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November 1, 2024

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Approx Reading Time: 2.2 minutes (not including reading the links...those are resources to keep handy in the event that you have questions in the future)

This month the update includes some important links we want to make sure all of our families are able to access.

Last week, we participated in a statewide webinar with the Attorney General's Office focusing on Combatting Hate in Schools. Partnering with the Executive Office on Education (EOE) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), they have updated the Guidance on Schools' Legal Obligations to Prevent and Address Hate and Bias Incidents. Westford Public Schools remains committed to establishing welcoming environments for all of our students and families within all of our schools. The following resource is a helpful guide outlining our students and families rights under the law as well as articulating our schools' responsibilities to protect those rights:

[Combatting Hate in our Schools- A Guide for Families and Students](https://shorturl.at/UQImR) (<https://shorturl.at/UQImR>)

In an effort to improve communication and collaboration, our WPS Department of Special Education and Social Emotional Learning (SESEL) is working to make documents and announcements more accessible online and through email communications. Previously, our annual distribution of the Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards has been sent to families via the US Postal Service. Now, we are working to make it available and accessible for everyone both online and through email communications. We hope this process proves to be a more efficient use of resources and conducive to increasing communication. Additionally, we have included a corresponding letter from Mr. Gerard Coughlin, our Director of SESEL, which provides more information about special education meetings and contact information for the special education leaders at each school:

[Annual Letter from Director of SESEL \(https://shorturl.at/kTPqJ\)](https://shorturl.at/kTPqJ)

[Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards \(https://shorturl.at/9yQRP\)](https://shorturl.at/9yQRP)

Next week, we will be holding another Tri-Board Efficiencies meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 7:00 pm in Conference Room B in the Millennium Building. These meetings are joint meetings between the WPS School Committee, Town of Westford Select Board, and the Town of Westford Finance Committee. They were developed as a recommendation from the TOW Budget Task Force. At this upcoming meeting, we anticipate sharing the work that our WPS Finance SubCommittee has been doing over the past year in developing a working guide supported by official policies to better inform how we utilize WPS revolving accounts. A hybrid option to join the meeting will also be available on the meeting agenda when it gets posted.

Finally, we will soon be holding the first meeting of the Robinson School Building Committee (RSBC) that was officially established this fall. Forming this committee is an important step during the Eligibility Period in which we are currently participating. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has a very extensive process which consists of 9 different periods or phases. This Eligibility Period is only the first of these periods. As part of this period, we have created a page on our website to collect all of the various documents and procedures to help communicate progress and keep the community informed:

[MSBA Robinson School Study \(https://www.westfordk12.us/district/news/msba-robinson-school-study\)](https://www.westfordk12.us/district/news/msba-robinson-school-study)

Cheers!

Chris

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