Westport School Committee
Regular Meeting
DATE: Thursday, November 20, 2025
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: WMHS Auditorium

MINUTES

Members Present: Evan Gendreau, Fred Melnyk, Jason Pacheco, Caitlin Sampers Christopher Thrasher
Also Present: Laura Charette Westport Middle High School Principal, Holly Hargraves Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ryan Keane Student Representative *(left at 6:40 pm.),* Rep. Steven Ouellette *(left at 6:46 pm.),* Michelle Rapoza School Business Manager, Sen. Michael Rodrigues *(left at 6:46 pm.),* Francine Roy Superintendent, Ms. Ruel Guidance *(left at 6:56 pm.)*, Anthony Tomah Technology Director, Jane Vieira Retired Bus Driver *(left at 6:46 pm.)*, 64 Community Participants

I. Call to Order - Chair Christopher Thrasher opened up the Westport School Committee Regular Meeting at 6:33 pm. with a quorum of the members present.

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

III. Informational Agenda

a. Student Representatives Report –
Ryan Keane reported the following for the Westport Middle School:
Fall Ball will take place November 21, next week is Spirit Week, early release November 26, Thanksgiving break November 27 and 28, Middle School band and chorus performed at the Veteran's Day celebrations poems were read and bags were made.

Ryan Keane reported the following for the Westport Middle High School:
Second term progress reports will be posted on December 8, Early release will be December 11, Homecoming was a great success with thanks to all involved, High School Student Council is planning for the annual Pep Rally with each grade level designing t-shirts, Sophomore class is planning a Parent's Night Out December 19, STEEL Students That Exemplify Extraordinary Leadership has been helping with Westport United Soccer Banquet, Westport Food Pantry and My Brother's Keeper, High School Drama Club will perform The Little Mermaid December 5,6,7, Winter sports registration is open until November 27, events for all Fall Sports were reported.

Ryan Keane left at 6:40 pm.

b. Acknowledgement of Retiree – J. Vieira - Ms. Rapoza explained Ms. Vieira has been driving a school bus for over 45 yrs. and they would like to acknowledge her retirement. Ms. Rapoza presented Ms. Vieira with some gifts and played a video of appreciation showing messages of thanks for her dedicated service provided to the district. Committee members offered their congratulations to Ms. Vieira as the gifts were presented.

State Senator Michael Rodrigues and Representative Steven Ouellette each presented Ms. Viera with official Citations from the Massachusetts General Court for her for 50 years of service.

Ms. Vieira, Sen. Michael Rodrigues and Rep. Steven Ouellette left here at 6:46 pm.

c. 2025 Abigail Adams Recipients – Ms. Ruel and Ms. Charette presented awards to the recipients of the 2025 Abigail Adams Award. A total of 17 students received acknowledgements. Committee members congratulated the recipients and joined them for a photograph after the presentations.

Ms. Ruel left here at 6:56 pm.

j. Competency Determination Policy Presentation and First Read – *(Taken out of order)*

Ms. Charette explained they are looking at a new Competency Determination for students. Students need to meet the graduate requirements of their local institution and show mastery of 10th grade standards. This effects this year's Seniors 2026 and beyond.

Ms. Charette went over the *Draft Westport High School Determination Policy* explaining the local requirements and mastery of courses, alternative pathways and support systems, and implementation and compliance framework.

Ms. Charette asked if there were any questions?

Mr. Thrasher asked what level of guidance from Department of Secondary Education DESE are we receiving in creation of this policy and are you aware of other districts doing it this way?

Ms. Charette mentioned there have been webinars, letters, etc used from DESE and she has worked with other districts to see what they are doing. Ms. Charette reported that most districts are requiring a combination of final examinations and end-of-course projects while transitioning to the adoption of MassCore. She noted that one distinction in Westport's current graduation requirements is the absence of an additional year of a second language.

Chair Thrasher asked about the History requirement? Ms. Charette explained Westport has US 1 and US 2 are part of the graduation requirements.

Mr. Gendreau asked how different is this than the local requirements? Ms. Charette explained the local requirements are not changing. Students are demonstrating mastery in some subjects. New is what happens to students that don't establish mastery on their first try.

It was noted that students are still testing in MCAS, it just does not count as a graduation requirement. There is competency determination coursework in replacement of an MCAS score.

Chair Thrasher noted that MCAS scores are still a requirement for eligibility for certain scholarships including the Abigail Adams awards. He also noted that the district will have the ability to amend this policy at any time should the need arise.

Mr. Melnyk asked if any students were not able to graduate? Ms. Charette reported only 1, but the student was contacted and they had a graduation ceremony.

Chair Thrasher mentioned this is the First Read of the policy, so this policy will be revisited at the next meeting.

k. Career Technical Education Policy Presentation and First Read– *(Taken out of order)*
Ms. Charette explained this draft policy will help students access career and technical education.

Ms. Charette explained statement of goals, High School pathway options, Middle School career exploration, My CAP implementation, Middle School CTE tour policies and record management and compliance.

Ms. Charette asked if there were any questions?

Questions were asked on guest speakers and the LEAP Program credits.

d. Superintendent Report – Dr. Roy gave an update on her entry plan explaining she participated in parent forums, student forums, learning about community, Veteran's events, attended soccer game and talked to many community partners. Next step will be to combine feedback from community partners, parent, and staff.

Dr. Roy noted she is impressed with the sense of community, dedication of teachers, and amount of opportunity for students.

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

e. Business Manager Report - Ms. Rapoza reported she continues working with departments and attending budget work sessions for the needs of the district for next year.

f. Curriculum Director Report – Ms. Hargraves gave an update on a few initiatives.
She joined Westport 250 Committee that is a group of members from the town working on efforts to celebrate the country's 250 years. Updates will be provided as the committee develops initiatives. Website for more information is *Westport ma250.com.*

Ms. Hargraves explained a Financial Literary collaboration with Westport Credit Union that will provide an assembly on avoiding online scams, initial investment on bank savings account, dedicated banking days, guest speaker series, internship opportunities, Credit for Life Fair and summer reading incentives.

Innovation Career Pathways include Advanced Manufacturing and Health Care and Social Assisting. Variety of courses have been identified and students need 2 technical and 2 advanced courses and 100-hour internship. Website will be provided soon.

Electric Boat Program with General Dynamics has 8 students enrolled and is a 6 session hands on program. Various careers offered are welding, ship fitting, electrical, sheet metal, machining, and pipe fitting.

Ms. Hargraves asked if there were any questions? There were none.

g. Committee Liaison Reports - Mr. Melnyk and Ms. Sampers had nothing new to report.

Mr. Pacheco will be having a Cable Advisory Board Meeting on December 9.

Mr. Gendreau reported no School Building Committee meeting, Audit Committee met October 27 and they are looking at a February timeline for completion of report, tax recap, and free cash for 2026.

Chair Thrasher attended a Capital Improvements Planning Committee CIPC meeting yesterday where he presented 2 additional items for the schools a truck and computer monitors. Next meeting December 10.

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

h. WCS Bill Warrants: 10/17/25, 10/31/25 and 11/14/2025 -

Chair Thrasher verified that each member received an electronic copy for review of the bill warrants dated 10/17/25 for a total of $138,784.60, 10/31/25 totaling $513,211.00 and 11/14/2025 totaling $326,797.30

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

Chair Thrasher confirmed the bill warrants has been acknowledged.

i. Second Read of Multi Use Vehicle Policy – Ms. Rapoza mentioned this is the Second Read of the policy with nothing new added.

j. Competency Determination Policy Presentation and First Read – L. Charette - Done above.

k. Career Technical Education Policy Presentation and First Read– L. Charette - Done above.

IV. Action Agenda -

a. Review and Act on Multi Use Vehicle Policy –

A motion was made to approve the Multi Use Vehicle Policy.
Motion by Gendreau, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

b. Review and Act on District Make Up Day for WES & WMHS - Dr. Roy informed members that school was previously cancelled for Westport Elementary School and Westport Middle High School. Discussion on the best and least disruptive alternative is to hold a half day on Good Friday April 3 for teachers Professional Development with Macomber teachers off and half day of school on April 14 Election Day with Macomber also participate in holding school.

Chair Thrasher asked if there were any questions?

It was noted polling places have remained the same.

A motion was made to approve the makeup day plan presented by Dr. Roy with ½ day on Good Friday April 3 for teachers and ½ day of school Election Day for all schools April 14.

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

c. Review and Act on Maximum Balance in Student Activity Checking Accounts – Dr. Roy explained there is a process to request Senior funds within 2 years. School Committee can set a remaining balance to roll over. Previous amount of funds is set at $1,000. Dr. Roy recommends to maintain the $1,000 limit.

A motion was made to maintain the maximum balance in the activity account.

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

d. Review and Act on Regular SC Meeting Minutes for Monday, October 8, 2025, SC Policy Workshop for Monday, October 6, 2025 & Wednesday, October 29, 2025 and Budget Work Session Minutes for Wednesday, November 5, 2025 -

A motion was made to approve Regular SC Meeting Minutes Monday, October 8, 2025, SC Policy Workshop Monday, October 6, 2025 & Wednesday, October 29, 2025 and Budget Work Session Minutes Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

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

e. Acknowledge and Accept the Following Grants:

- SEPAC - $694.52 Horseshoe Activity Table for WES classroom
- SEPAC - $424.03 Unified Decals for WES Gym
- WEF - $4600 Electric Boat Program at WMHS
- WEF - $475 Wildcat Newspaper at WMHS
- WEF - $2800 Beetlejuice Jr. at WMHS
- SEPAC- $400 WMHS Bay State Gymnastics Field Trip

A motion was made to approve all the above listed grants.

Motion by Gendreau seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

V. Routine Matters:

- Correspondence and Notices - There were none.
- Discussion of Future Agenda Items - Chair Thrasher asked if committee members had any agenda items for the next meeting on December 3? There were none at this time.

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 Gendreau, seconded by Pacheco 5/0/0

Roll call vote:

Gendreau	Yes	Melnyk	Yes	Pacheco	Yes	Sampers	Yes	Thrasher	Yes

The School Committee Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Meeting Documents

2025 Abigail Adams Recipients
Westport Federal Credit Union Smart Start
WCS Bill Warrants: 10/17/25, 10/31/25 and 11/14/2025 -
Second Read of Multi-Function School Activity Vehicle Use Policy
First Read Competency Determination Policy
First Read Career Technical Education Policy
Policy JJF Student Activities Accounts
SEPAC - $694.52 Horseshoe Activity Table for WES classroom
SEPAC - $424.03 Unified Decals for WES Gym
WEF - $4600 Electric Boat Program at WMHS
WEF - $475 Wildcat Newspaper at WMHS
WEF - $2800 Beetlejuice Jr. at WMHS
SEPAC- $400 WMHS Bay State Gymnastics Field Trip

Submitted by Sharon Pinho School Committee Recording Secretary