

**Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, April 15, 2025
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS – Auditorium**

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau, Fred Melnyk, Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers, Christopher Thrasher

Also Present: Thomas Aubin Superintendent, Laura Charette Westport Middle High School Principal, Lisa Kaminski Director of Curriculum, Instructional and Professional Development, Jack Keane Student Representative, Ryan Keane Student Representative, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Richard Monast Library Media Specialist, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Tony Tomah Technology Director, 0 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - Chair Evan Gendreau opened the Regular School Committee Meeting at 6:31 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. Special Agenda

A. School Committee Reorganization – Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair -

Everyone welcomed the 2 new School Committee Members Fred Melnyk and Caitlin Sampers.

Nominations for Chair

Evan Gendreau nominated Christopher Thrasher for Chair, seconded by Jason Pacheco

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Melnyk Yes Jason Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes Thrasher Yes

Mr. Christopher Thrasher accepted the nomination for Chair.

Nominations for Vice Chair

Christopher Thrasher nominated Evan Gendreau for Vice Chair, seconded by Jason Pacheco

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Melnyk Yes Jason Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes Thrasher Yes

Mr. Evan Gendreau accepted the nomination for Vice Chair.

B. Discuss School Committee Subcommittee Appointments, Payroll and Bill Warrant Approvals -

Annual Appointments

Legal Counsel - Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, P.C.

School Committee Secretaries - Recording Secretary Sharon Pinho, Secretary Lori Melo

School Physician - Dr. Dennis Callen

Town Committee Representatives

Capital improvements Committee - Christopher Thrasher

Cable Committee - Jason Pacheco

School Building Committee (2) - Evan Gendreau, Caitlin Sampers

Long Range Building Planning Committee - Evan Gendreau
ADA Transition Team (2) - Fred Melnyk, Caitlin Sampers
Campground Committee - Jason Pacheco
Audit Committee - Evan Gendreau
Educational Fund Committee (2) - Fred Melnyk, Jason Pacheco

School Committee Subcommittees

Collective Bargaining Representatives
WFT (2) - Jason Pacheco, Christopher Thrasher
AFSCME (2) - Evan Gendreau, Christopher Thrasher
Health Advisory Committee - Fred Melnyk
Budget Subcommittee - Evan Gendreau, Christopher Thrasher
Special Education Committee - Evan Gendreau, Christopher Thrasher

Other School Committee Assignments

MASC Policy Review Subcommittee - Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers
Master Plan Update/ED Section - Fred Melnyk

A motion was made to approve the 2025-2026 Annual Appointments, Town Committee Representatives, School Committee Subcommittees and Other School Committee Assignments.

Motion by Jason Pacheco, seconded by Caitlin Sampers, all were in favor 5/0/0

Discussion took place on payroll and bill warrant approvals. Christopher Thrasher offered to continue in this role.

A motion was made to appoint Christopher Thrasher to cover payroll and bill warrants.

Motion by Jason Pacheco, seconded by Evan Gendreau 5/0/0

C. Discuss Preparation of the School Committee Regular Meeting Calendar -

Discussion took place on the best day and time to meet. It was decided to have the School Committee Meetings once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Wednesday meetings will start on April 30, 2025.

A motion was made to adjust the Regular School Committee Meeting dates and approve the new School Committee Regular Meeting schedule.

Motion by Evan Gendreau, seconded by Jason Pacheco 5/0/0

IV. Informational Agenda

A. Student Representatives –

Ryan Keane reported the following: Term 3 report cards were posted April 13, no school April 18, Spring vacation runs April 21 - 25, Spring Dance was April 11 with thanks to all involved, Middle School Student Council are making planters for Earth Day, running a book drive then making Book Buddy Bags for the elementary school, scores for middle school baseball and softball were announced.

John (Jack) Keane reported the following: graduation yard signs are on sale with deadline of April 29, National College Decision Day is approaching on May 1, 11th and 12th graders visited St. Anne's Hospital April 11 for Health Care and Surgical Robotics Career Day, Westport High School Junior Senior Prom is May 17, Student Council News announces Freshman Class is holding a basketball fundraiser May 2, May 10 a Blood Drive will be held at Macomber School, Spring sports scores were announced for varsity lacrosse, boys varsity baseball and tennis, girls varsity softball and tennis.

V. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on WMHS International Trip to Paris & Northern Italy, April 2027 - *(taken out of order)* - Mr. Monast reported on the details of the 10-day trip starting in Venice. There will be an informational meeting on May 21.

A motion was made to approve the WMHS International Trip to Paris & Northern Italy during April 2027.

Motion by Evan Gendreau, seconded by Jason Pacheco, all were in favor, motion passed 5/0/0

IV. Informational Agenda *continued*

B. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Aubin reported he sent a request to the interim commissioner of education for a waiver of the 180-day school requirement due to the cancellation of school for Westport Elementary School on February 24 because of a break in the water tank. Unfortunately, the request was denied. Mr. Aubin reported this will have a financial impact on the district.

Boston Globe reported there will be funding cuts to Head Start that could have an impact on 2 programs in the district.

Ms. Rapoza put together a list of ongoing projects covering all schools in the district.

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

C. Student and Staff Attendance Reports - Chair Thrasher explained these reports were requested by previous School Committee members. At a previous meeting it was moved to make them quarterly. Chair Thrasher requested to have these reports compiled bi-monthly going forward unless there is an issue needing attention.

Chair Thrasher asked if there are any comments? There were none.

D. WCS Bill Warrant: 4/18/2025 - Chair Thrasher reported bill warrant dated 4/18/25 in the amount of \$344,251.73 was emailed to school committee members for review.

Mr. Gendreau explained to the new members warrants show the day to day expenses, most are routine and shows spending of the budget in all the different areas. Ms. Melo emails these out.

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

E. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Pacheco reported he has been serving on the Superintendent Search Subcommittee with no other meetings.

Mr. Gendreau reported the Audit Committee will meet May 5. Members received a draft report in which no weaknesses were identified; however, areas of concern were raised with cybersecurity, cash handling, and grant spend downs. A final report is upcoming.

Chair Thrasher reported the Long-Term Building Committee held a meeting last Thursday in the old high school media center and discussed the feasibility study and potential uses of the old high school building. There will be another meeting this Thursday and 2 more public meetings. Council on Aging would like to use the building immediately for programming. Responsibilities will need to be determined. There is a want for a community center.

G. Light Speed Update – *(taken out of order)* Mr. Tomah reported they are in the process of identifying which computers have the lightspeed extension for classroom management. There are about 200 machines with at least half that still don't work. Many of the Chomebooks are 5 plus years old. Mr. Tomah is trying to complete at least 2 classrooms per week. It was mentioned cycling devices into the budget will help. Chair Thrasher requested to have an update moving forward.

F. Superintendent Search Subcommittee Update - Chair Thrasher reported he served as Chair of this subcommittee that was tasked with determining qualified candidates for the Superintendent of Schools and bringing forward 3 candidates to the School Committee. The subcommittee met 6 times. A total of 18 candidates submitted applications with 5 selected for interviews. Due to 1 dropping out, 4 remained to interview. As of today, 1 withdrew from the process so 2 candidates will be named at this time which include Reza Namin and Fran Roy.

Next step is to hold public interviews that will take place at the next meeting on April 30. After interviews, the School Committee will deliberate with the hiring process. Chair Thrasher respectfully submits the subcommittee's report and thanked all who were involved in the process.

G. Light Speed Update – Done above.

V. Action Agenda

A. Review and Act on WMHS International Trip to Paris & Northern Italy, April 2027 – Done above.

B. Review and Act on SC Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 -

A motion was made to approve the SC Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

Motion by Jason Pacheco, seconded by Evan Gendreau 5/0/0

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

VII. Topics the Chair could not Reasonably Anticipate Forty eight (48) Hours in Advance of the Meeting -

Mr. Pacheco appreciates the work being done on replacement of powers strips.

Ms. Sampers mentioned receiving concerns regarding athletics space and uniforms. Mr. Thrasher can place this item on the next agenda.

VIII. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn. With members being present and voting individually and unanimously, the motion passes.

Motion by Evan Gendreau, seconded by Jason Pacheco 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau Yes Melnyk Yes Pacheco Yes Sampers Yes Thrasher Yes

The School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Meeting Documents

WCS Bill Warrant: 4/18/2025

SY2024-2025 On Going Projects

Letter from DESE Response to request for Waiver dated April 14, 2025

Westport School Committee Reorganization, Appointments, and Authorizations 2024-2025

Westport School Committee Regular School Committee Meeting Dates July 2025-June 2026

Student Attendance Reports by School

Staff Attendance Reports

Information Packet on WMHS International Trip to Paris & Northern Italy, April 2027

