

**Westport School Committee
Budget Work Session
DATE: Thursday, November 20, 2025
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS 2nd floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau, Fred Melnyk (*arrived at 5:22 pm.*), Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers Christopher Thrasher (*arrived at 5:20 pm.*)

Also Present: Laura Charette Westport Middle High School Principal, Stacey Duquette Macomber Principal, Holly Hargraves Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Francine Roy Superintendent

I. Call to Order - Vice Chair Evan Gendreau opened up the Westport School Committee Budget Work Session at 5:05 pm. with a quorum of the members present.

This meeting is being held in order to go over the department budgets for Macomber, Westport Elementary and Westport Middle High School.

II. FY27 Budget Discussion

a. MAC - Ms. Duquette went over the following budget items:

Add Club Advisor - increase budget from 2 to 3 after school clubs

Add Physical Education Teacher 0.6 - expand programming and allow for increased teacher collaboration time

Instructional supplies increase

Add District Dean of Teaching and Learning - 0.2

Add District Dean of Social Emotional Development - 0.2

Vice Chair Gendreau asked if there were any questions?

Questions were raised on the Club Advisor, hiring a 0.6 position, Physical Education Teacher and District Deans.

Dr. Roy explained the reasoning for the 2 additional positions for a District Dean of Teaching and Learning and a District Dean of Social Emotional Development. There is not a lot of infrastructure and no mechanism to amply work and adapt teaching and learning. The District Dean of Social Emotional Development will be grant funded. Making the positions a Dean would help in taking on the evaluations process as well as help with vertical alignment. District Dean of Teaching and Learning could help coach evaluate, take on leadership duties, and assist with structured interventions and support structures for students not on IEPs. They would be looking for candidates with a high level of expertise.

Mr. Gendreau mentioned using the Opioid Settlement Funding for 3 years to cover a contract. This funding source will be provided over the next 10 years.

Mr. Thrasher arrived here at 5:20 pm.

Chair Thrasher took over the meeting at this time.

Discussion was held on the position title of Dean versus Director.

Mr. Melnyk arrived here at 5:22 pm.

b. WES - Ms. Hargraves went over the following budget items:

Increase to 10 clubs - now have 4 running
Increase in instructional supplies
Add 2 positions for District Deans 0.4 and 0.2

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

c. WMHS - Ms. Charette went over the following budget items:

Add Social Studies Teacher - increase in enrollment and they are the only core department that has 4 teachers instead of 5. This will allow more offerings and reduce class size.

Add Art Teacher - offer more classes

Add Career Pathways Coordinator - help students schedule classes, help students build programs

Instructional supplies increase

Same positions for District Deans - 0.4 and 0.6

Chair Thrasher asked if there were any other questions?

Mr. Gendreau asked what are class sizes without the addition of a Social Studies Teacher? Ms. Charette verified between 28 and 29.

Mr. Gendreau mentioned the Town will have about \$3.5 million in free cash and a new Town Administrator at the end of December.

Chair Thrasher asked how is the Career Pathways Coordinator being handled? Ms. Charette explained that she and Ms. Hargraves are now doing this.

Dr. Roy added this position would prepare the district for the future. ICP Pathways Champion grant for \$75,000 is funding 2 teachers, supplies, Professional Development for teaching this coursework, and instructional supplies.

Mr. Gendreau asked if the Department of Secondary Education DESE supports this staff? Ms. Charette mentioned this can't be counted on.

Ms. Hargraves shared she would like to grow the pathways.

Mr. Gendreau asked if there are any connections with other districts? Ms. Hargraves shared that visits to other districts was implemented in the pathways program.

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

Chair Thrasher asked Ms. Rapoza if the overall budget has been determined at this time? Ms. Rapoza is still putting items together. Need to look at Special Education. Ms. Rapoza explained the past budget process with the town as well as the different department's budgets.

III. Adjourn - A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion by Gendreau, seconded by Pacheco

5/0/0

The School Committee Budget Work Session ended at 6:02 pm.

