Westport School Committee

Special Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, October 1, 2025
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual via Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85971899508?pwd=EbjjiUxr5sIBWWOxgVn8SEfeGEmmaP.1

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau, Fred Melnyk, Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers, Christopher Thrasher
Also Present: Laura Charette Principal Westport Middle High School, Stacey Duquette Macomber Principal, Holly Hargraves Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Francine Roy Superintendent, 0 Community Participants

Chair Thrasher read the following: Pursuant to Governor Healey's approved legislation, H. 62, a bill extending authorizations for all local boards, commissions, and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format Extended Timeline, amending Section 30A of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, most recently amended by Section 40 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, and replacing the current expiration date of "March 31, 2025" with "June 30, 2027." Therefore, this meeting of the Westport School Committee is being conducted via remote participation.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - The Westport School Committee Special Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm. with a quorum of the members present by Chair Christopher Thrasher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone attended via Zoom link.

II. Comments and Statements from the Public - There were none.

III. Informational Agenda

a. CIPC Discussion – Ms. Rapoza shared her screen with the listed Capital Improvement Planning Committee CIPC requests. There was a meeting held today with Superintendent Roy and administrators to go over the list.

1. Macomber Playground and moving playground location. Ms. Rapoza shared she applied for a grant with the Community Preservation Committee CPC. They pay for the playground but not demolition, removal of old playground, and installing fencing. There is a meeting on October 16 with Dave Potter who is doing the specifications, Ralph Souza, Paul Poulin and Kim Ouellette for septic and leaching field locations. Ms. Rapoza mentioned they will need $150,000 additional funds.
2. Bathroom for Westport Elementary School.
3. Rooftop unit for air conditioning and electrical upgrades. Eversource is doing an assessment and working with the town energy consultant.
4. Request for 1 dump truck.
5. Additional safety cameras.
6. Evacuation chairs - 8 locations - Ms. Rapoza explained that some of the ones they have take a long time to open. Fire Department brought in different options. They did purchase one chair last year. Eight more are needed to have in every stairwell and every elevator.

Total cost for CIPC requests $1,119,240.

Items also discussed:
Lighting at school fields, possibly go to School Building Committee for funds.
Batting cages
School zone speed sign Gifford and Osborne St., go through Highway Dept.
Energy efficient windows
Old high school eliminated, develop campground property

Chair Thrasher mentioned other funding mechanisms may exist for these items.
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Discussion was held concerning the evacuation chairs. Questions were raised on safety and funding source through the School Building Committee. Ms. Rapoza explained the present system in place.

Chair Thrasher asked if there was anything else from the committee members? There were none.

Chair Thrasher recommends to present the items to CIPC in a ranking order. At this time hold off on evacuation chairs from the original request to explore other avenues of funding.

CIPC Prioritized recommendations:

1.A Mini-splits or rooftop units for A/C in all rooms/Electrical Upgrades - Westport Elementary School	$500,000
1.B Playground and moving playground location - Macomber School.	$150,000
3. Additional safety cameras - Technology	$225,000
4. 1 dump truck - Maintenance	$ 70,000
5. Additional adult bathroom - Westport Elementary School	$150,000
TOTAL CIPC RECOMMENDATIONS	**$1,095,000**

IV. Action Agenda

a. Review and Act on FY27 CIPC Recommendations -
Chair Thrasher asked if there were any other thoughts on the rankings? There were none.

A motion was made to approve the CIPC recommendations for FY27 based on the rankings presented.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau	Yes	Melnyk	Yes	Pacheco	Yes	Sampers	Yes	Thrasher	Yes

V. Routine Matters - Correspondence and Notices - Chair Thrasher remind committee members there is a Policy Work Session on Monday October 6, 2025 at 6 pm. There is a regular School Committee Meeting on Wednesday October 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm. Please send any items for the regular meeting agenda to Chair Thrasher as soon as possible for posting tomorrow.

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

Mr. Pacheco requested a calendar invite for the upcoming policy meeting. Ms. Melo will send one to everyone.

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

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau	Yes	Melnyk	Yes	Pacheco	Yes	Sampers	Yes	Thrasher	Yes

The School Committee Special Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.