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October 1, 2025

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Effective civic engagement requires opportunities for folks to get involved and be...well...engaged.

This month there are a few ways, both formally and informally, in person and virtually, for members of our community to participate in civic activities connected with our schools.

Special Town Meeting is taking place on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 7:00 at Westford Academy. The Town Manager's office is collecting data to ensure that there is adequate space for residents to attend in person. Please fill out this survey to let them know if you plan to attend. Survey Closes October 10: [Survey Link](#)

For more information about Town Meeting, visit: <https://www.westfordma.gov/393/Town-Meeting>

A few years ago, the Town of Westford established a Budget Task Force to help identify potential efficiencies and make recommendations for future budget development and planning. One of the recommendations was to bring the School Committee, Select Board and Finance Committee together for Tri-Board Meetings on a more regular basis. While the focus was initially on efficiencies, the work has been evolving to be a best practice for committee communication to better facilitate collaboration and cooperation across the three major groups responsible for our overall town budget. On Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 7:00pm the Town of Westford will be holding one of these Tri-Board meetings. It is a meeting that is open to the public to attend in person or virtually. If you would like attend virtually, please register in advance using the following link: https://westfordma-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oyBLv47oSy-Q3x_kx8_QhQ

For an informal opportunity to connect and engage with me and a few members of the School Committee, we will be holding our second Community Coffee on Friday, October 10th at 10:00 in the

Millenium Building. Everyone who joined us last month seemed to have had a positive experience and appreciated this more relaxed opportunity to gather for an hour and visit with no specific agenda. ROUTES Roasters will be open across the hall if you would like to purchase a coffee, tea or hot chocolate, but it is not required to attend.

Finally, a reminder to everyone that this month, our upcoming events include three no school days:

- Thursday, October 2, there are no WPS classes in session in observance of Yom Kippur
- Monday, October 13, WPS is closed for Indigenous People's Day
- Monday, October 20, there are no WPS classes in session in observance of Diwali

Now, it might seem strange to differentiate between WPS being closed and WPS classes not being in session. However, that is an important distinction as to when offices might still be open and when they are closed, as well. Additionally, with one of the Monday holidays, there is an adjustment in the typical schedule of School Committee meetings for this month. October's meetings will be taking place on Monday, October 6th and Tuesday, October 21. We will be continuing our discussion of the school start times as we look to consider if any of the elementary school times should be adjusted by a few minutes to help reduce the amount of time students are on the buses. Always remember that if you can't listen live while the meeting's taking place the recordings can also be listened to on fast speed via WestfordCAT the next day!

Cheers!

Chris

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