abstained

A motion was made to approve the OST benefits with 2 years beginning July 1 2025 - June 30 2027 for the sick time benefit.

Motion by MPacheco, seconded by JPacheco

4/0/1

Gendreau Abstained

III. Informational Agenda continued

I. Discussion of School Choice for the FY26 School Year –

Chair Gendreau asked if anyone has questions for the building principals?

Mr. Thrasher asked if approval for 10 student slots in Grade 4 at Westport Elementary School is feasible?
Mr. Aguiar confirmed yes.

Chair Gendreau put forth the following proposal for this up coming school year:
School Choice open seats - 5 in Grade 4, 5 in Grade 9, 5 in Grade 10

Mr. Thrasher asked why there is no availability in Grade 11?

Ms. Charette shared the sophomore class is large at 120 students and does not recommend any increases in student enrollment for grades 11 and 12 at this time.

Discussion took place on the pros and cons of adding students.

IV. Action Agenda

D. Review and Act on School Choice for the FY26 School Year - *(taken out of order)*

A motion was made to approve School Choice with the above proposal of 5 in Grade 4, 5 in Grade 9, and 5 in Grade 10.

Motion by Thrasher, seconded by Cabral

3/2/0

MPacheco No

JPacheco No

III. Informational Agenda continued

J. AFSCME MOA - Chair Gendreau reported on March 18 the MOA was signed with the AFSCME bargaining unit with the job Senior Facilities and Maintenance Technician approved.

K. Light Speed Update – Mr. Tomah reported they have implemented this filtering software for about 2 weeks. Yesterday they hit a snag and are working with the company to resolve it. They will test it tomorrow.

Mr. Aguiar shared the staff at Westport Elementary School are eager to use it.

Mr. Thrasher asked what the intended timeline is for the whole district?

Ms. Kaminski explained presently the Westport Elementary School staff has been trained with the rest of the schools to follow before the end of school. Mr. Tomah added it will be ready for all schools as soon as possible.

Chair Gendreau asked if there were any comments?

Mr. Thrasher requested this item be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

L. Discussion of Competency Determination - Ms. Charette explained since 2003 in order to earn a diploma, students needed a proficient MCAS score and meet the graduation requirements. Now passing MCAS is no longer a requirement. We need to set our local competency determination. Students need to

meet the graduation requirements and continue to sit for the MCAS. Ms. Charette is looking for the committee to vote on fulfilling the current program of studies.

Ms. Charette explained the district meets the standards for Mass Core except in the second unit of a World Language. There is only 1 required now. In the future, with offering innovation pathways, students will need the second unit of a World Language.

It was noted students need 120 credits to graduate, with 90 of those credits required courses.

Mr. Thrasher asked if any business class can be taken instead of the requirement for Business Personal Finance? Ms. Charette said if they have enough staff to teach the classes more variety can be added.

IV. Action Agenda

E. Review and Act on Competency Determination - *(taken out of order)*

A motion was made to approve the competency determination criteria and requirements listed in the Program of Studies.

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

IV. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 -

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

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

B. Acknowledgement of the Following: Chair Gendreau reported the following grants were received.

- \$3600 WEF Grant – Math Camp
- \$4780 WEF Grant – Leap Summer Enrichment Project
- \$1500 WEF Grant & Dassault Systems – STEM Kits
- \$750 Donation from Bay Coast Bank – 2025 Senior Dinner

A motion was made to accept the following grants: \$3600 WEF Grant – Math Camp, \$4780 WEF Grant – Leap Summer Enrichment Project, \$1500 WEF Grant & Dassault Systems – STEM Kits, \$750 Donation from Bay Coast Bank – 2025 Senior Dinner.

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

C. Review and Act on Updated OST Pay Rates/Benefits and Job Descriptions - Done above.

D. Review and Act on School Choice for the FY26 School Year - Done above.

E. Review and Act on Competency Determination - Done above.

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

Chair Gendreau reported town elections take place on April 8 and 2 new School Committee members will be chosen. Chair Gendreau encourages participation in the town elections. The next School Committee Meeting a reorganization will take place on April 15.

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

Chair Gendreau thanked School Committee members Gloria Cabral and Melissa Pacheco for their time serving on the committee and emphasized it was a pleasure working with them.

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 8:11 p.m.

Meeting Documents

WCS Bill Warrant: 4/4/2025

Literacy Success in Westport, Ignite in Action flyer

Out of School Time Benefits

Out of School Time Pay Rates and Merit Increases

4 Job Descriptions Out of School Time Program: Behavioral Support Assistant, Site Coordinator, Group Leader, Assistant Group Leader

Student Teacher Ratio 2020-2025 Average Class Size

School Choice Enrollment Data

Update on Lightspeed dated April 1, 2025

Establishing Our Competency Determination Criteria

\$3600 WEF Grant – Math Camp

\$4780 WEF Grant – Leap Summer Enrichment Project

\$1500 WEF Grant & Dassault Systems – STEM Kits

\$750 Donation from Bay Coast Bank – 2025 Senior Dinner

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary