Westport School Committee

Regular Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, October 8, 2025
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS Auditorium

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau *(arrived at 6:39 pm.)*, Fred Melnyk, Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers, Christopher Thrasher
Also Present: Holly Hargraves Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ryan Keane Student Representative *(left at 6:37 pm.),* Kenleigh LeBlanc Student Representative *(left at 6:37 pm.),* Lori Melo Executive Secretary, Shelly Morris Athletic Director, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Francine Roy Superintendent, 0 Community Participants

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - The Westport School Committee Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. with a quorum of the members present by Chair Christopher Thrasher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

III. Informational Agenda

a. Student Representatives Report -

Kenleigh LeBlanc reported the following: almost showtime for the production of Beetlejuice, middle school sports scores for soccer and volleyball, and the dance hosted last weekend was a success.

Ryan Keane reported the following: first term progress reports were posted on community portal October 3, first term ends October 31 with parent/teacher conferences November 6, no school on October 15 and November 11, picture retake day October 22, PSAT testing October 23, Financial Aid Night for Class of 2026 October 28, Why Westport Virtual Family night October 23 will be an informational session for grades 7 and 8, Haunted Hallway October 24, Fall Food Drive October 6 - November 12, Westport High School Drama Club will perform Little Mermaid December 5,6,7, Westport High School Homecoming November 14, Wildcat News show is back every day at 12:00 pm. or on YouTube at Westport Community TV, Westport Volleyball Dig Pink event October 10, Live Pro Wrestling Event October 26, Fall season sports scores were announced.

Kenleigh LeBlanc and Ryan Keane left here at 6:37 pm.

b. Superintendent Report – Dr. Roy reported the following items:
Unified Bocce team got rained out
95 sophomores and juniors are signed up for PSAT testing at the middle high school
Toured all 3 buildings with principals, seeing engagement and commitment

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

Mr. Gendreau arrived here at 6:39 pm.

c. Business Manager Report - Ms. Rapoza reported setting up meetings with departments to plan for budget meetings. Ms. Melo will send out dates to the committee for the upcoming Budget Subcommittee meetings.

d. Committee Liaison Reports -
Mr. Melnyk and Ms. Sampers had nothing new to report.
Mr. Pacheco reported there will be a Cable Advisory Board Meeting October 22, 2025.
Mr. Gendreau reported there will be an Audit Committee meeting October 27, 2025.

Mr. Thrasher reported there will be a Capital Improvements Planning Committee CIPC meeting October 29, 2025 where he will be presenting the CIPC requests from the School Department.

e. WCS Bill Warrant: 10/3/2025 - Chair Thrasher verified that each member received an electronic copy for review of the bill warrant dated 10/3/25 for a total of $232,553.82.

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

Chair Thrasher confirmed the bill warrant has been acknowledged.

f. Student and Staff Attendance Reports -
Chair Thrasher asked if there were any questions or comments?

Ms. Sampers pointed out a high number of students absent, as well as faculty absences.

Dr. Roy pointed out the district is aware of all attendance issues and mentioned this is a trend throughout the Commonwealth.

g. Proposal of Co-Op Wrestling Team with Atlantis Charter – Ms. Morris did a survey in the Fall with 5-7 students interested in participating. This will be minimal cost to the district. There will be a few matches at home and away. Students would join as a Co-Op sport at a later time.

Discussion was held on tuition, transportation, uniforms, bus fees and liability coverage.

IV. Action Agenda - *(taken out of order)*
a. Review and Act on Proposal of Co-Op Wrestling Team with Atlantis Charter -
A motion was made to approve the proposal of Co-Op Wrestling Team with Atlantis Charter.
Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 5/0/0
Return to regular agenda.

h. MCAS Presentation – Ms. Hargraves went over the document entitled *Westport Schools MCAS Accountability and Achievement.* The data compares Westport schools to similar schools and compares our schools to ourselves looking at achievement, student growth, high school completion, progress towards English proficiency, chronic absenteeism and advanced coursework completion.

Dr. Roy explained there are meetings being held with stakeholders and teachers. They are looking at curricula and taking data into a new Strategic Plan.

Ms. Hargraves asked if there were any questions?

Discussion took place on a drop in Math scores for grade 8, corrective action, IREADY, Ideal Math data teams looking at struggling students, then focus on improvement, in district assessments and data across the Commonwealth.

Chair Thrasher requested moving forward to get updates with reports, data, subject areas needing assistance and a plan of action.

The committee would like to know if anything is needed so it can be incorporated within the budget process.

Chair Thrasher asked if there was anything further? There was nothing else.

i. FY27 CIPC Discussion – Ms. Rapoza submitted the following requests for the Capital Improvements Planning Committee CIPC in priority order.

1. AC and electric upgrades for Westport Elementary

2. Playground removal, demo, prep, fencing
3. Safety cameras
4. Dump truck
5. additional adult restrooms for Westport Elementary

Ms. Rapoza will be attending the CIPC meeting to present the list on October 29, 2025.

j. First Read of Multi Use Vehicle Policy – Ms. Rapoza explained 2 additional multipurpose vans were purchased through the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. These vans are out on the road every day and save the district thousands of dollars. Ms. Rapoza would like to institute a policy for van use.

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

This is considered the first read of the policy, approval will be at a later date.

IV. Action Agenda

a. Review and Act on Proposal of Co-Op Wrestling Team with Atlantis Charter - Done above.

b. Review and Act on Regular SC Meeting Minutes for Monday, September 15, 2025 and Special SC Minutes for Wednesday, October 1, 2025 -

A motion was made to approve Regular SC Meeting Minutes for Monday, September 15, 2025 and Special SC Minutes for Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

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

c. Review and Act on the Following Out of State Field Trips:

- WMHS Class Trip to Audubon Society, Bristol RI, May 2026

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

A motion was made to approve WMHS Class Trip to Audubon Society, Bristol RI, May 2026.

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

- WMHS Trip to Amica Mutual Pavilion, Annual Pep Band Trip to Providence Bruins Game, January 2026

Chair Thrasher asked if there were any questions? A question was asked about what kind of transportation is provided. Ms. Rapoza confirmed they get a bus.

A motion was made to approve WMHS Trip to Amica Mutual Pavilion, Annual Pep Band Trip to Providence Bruins Game, January 2026.

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

- WMHS Class Trip to Newport Mansions, Newport RI, December 2025

Chair Thrasher asked if there were any questions? Question on the trip being all day was asked? Ms. Rapoza verified time to be about 8:30 am. - 1:30 pm. Question on there being an alternative date was asked? Ms. Rapoza was not sure on this.

A motion was made to approve WMHS Class Trip to Newport Mansions, Newport RI, December 2025.

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

- WMHS Class Trip to TF Green Airport, Providence RI, November 2025

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

A motion was made to approve WMHS Class Trip to TF Green Airport, Providence RI, November 2025.

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

V. Routine Matters:

- Correspondence and Notices - There were none.

- Discussion of Future Agenda Items - Chair Thrasher asked committee members if they had any particular items to place on a future agenda? There were none at this time. Chair Thrasher requested to submit any agenda items before the next meeting.

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 Pacheco, seconded by Sampers 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau	Yes	Melnyk	Yes	Pacheco	Yes	Sampers	Yes	Thrasher	Yes

The School Committee Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Meeting Documents

WCS Bill Warrant: 10/3/2025
Capital Improvements Planning Committee CIPC request to Town
First Read of Multi-Function School Activity Vehicle Use Policy
Student Attendance Report by School
Staff Attendance Report
Westport Schools MCAS Accountability and Achievement
WMHS Class Trip to Audubon Society, Bristol RI, May 2026
WMHS Trip to Amica Mutual Pavilion, Annual Pep Band Trip to Providence Bruins Game, January 2026
WMHS Class Trip to Newport Mansions, Newport RI, December 2025
WMHS Class Trip to TF Green Airport, Providence RI, November 2025

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary